

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2006

Present: Councillors: N Clarkson (Mayor); M Ashbrook; D Banks; Mrs M Barnes; G Blackwell; Anne Bradshaw; H Branney; E Brenan; Mrs Y R T Clarkson; G Clements; R Cole; P C Connolly; Mrs M D Docherty; Mrs E Eastwood; Mrs D A Faichney; G Garrity; Mrs C A Giel; F J Gleaves; F R Heathcote; K H Hitchen; A Holliday; J Jackson; A E Jacob; A J Johnston; Mrs J K Johnston; F McPhillips; M A McVeigh;; Mrs W B Metherell; D W Moore; A Norwood; J Park; J Prince; R Salkeld; G Scurrah; W Southward; J G Sunderland; P D Tyson; Mrs C Watson; P Watson; N Williams; A Wonnacott; Miss E M Woodburn; Mrs M B Woodburn; H Wormstrup.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Close BEM; B A Dixon; J E Hewitson; Mrs J Hully; S J Meteer; Mrs D A Wonnacott; K Young

Dr J Stanforth, Chief Executive

Prior to the commencement of formal business, the Leader of the Council referred to the retirement shortly of Dr John Stanforth as Chief Executive, thanked him for his service to the Council since 1996, and wished him a peaceful and happy retirement.

The Mayor added his own tributes and thanks later in the meeting under Mayor's Announcements.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 28 February and 29 March 2006 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to deletion of Councillor P D Tyson from the list of apologies for 28 February.

C110 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor welcomed Councillors H Branney, G Garrity and A E Jacob to their first Council meeting since being elected.

The Mayor then referred to the various engagements he had fulfilled since the last Meeting of the Council.

C111 Executive Reports

The following Executive Members gave progress reports on matters coming within their Portfolios: -

Councillor Miss E Woodburn – Leader
Councillor M Ashbrook – Deputy Leader
Councillor G Clements – Housing and Community Safety

Councillor A Holliday – Environmental and Cultural Services
Councillor N Williams – Resources and Local Democracy
Councillor Miss E Woodburn – Business Growth
Councillor H Wormstrup – Economic Infrastructure
Councillor G Blackwell – Health and Diversity

(Councillor R Cole declared a personal interest in Executive decision EXE/05/148 as a member of Millom Town Council.)

(Councillors G Blackwell, G Clements, R Cole, F Gleaves, A Holliday, and A Southward declared personal interests in the Cleator Moor Civic Hall (Resources and Local Democracy report) as Freemasons. Councillor Mrs M Barnes declared a personal interest as her husband is a Freemason.)

(Councillor G Clements declared a personal interest in South Whitehaven Partnership (Business Growth report) as a member of St Peters Parochial Church Council).

(Councillor A Southward declared a personal interest in the North West Communities Programme (Economic Infrastructure report) as a member of Copeland Stadium Committee. Councillor G Blackwell declared a personal interest in the same item as Deputy Chairman of the Moresby Parks scheme).

C112 NPDB Procurement

Arising from the Deputy Leader's report, it was

RESOLVED – that Council appoints the Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Cultural Services to the local management board and the NCL main charity board and one other member, to be agreed, to the local management board.

C113 Cumbria Waste Management Partnership – Joint Scrutiny

Arising from the Environmental and Cultural Services Report, it was

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Environmental Well-being Committee's support of the joint scrutiny panel's interim report is noted.
- 2) That Council notes that the Executive has reaffirmed its commitment to achieving and surpassing its own targets for waste management, thereby fully contributing to the targets set for Cumbria as a whole.
- 3) That the Deputy Leader be appointed as a substitute for the Portfolio Holder in order that Member representation at meetings of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership is assured.

4) That Council agrees that major strategy or policy decisions with respect to waste management remain subject to the agreement of the Executive, but that decision-making on all other matters with respect to joint waste work, including the implementation of policies, be delegated to the Portfolio Holder or Substitute and the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services.

C 114 Disabled Facilities Grants

Arising from the Housing and Community Safety Portfolio Report and in response to a question from Councillor J G Sunderland, the portfolio holder agreed to provide Councillor Sunderland with a written reply on whether the £92,699 improvement grant balance provision referred to in decision EXE05/178 represents the whole of the balance, and if not what is the remaining balance after deduction of the £92.699.

C115 Property Database

Arising from the Business Growth Portfolio report, and in response to a question by Councillor K H Hitchen, the portfolio holder agreed to provide Councillor Hitchen with a written reply explaining the Evolutive property database, and including which representatives of the business community would be involved.

C116 PCT Ambulance Trust Consultation Document

Arising from the Health and Diversity portfolio report, and in response to a question by Councillor Mrs E Eastwood, the portfolio holder agreed to provide a written reply to Councillor Mrs Eastwood on what proportion of 8 minute responses were from the Ambulance Trust itself and what proportion from other agencies.

C117 Question Under Standing Order 9

Councillor K H Hitchen asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

“Can the Leader please advise the Council of the definition of “major projects” for the purposes of the Major Projects Fund, and inform the Council of the projects financed from the Fund since it was set up?”

The Leader of the Council replied as follows:

“Policy & Resources Committee on 23rd February 1999 approved the setting up of a Major Project Fund to be financed from underspendings which occur in revenue and capital budgets. There was no definition given for a major project but reasoning behind the recommendation stated that it was to provide resources for an ongoing capital programme.

The projects that have been funded from this reserve since it was set up will be circulated to all Members and are mainly where a project has been

undertaken that would not normally have been funded from the Councils Revenue budget. All uses of this fund have been approved by Executive.”

C118 Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 8

Notice having been given under Standing Order 8, it was moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Miss E Woodburn, duly seconded and

RESOLVED - That this Council supports the Fairtrade Foundation aim to tackle poverty in poor countries by enabling disadvantaged producers to receive a fair deal, addressing injustice in the developing world and supporting local producers, farmers and traders.

C119 Application for Planning Permission – Land at St Paul’s Avenue, Frizington – Application 4/06/2047/0

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J K Johnston, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the report.

(Councillors P C Connolly, Mrs C A Giel and J G Sunderland declared personal interests in this item as Members of Arlecdon and Frizington Parish Council.)

C120 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

It was moved by Councillor P C Connolly, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny annual report be noted.

C121 Member Training and Development

It was moved by Councillor Mrs M Barnes, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that

- (a) the preamble to the training and development programme be agreed as the Council’s statement of intent and strategy on member training and development;
- (b) the programme as agreed by the Member Training and Development Panel be noted together with progress in moving towards NWE0 Charter accreditation.

C122 Programme of Meetings 2006/2007

It was moved by Councillor Miss E Woodburn, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that the programme of meetings for 2006/2007 be approved, subject to amendment of OSC Env from 5 June to 8 June at 4.00 pm, and to all OSC Chairs meetings being held at 10.30 am.

C123 Report of Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Allowances

Consideration was given to the Interim Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members’ Allowances, together with an accompanying report of the Deputy Leader, Councillor M Ashbrook.

RESOLVED – that (a) the Leader’s Special Responsibility Allowance is increased to £17,450 with effect from the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Council; (b) the other recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are agreed.

C124 Amendments to Constitution

Consideration was given to proposed amendments to the Constitution for implementation from the 2006 Annual Meeting.

RESOLVED – that the proposed amendments are agreed, subject to membership of the Budget Working Party being 7 not 8, and to further discussion on portfolio responsibilities before the Annual Meeting 2006.

C125 Nominations of Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2006/2007

It was moved by Councillor Miss E Woodburn, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs W Metherell be nominated for election as Mayor of the Borough for 2006/2007.

It was moved by Councillor A Holliday, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs A Faichney be nominated for appointment as Deputy Mayor of the Borough for 2006/2007.

C126 Restrictions on Alcohol Consumption

It was moved by Councillor G Blackwell, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that subject to no adverse comments being received from consultation the Council gives delegated authority to Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Diversity to make an Order that Castle Park Whitehaven and the Mount Steps and the area abutting Rosemary Lane be “Designated Public Places” for the purposes of the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001.

C127 Appointments to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED – that Councillor R Salkeld be appointed to replace Councillor N Williams as the Council’s representative on the Community Law Centre.

C128 Implementing Electronic Government

It was moved by Councillor N Williams, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that the submitted IEG 6 Return be approved.

C129 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED - That pursuant to Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds of likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C130 Interim Arrangements for Head of Paid Service

RESOLVED – that the arrangements described in the report for appointment of an Interim Head of the Paid Service be approved.

Mayor