

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2007

Present: Councillors: Mrs W B Metherell (Mayor); M J Ashbrook; D Banks; G Blackwell; Anne Bradshaw; N Clarkson; Mrs Y R T Clarkson; G Clements; P C Connolly; B A Dixon; Mrs M Docherty; Mrs E Eastwood; Mrs D A Faichney; F J Gleaves; G Garrity; F R Heathcote; J E Hewitson; K H Hitchen; A Holliday; Mrs J I Hully; J Jackson; A E Jacob; M A McVeigh; S J Meteer; D W Moore; A W M Norwood; J Prince; W Southward; J G Sunderland; P D Tyson; Mrs C Watson; P Watson; A Wonnacott; Miss E M Woodburn; Mrs M Woodburn; H Wormstrup.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M Barnes; H Branney; E Brennan; J Close BEM; R Cole; Mrs C A Giel; F McPhillips; J Park; R Salkeld; N Williams; Mrs D A Wonnacott.

Prior to the commencement of business, all present stood for one minute's silence in memory of the late former Councillor Charlie Blair, Mayor of Copeland in 1993-94.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2006 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C 66 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor wished all present a happy and prosperous new year.

The Mayor then referred to her recent visit to H M Prison, Haverigg, which she had enjoyed and where she had not been compulsorily detained.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Bill Southward on the arrival of his first great grandchild.

C 67 Executive Report

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Miss E Woodburn gave a progress reports on matters considered by the Executive since the last Council meeting.

It was agreed that a copy of the consultation document on reorganisation of health services in Cumbria would be circulated to all Councillors.

The Leader of the Council agreed to provide a written reply to Councillor Hitchen on the differences between the Council's old Intranet site and the new one.

C 68 Cumbria (Local Area) Agreement

The Council considered a report on the Cumbria (Local Area) Agreement, following a presentation which had been made prior to the meeting by the Manager of the Cumbria Local Strategic Partnership.

RESOLVED – that (a) the Council supports the Cumbria Agreement as a means of improving the quality of life for people throughout Cumbria; and

(b) the Council continues to participate in delivery and development of the agreement.

C 69 Planning Application 4/06/2735/0 – Residential Development, Land at Walkmill Close, Whitehaven

It was moved by Councillor M McVeigh, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that planning permission be granted under Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 subject to the conditions set out in the report.

C 70 Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities

(Councillor N Clarkson withdrew from the meeting for this item of business).

The Council considered a report of the Working Group appointed at the last Council meeting to formulate a response to the Local Government White Paper and the County Council bid for unitary Cumbria status. The report set out how the Working Group proposed to tackle the relevant issues in the White Paper; outlined the case made in the County Council's unitary bid and the flaws which the Working Group considered to be inherent within it; and set out the basis of the alternative proposition currently being developed jointly by the six district councils.

Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED – That Council (a) agrees the proposed terms of reference of the Group;

(b) agrees not to endorse the County Council's unitary status bid at this time;

(c) agrees the partnership arrangement with the other Cumbria districts to develop a model of future improvement for local authorities in line with the Secretary of State's request; and

(d) agrees to set aside £50,000 from the Reserve Fund for costs associated with development of the alternative proposals.

The meeting closed at 5.05 pm

Mayor