

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2008

Present: Councillors: Councillors K Hitchen (Mayor); J W Bowman; H Branney; E Brennan; A Carroll; N Clarkson; Mrs Y R T Clarkson; P C Connolly; Mrs M Docherty; G Garrity; F Gleaves; F R Heathcote; Mrs J I Hully; J Jackson; A E Jacob; J Kane; T J Knowles; M A McVeigh; S J Meteer; W Metherell; D W Moore; A D Mossop; A Norwood; J Park; R F Pitt; J Prince; R Salkeld; G Scurrah; J G Sunderland; Mrs C Watson; P Watson; P Whalley; C J Whiteside; Mrs J Williams; E M Woodburn; H Wormstrup.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Banks; G Blackwell; G Clements; R Cole; B A Dixon; Mrs E Eastwood; Mrs D A Faichney; Mrs C A Giel; A Holliday; W Southward; P D Tyson; N Williams; D A Wilson; A Wonnacott; Mrs M Woodburn.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13 May 2008, as amended, were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C 07 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor referred to the visit of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to Whitehaven on 5 June 2008, which had been a most memorable occasion. The Mayor thanked all Members and officers of the Council, and others, who had been involved in the arrangements for the day.

C08 Declarations of Interest

Councillors N Clarkson and Mrs Y R T Clarkson declared personal interests in the Executive report on Regeneration due to ownership of property in Whitehaven

Councillor T Knowles declared a personal interest in the report on Management of Radioactive Waste due to his membership of Cumbria County Council and as Labour spokesman on the nuclear industry. Councillor H Wormstrup declared a personal interest in the report due to his employment in the nuclear industry.

Councillor R Pitt declared a personal interest in the Executive report on Regeneration as Chair of the Haverigg Regeneration Group.

C 09 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely – A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal

The Council considered a report setting out the content of the White Paper on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal, and the government's plans for working with local communities to explore the best location for a geological waste disposal facility.

The report set out the Council's position in terms of previous policy commitments and the next steps the Council would need to take

Following a debate it was **RESOLVED (i)** that the Council notes that

- (a) Initial discussions with Copeland's residents and Government on whether to participate in the Government's process will take place in line with Council policy.
- (b) To facilitate this process the Council will "express an interest" to Government and seek funding to engage the local community and partners in the issues before deciding whether to participate
- (c) A work programme and partnership arrangements designed to consider all the issues needed for this Council to make a decision to participate will be reported back for agreement.
- (d) The partnership arrangements and work programme will be developed will be developed with the full involvement of relevant local partners including the County Council; and
- (ii) that a Working Group of Councillors E Woodburn, A Holliday, J Kane, D Moore and Mrs Y Clarkson be appointed to provide the focus for the work within the Council.

C 10 Executive Reports

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E Woodburn, Councillor T Knowles (Achieving Transformation) and Councillor H Branney (Promoting Prosperity) gave progress reports on matters considered by the Executive since the last Council meeting.

RESOLVED – that Executive Decision EXE08/004 (establishment of joint county scrutiny committee with jointly funded support posts) be approved.

C 11 Quality Beaches

(Councillor G Sunderland declared a personal interest in the discussion on housing in the Promoting Prosperity report as a private landlord)

Arising from the Promoting Prosperity Executive report, Councillor Branney undertook to provide a written reply to Councillor Moore on the present position on Quality Beaches.

C 12 Overview and Scutiny Report

(Councillors P Connolly and G Sunderland declared personal interests in the discussion on concessionary fares as a recipient of concessionary travel and a bus company employee respectively.

Councillor C Whiteside declared a personal interest as a BT employee in the discussion on telephone boxes.)

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee gave an update on overview and scrutiny activities since the last meeting of the Council.

Arising from the discussion, Members referred to a recent consultation by BT on proposals to close 26 public telephone boxes in Copeland.

Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED – that the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition Group be authorised to deal with and respond to the consultation paper in the most appropriate way.

C 13 Corporate Plan

The Council considered the refreshed Corporate Plan for 2008-12 which had been circulated to all Councillors for comments.

RESOLVED – that the refreshed Corporate Plan be approved as submitted

C 14 Post Office Closures

The Council considered the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Economic Development and Enterprise on their response to the consultation on proposals for closures of Post Offices in Copeland.

RESOLVED – that (a) the Council notes the work undertaken by the Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the proposed Post Office Closures;

(b) is asked to consider that If the closures go ahead the Council should investigate, as a matter of urgency, with key partners a multi agency approach to providing outreach services, where possible, to replace the service that may be lost in the affected communities; and

(c) representations be made to the Member of Parliament, asking him to seek clarification on the Council's behalf from the Secretary of State for Business and Regulatory Reform, at the earliest opportunity, on the current status of the Memorandum of Agreement on West Cumbria Proofing and in which circumstances it will apply.

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C 15 Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 8

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

C 16 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Consideration was given to the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members Allowances for 2008/09 onwards.

RESOLVED – (a) that Special Responsibility Allowances of £400 for the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee and £200 for the other Independent and Parish Members of the Standards Committee be introduced from the 2008/2009 year.

(b) that the Scheme of Members' Allowances be amended at paragraph 4.1 to include the following additional category of duties to be eligible for payment of travelling and subsistence allowances:

“Meetings or events concerning Council services which a Member attends at the request or invitation of a Chief Officer or authorised representative.”

(c) that the Council takes no action on the request for payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance for Coalfields Alliance duties.

(d) that the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's Allowances be included in the Scheme and increased by RPI as set out in paragraph 14 above.

(e) recommendation (A) in the report on the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to Executive Members be referred back to the Panel for further consideration.

C 17 Appointments to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs C Giel be appointed as the Council representative on the Derwent and Solway Housing Association Steering Group.

C 18 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 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C 19 Disposal of Land

Consideration was given to proposals for disposal of certain parcels of land in the Borough in accordance with the approved Asset Management Plan.

RESOLVED (a) that Full Council approves the sale or disposal of the assets as set out in paragraph 2.1 of this Report; and

(b) that approval of the terms and conditions of sale (heads of terms) be finalised and the obtaining of any consents necessary from the Secretary of State be delegated to the

Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Director of Development, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder; and

(c) that a further report be made to full Council if any change arises in the arrangements referred to in paragraph 1.6 of the report.

C 20 Disposal of Land, Wellington Row, Whitehaven

Consideration was given to a report outlining proposals for disposal of land at Wellington Row, Whitehaven.

RESOLVED – (a) that taking into account (i) the written reports received from the Council's appointed surveyor; (ii) that no responses were received to the statutory advertisement proposing the sales; and (iii) that the terms on which the sale is proposed are the best that can reasonably be obtained; that the disposal of the two plots of land referred to in the report to the owners/occupiers of those properties, on the terms set out in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.4 be approved;

(b) that if required by the relevant purchasers that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Council be authorised to witness the affixing of the Council's seal to the relevant transfer document and to certify compliance by the Council with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993; and

(c) that any minor changes to the agreed terms between the date of the Council meeting and completion be delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Director of Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

The meeting closed at 4.37 pm

Mayor

