

**Minutes of:** COUNCIL

**Date of Meeting:** 15 January 2025

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)  
Councillors A Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, C Birchmore,  
C Boles, A Booth, R Brown, D Duncalfe, U Farooq,  
E FitzGerald, N Frith, I Gartside, R Gold, D Green, S Haroon,  
J Harris, M Hayes, J Hook, K Hussain, B Ibrahim, J Lancaster,  
G Marsden, L McBriar, G McGill, C Morris, E Moss, E O'Brien,  
T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, M Rahimov, I Rizvi,  
M Rubinstein, J Rydeheard, L Ryder, K Simpson, L Smith,  
M Smith, J Southworth, T Tariq, D Vernon, M Walsh and  
Y Wright

**Apologies for  
Absence** S Arif, D Berry, C Cummins, J Grimshaw, G Staples-Jones,  
S Thorpe and S Walmsley

**Public Attendance:** 12 members of the public attended the meeting.

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**C. 34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mike Smith declared a personal interest in agenda item Notice of Motion (ii) as a post office shareholder and he left the meeting for consideration of this item.

**C. 35 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor as Bury first citizen updated Members of the Council on work undertaken since the last meeting.

As this is the first meeting since the passing of former Councillor and Mayor, John Smith, Members of the Council took time to place on record their condolences and also Mr Ken Holden, a council employee of 54 years.

**C. 36 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November be approved as correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**C. 37 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were received in advance of the Council deadline. Members of the public attended and the following questions were raised, no supplementary questions were allowed:

Steve Middleton – Township Forums

Fawad Sabir – Muslim Burials

Jill Budgen – Section 106 monies

Andy Hay – Prestwich Regeneration

Reg Dixon – Guttering on Rochdale Road

**C. 38 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

## **(I) Audit Committee – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

It was moved by Councillor Moss and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was agreed that Ben Thomas and David Webster would be appointed as Co-opted Independent Members of the Audit Committee for a two year term, with immediate effect.

## **(ii) Audit committee – COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE STATUTORY RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER SCHEDULE 7 OF THE LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014**

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Moss and it was agreed that Council:

Notes the issues raised by the external auditors and progress made since 2021 to mitigate highlighted risks.

Accepts the auditors statutory recommendation and to deliver an organisational improvement plan.

Endorse the proposed action plan, with the addition of reference to the Member Assurance Group and revised implementation date for the plan of February 2026 and recommend adoption to Council.

Agree inclusion on the work plan for the Audit and Overview and Scrutiny Committees respectively ensuring Member oversight of delivery of the action plan

## **C. 39 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

### **(a) Written question (Notice given)**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E O'Brien, 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:

	Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1	Cllr Duncalfe	Cllr A Quinn	Section 106 monies
2	Cllr Moss	Leader	Local Government Finance
3	Cllr Rizvi	Leader	Travel hub Prestwich
4	Cllr Vernon	Cllr A Quinn	Street lighting
5	Cllr Mike Smith	Cllr Tariq	Dental access
6	Cllr Haroon	Leader	Holocaust Memorial Day
7	Cllr Farooq	Leader	Active Travel Schemes
8	Cllr Lancaster	Leader	Houses of Multiple of

			Application
9	Cllr Ryder	Cllr A Quinn	Potholes
10	Cllr A Arif	Cllr Fitzgerald	Housing stock
11	Cllr Harris	Cllr Rafiq	Staff PDRs
12	Cllr Ibrahim	Cllr A Quinn	Staff in emergency response
13	Cllr Pilkington	Cllr Morris	Upcoming Cultural Events

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 14 to 18 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

b) Verbal Questions

Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
Cllr Bernstein	Cllr O'Brien	Enquiry into Grooming/CSE
Cllr M Smith	Cllr O'Brien	Grit bins / HSF
Cllr Hayes	Cllr A Quinn	Bus Routes
Cllr McBriar	Cllr A Quinn	Tram ASB
Cllr Y Wright	Cllr A Quinn	Junction In Tottington

**C. 40 COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES**

The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities and a verbal update from Cabinet Member, Councillor A Quinn on the work of the Transport For Greater Manchester.

The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

Questioner	Combined Authority Member	Topic
Cllr Rizvi	Cllr A Quinn	Integrating ticketing
Cllr Rahimov	Cllr A Quinn	Vision Zero
Cllr Vernon	Cllr Gold	GMP Drink Driving
Cllr Brown	Leader	GM Pension

**C. 41 NOTICES OF MOTION**

**(i) Re-introduction of township forums**

Council considered a motion in the names of Councillors Birchmore, Berry, Booth, Duncalfe, Marsden, M Smith, K Simpson and Cllr Mary Walsh.

The motion was moved by Councillor Birchmore and seconded by Councillor M Smith **and on being put with the majority of members voting against the Motion, the Mayor declared the motion lost.**

### **(ii) Save Prestwich Crown Post Office**

Council considered a notice of motion received in the names of Councillors: A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Cummins, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Hook, Ibrahim, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, Quinn Alan, Quinn Deborah, Rafiq, Rizvi, Rahimov, Rubinstein, Ryder, Smith Lucy, John Southworth, Staples-Jones Gareth, Tariq, Thorpe, Walmsley.

**The Motion was moved by Councillor D Green and seconded by Councillor Gold and on being put with the majority of Members voting in favour, Council agreed to:**

- 1) Fully support the campaign to keep Prestwich Crown Post Office open.
- 2) Write to Gareth Thomas MP, the Minister responsible for the Post Office, and Nigel Railton, the Post Office interim Chair, setting out our opposition to any closure and demanding an immediate halt to the proposals.

### **(iii) Consultation regarding moving Council Local Elections to a 4- year cycle**

Council considered a motion in the names of Councillors S. Arif, Bernstein, Brown, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon.

The motion was moved by Councillor Vernon and seconded by Councillor Lancaster **and on being put with the majority of members voting against the Motion, the Mayor declared the motion lost.**

## **C. 42 FOR INFORMATION ONLY - COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER C. 43 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

There were no scrutiny reports or specific items called by scrutiny committees.

## **C. 44 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS**

There were no questions on the work on the outside bodies.

## **THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR**

**Notes:** The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 10.35pm

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