

Minutes of: AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 29 January 2014

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor S Briggs), in the Chair; Councillors A Audin, K Audin, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, R A Caserta, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, J Daly, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, J Frith, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, K Hussain, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, J Lewis, A Matthews, S Nuttall, D O'Hanlon, N Parnell, T D Pickstone, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq, B Vincent, R E Walker, S Walmsley, J F Walton, M Wiseman and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence: -

Public attendance: 24 members of the public attended the meeting

C.706 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor Connolly declared an interest in any item which related to staffing as his partner is an employee of Bury Council.
2. Councillor Jones declared an interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee of Bury Council.

C.707 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2013 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C.708 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor gave congratulations to the following who had been recognised in the Queen's New Years Honours List:-

- Yvonne Moore from Whitefield – British Empire Medal for services to the local community.
- Michael Hymanson from Prestwich – MBE for charitable services to children and young adults with terminal or life threatening conditions.
- David Kemp – Former Head of Music at Castlebrook High School and former Director of Music at Bury Parish Church – MBE for services to education.
- Christopher Seddon – Director of a building company central to the building of the Borough's two new hospices – MBE for services to the North West community and industry apprenticeships.

C.709 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor reported that there had been six questions received as follows:-

Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1. Traffic Safety – Junction of Chestnut Avenue, Bury New Road, Whitefield.	Mr J Mallon	Councillor Connolly
2. Safety Standards in Parks	Mr A Miller	Councillor Connolly
3. Business Plan and Model for Sculpture Centre	Mr R Trueblood	Councillor Connolly
4. Contingency Planning around Sculpture Centre.	Ms S Smith	Councillor Connolly
5. Running Cost of Sculpture Centre.	Ms S Pye	Councillor Connolly
6. Staffing resources associated with Sculpture Centre.	Ms R Yates	Councillor Connolly

C.710 PETITION

The Mayor reported that a petition had been handed in at the Council Meeting on 11 December 2013 which asked signatories to "say NO to the installation of a sculpture centre in Bury Central Library". As the petition contained in excess of 2,500 signatures from people who live, work or study in Bury, the petition is to be the subject of Council debate.

It was further reported that the Council would decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting. The options open to Members were:-

- Recommend to Cabinet that the request made in the petition be agreed to;
- Not to agree to the request made in the petition;
- Refer the matter to the Cabinet for further consideration;
- Commission further investigation into the matter by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Sue Smith, the Petition organiser, asked Members to consider the following issues:-

- The Petition demonstrated a significant level of opposition to the Sculpture Centre, containing just under 3,000 signatures.
- When proposals on the future of the Library Service were put out for consultation, the proposal regarding the Sculpture Centre was not included.

- There is concern at the level of stock which will no longer be on display.
- There is concern that the experience of going to the Library to browse will not be as rewarding.

There followed a debate by Members on the Petition.

It was moved and seconded that the request made in the Petition be not agreed to.

The motion was put to the vote and with 34 voting for, 15 against and one abstention, it was declared carried.

C.711 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

It was reported that there were no recommendations for consideration.

C.712 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written questions (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Connolly, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting. The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Promoting volunteering	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Walmsley
2.	Ramsbottom By - Election	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Connolly
3.	Bury Police Division – Divisional Commander	Councillor Jones	Councillor Connolly
4.	Highway Compensation claims	Councillor O'Hanlon	Councillor Isherwood
5.	Bury Care Strategy	Councillor Daly	Councillor Isherwood
6.	Recycling Programme	Councillor Ann Audin	Councillor Southworth
7.	Roadside Gulleys and Grids	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Isherwood
8.	Town Hall Car Parking	Councillor Gunther	Councillor John Smith
9.	The "Supporting Communities - Improving Lives" Project	Councillor Southworth	Councillor Black
10.	Use of taxis	Councillor O'Hanlon	Councillor John Smith
11.	Bus Lanes on A58	Councillor Walker	Councillor Isherwood
12.	International Women's Day	Councillor FitzGerald	Councillor Walmsley

13.	Section 106 Monies	Councillor Wright	Councillor Isherwood
14.	Gorsefield Primary School	Councillor Parnell	Councillor Campbell
15.	Planning Applications from neighbouring authorities	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Isherwood
16.	Anti-social behaviour incidents	Councillor Simpson	Councillor Walmsley
17.	Statutory and non-statutory services	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor John Smith
18.	Poverty amongst families in Bury	Councillor Black	Councillor Shori
19.	LED Street Lighting	Councillor Walker	Councillor Isherwood
20.	Hate Crime Awareness Week	Councillor Haroon	Councillor Tariq
21.	Broadband in Rural Areas	Councillor Daly	Councillor Connolly
22.	Park Homes	Councillor Rothwell	Councillor Shori
23.	Employee One to One Meetings	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Holt

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 13 to 23 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

(b) Oral questions on the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting (without Notice)

24.	Member parking at the Town Hall	Councillor Fitzwalter	Councillor Holt
25.	Grant funded expenditure	Councillor Caserta	Councillor Connolly
26.	Government savings	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Connolly

C.713 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor Matthews, the Council’s representative, on the Greater Manchester Waste Fire and Rescue Authority, gave a verbal report on the work of the Committee to all Members of the Council.
- (b) No questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

C.714 POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2014

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted which presented the findings of the compulsory review of all polling districts and polling places in Bury.

It was moved by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor John Smith and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the report following the compulsory review of polling districts and polling places in Bury be approved.

C.715 NOTICES OF MOTION

Two Notices of Motion have been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12:-

1. Council Tax

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:-

Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, M Hankey, K Hussain, S Nuttall, B Vincent, R Walker, J Walton and Y Wright.

It was moved by Councillor Gartside and seconded by Councillor Daly:

"This Council notes that times have been tough for many hard working people in our country since 2008. However, the UK economy is now growing faster than most major European economies.

This Council regrets the 3.7% hike in Council Tax that the current Labour administration placed on hard working people in our Borough earlier this year. It had a significant effect upon levels of disposable income and slowed down the economic recovery in Bury.

The recent announcement by the Coalition Government to help local authorities freeze the Council Tax for the 4th year running and also offer assistance in 2015/16 is to be welcomed by this Council. Furthermore, the Government have also guaranteed that ongoing freeze grants will be put into the local government funding 'base'. This means that councils will not be penalised down the line for taking up the freeze.

Now that the economic recovery is in full swing, this Council needs to do all it can to ensure that the recovery is sustained in Bury.

Therefore, this Council resolves to at least freeze the level of Council Tax at the Budget Council on the 19 February 2014."

It was moved and seconded that the question be now put. With 34 voting for, 15 against and one abstention the procedural motion was declared carried.

Prior to the vote on the motion, in excess of the required eight Councillors requested that voting be recorded to show how each member cast their vote, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5.

The result of the vote was as follows:-

For the Motion:

Councillors Bevan, Caserta, Daly, Gartside, Gunther, Hankey, Hussain, Nuttall, O'Hanlon, Pickstone, Vincent, Walker, Walton, Wiseman and Wright.

Against the Motion:

Councillors A Audin, K Audin, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, Black, Bury, Campbell, Carter, Cassidy, Connolly, Cummings, FitzGerald, Fitzwalter, Frith, Grimshaw, Haroon, Heneghan, Holt, Isherwood, James, Jones, Lewis, Matthews, Parnell, Quinn, Rothwell, Shori, Simpson, J Smith, S Smith, Southworth, Tariq and Walmsley.

Abstaining from the Vote:

The Worshipful the Mayor.

The Mayor declared the Motion lost.

2. Homophobic Bullying

A motion has been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:-

Councillors A Audin, K Audin, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, J Black, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, J Frith, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, J S Lewis, A K Matthews, N A Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq and S Walmsley.

It was moved by Councillor Campbell and seconded by Councillor Holt:

"This Council believes it is vital to capitalise on the good work already undertaken in raising the issue of homophobic bullying, particularly with regard to young people.

According to the University of Cambridge research for Stonewall in **The School Report (2012)**, 55% of young gay and bisexual people have experienced homophobic bullying in schools and 95% have experienced homophobic language. This Council believes that as community leaders and school governors we should commit ourselves to challenging this.

As an employer we have taken great strides in addressing homophobic bullying but there is still a great deal of work to be done. For instance, all Councillors should sign up to be Straight Allies. We should, as governors discuss with our schools what steps need to be taken to combat this unacceptable state of affairs."

(At this stage in the Proceedings it was moved and seconded that the question be now put. With 13 voting for, 36 against and one abstention the procedural motion was declared lost).

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.7(a) Councillors Campbell and Holt, with the consent of Council, altered the motion by the deletion in Paragraph 3 of "For instance, all Councillors should sign up to be Straight allies."

With the alteration as set out, the following Motion was put and declared carried unanimously:-

"Homophobic Bullying

This Council believes it is vital to capitalise on the good work already undertaken in raising the issue of homophobic bullying, particularly with regard to young people.

According to the University of Cambridge research for Stonewall in **The School Report (2012)**, 55% of young gay and bisexual people have experienced homophobic bullying in schools and 95% have experienced homophobic language. This Council believes that as community leaders and school governors we should commit ourselves to challenging this.

As an employer we have taken great strides in addressing homophobic bullying but there is still a great deal of work to be done. We should, as governors discuss with our schools what steps need to be taken to combat this unacceptable state of affairs."

C.716 SCRUTINY REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items "called in" by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered at this Council meeting.

C.717 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no written questions on the work of the outside bodies or partnerships on which the Council is represented, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

C.718 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no written questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Committees or Scrutiny Committee contained in the Digest of Decisions 7 (2013-2014).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.40 pm)