

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2009**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Blackwell; E Brenan; A Carroll; R Cole; Mrs C A Giel; A Holliday; J Jackson; A D Mossop; W Southward; D A Wilson; A Wonnacott.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 August 2009 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C 156 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor referred to the various engagements he had fulfilled since the last Council meeting. He then presented Schools in Bloom and Cumbria in Bloom awards to schools and local organizations which had been successful in the competitions.

C 157 Declarations of Interests

The Mayor declared a personal interest in the Executive report (Improve Local Environmental Sustainability) due to his employment in the nuclear industry.

Councillor J G Sunderland declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the discussion on transport under the Executive report as an employee of Stagecoach and left the room during the discussion. Councillor T Knowles declared a personal interest in the same item of business as the Cumbria County Council portfolio-holder for transport and the environment.

Councillor T Knowles declared a personal interest in the discussion on low and very low radioactive waste in the Executive report as the Cumbria County Council portfolio-holder for transport and the environment.

C158 Question Under Standing Order 10

Notice of a Question under Standing Order 10 had been received from a member of the public.

As the member of the public was not present to ask the question it was agreed that a written response be sent.

C 159 Executive Report

The Leader of the Council presented a report summarising the strategic issues considered by the Executive since the last Council meeting.

C 160 Free Swimming

Arising from the Executive report the Leader of the Council agreed to provide Councillor Meteer with a written up-date on free swimming usage.

C 161 Local Contracts

Arising from the Executive report the Leader of the Council agreed to provide Councillor Norwood with a written reply on the percentage of contracts placed with local companies in the last 3 years.

C 162 Overview and Scrutiny Report

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee gave an update on matters discussed by scrutiny since the last Council meeting, as set out in an amended report tabled at the meeting.

Following a discussion it was agreed that an independent investigation be carried out into how changes to the distributed version of the report had been made, by a person appointed by the Acting Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the main Opposition Group.

C 163 Choosing to Change

The Council considered the report and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the Choosing to Change initiative.

It was moved by Councillor B Dixon and duly seconded that recommendations (1) to (7) in the report be approved.

It was then moved by Councillor G Clements by way of amendment, and duly seconded, that recommendations (1) to (6) be approved but that recommendation (7) be not approved.

A requisition having been made under Standing Order 12.26(a), a recorded vote was taken on the amendment and the voting was as follows:

FOR THE AMENDMENT: Councillors Banks, Bowman, Branney, Clements, Connolly, Docherty, Faichney, Hully, Kane, Knowles, McVeigh, Park, Pitt, Prince, Tyson. C Watson, P Watson, Whalley, J Williams, N Williams, E Woodburn, M Woodburn, Wormstrup.

AGAINST THE AMENDMENT: Councillors N Clarkson, Y Clarkson, Dixon, Eastwood, Gleaves, Heathcote, Hitchen, Jacob, Meteer, Moore, Norwood, Salkeld, Scurrah, Sunderland, Whiteside.

ABSTAINED: Councillors Garrity, Metherell.

The amendment was declared **LOST** by 23 votes to 15 with 2 abstentions.

It was then

RESOLVED – that

- (a) in future any meeting involving both Corporate Team and the Executive relating to the management of the Council should have a clearly understood purpose attached to it that linked to a stated outcome(s) and duly recorded minutes taken.
- (b) any future event relating to strategic direction of the Council that covers such wide ranging and important issues should include a wider audience than just the Executive and the Corporate Team. This should include the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Independent Group, the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as well as preferably key partners.
- (c) in the future proposals arising from events relating to the strategic direction of the Council should be brought to the next meeting of the Council.
- (d) The Committee found that the details of the draft bid were confusing and contrary to the verbal evidence that was given and would like the status of the documentary evidence to be clarified.
- (e) The Committee recommends that if there was a breach of confidentiality that an investigation should be undertaken.
- (f) The Committee were concerned at the impact of the article in the Whitehaven News. It was concerned at how this happened and that there needed to be work done by the Council to improve how it communicates to its own Councillors, as well as the community at large. This should include the local media and it is therefore recommended that the external agencies be asked to propose ways in which the Council can achieve this.

C 164 Planning Application 4/09/2277/0 – Public Realm Improvements

RESOLVED – that (a) planning application 4/09/2277/0 be granted subject to the conditions set out in the report; and

(b) a written reply be provided to Councillor Whalley on the question of the height of the lamps.

C 165 Designated Public Places Order

Consideration was given to a report setting out proposals for s Designated Public Places Order for Beck Green Egremont.

RESOLVED – that the areas at Beck Green, Egremont as shown on the plan attached to the report be made the subject of a Designated Public Places Order.

C 166 Race Equality Scheme

Consideration was given to a draft Race Equality Scheme to replace the scheme adopted by the Council in 2006. There was a statutory requirement for schemes to be reviewed every three years.

RESOLVED - that (a) the scheme be approved in principle and reported back to a future meeting with an implementation plan; and

(b) a written reply be sent to Councillor Norwood explaining the differences between the old and proposed new schemes.

C 167 Strengthening Local Democracy

Consideration was given to the consultation paper Strengthening Local Democracy, replies to which were required by 2 October 2009.

RESOLVED – that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio Holder, be authorised to respond to the consultation paper on the Council's behalf.

The meeting closed at 5.12 pm

Mayor

