

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2005

Present: Councillors: N Clarkson (Mayor); Mrs W Metherell (Deputy Mayor); M Ashbrook; D Banks; Mrs M Barnes; G Blackwell; Anne Bradshaw; E Brenan; Mrs Y R T Clarkson; G Clements; R Cole; B A Dixon; Mrs M D Docherty; Mrs E Eastwood; Mrs D A Faichney; Mrs C Giel; F J Gleaves; ; D W T Gray; F R Heathcote; J E Hewitson; K H Hitchen; A Holliday; J Jackson; A J Johnston; Mrs J K Johnston; F McPhillips; M A McVeigh; S J Meter; 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.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Close B.E.M; P C Connolly; Mrs J Hully; Mrs M B Woodburn; Mrs D A Wonnacott; H Wormstrup; K Young.

C58 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2005 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C59 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor referred to the various engagements he had fulfilled since the last Meeting of the Council. He thanked all Members and others who had attended and supported the Mayor's Charity Ball on 7 October 2005, and staff who had assisted with the arrangements.

C60 Executive Reports

(Councillor Anne Bradshaw declared a personal interest in the Housing and Community Safety portfolio report due to her recent receipt of a Disabled Facilities Grant)

(Councillor R Cole declared a personal interest in the Housing and Community Safety portfolio report due to his membership of the Cumbria Police Authority)

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

Councillor Miss E Woodburn – Leader
 Councillor M Ashbrook – Deputy Leader
 Councillor Miss E Woodburn – Economic Infrastructure
 Councillor G Blackwell – Health and Diversity
 Councillor G Clements – Housing and Community Safety
 Councillor A Holliday – Environmental and Cultural Services
 Councillor N Williams – Resources and Local Democracy

Councillor J E Hewitson – Business Growth

C61 A 595 De-Trunking

Arising from the Leader's report, and in response to a question by Councillor D W Moore, the Leader agreed to write to the Secretaries of State for Transport and Trade and Industry asking for clarification on whether Cumbria rural proofing had been taken into account in the recent decision on the de-trunking of the A 595.

C62 Cumbria Local Transport Plan

Arising from the Economic Infrastructure portfolio report, and in response to a question from Councillor D W T Gray, the Leader agreed to arrange for copies of the Cumbria Local Transport Plan to be circulated to all Councillors.

C63 Audited Final Accounts

Consideration was given to the Audited Final Accounts for 2004/2005 following completion of the audit. The report noted the amendments to the Accounts which had been made at the request of the Audit Commission.

RESOLVED – that

- (a) the revised final accounts be approved and published;
- (b) the letter from the Audit Commission as set out in Appendix A be noted;
- (c) signing of the letter attached at Appendix C in respect of unadjusted errors be approved; and
- (d) written replies be sent to Councillor Norwood clarifying the position on write-off of NNDR debts and Councillors Sunderland and Mrs Clarkson on the position on MMI residual receipts.

C64 Revised Revenue Budget 2005/2006

Consideration was given to a report setting out a Revised Revenue Budget for 2005/2006 to reflect new staffing and departmental structures.

RESOLVED – that

- (a) the budget pages issued under separate cover and summarised at Appendix A be approved
- (b) the revised base budget of £9,429,712 be approved and an additional £65,581 be placed in contingencies.

C65 Improvement Programme Board

The Council considered a report setting out proposed changes to the role of the Improvement Programme Board.

RESOLVED – that

- (a) the proposed changes to the role of the Improvement Board be agreed and that it be re-named the Corporate Improvement Programme Board;
- (b) the membership of the Board be confirmed as set out in para 2.6; and
- (c) further consideration be given at a future meeting to separate arrangements for monitoring performance on regeneration activities.

C66 NDA Strategy Consultation

(The Mayor agreed to take this item on grounds of urgency due to the need to respond to the consultation within the specified timescale.)

Consideration was given to a proposed response to the consultation on the NDA draft strategy.

RESOLVED – (a) the response is agreed and disseminated to partners; and

(b) the response is subject to subsequent amendment in the event of comments by partners and that authority to make further amendments is delegated to the Corporate Director (Economic Prosperity and Sustainability) in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

C67 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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C68 Property Disposals

Consideration was given to a report proposing disposal of certain freehold properties whose valuations exceeded £100,000 and therefore required approval of full Council under Contract Standing Orders. Individual valuations of properties were set out in the report, but it was proposed that actual terms and conditions of each sale be delegated and reported to Members subsequently.

RESOLVED – that

(a) the Council agrees to the sale of the properties as set out at paragraph 1.9 of the report; and

(b) the terms and conditions of sale be delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Finance and Business Development in consultation with the Portfolioholder for Resources and Local Democracy and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Performance and Resources.

The Meeting closed at 6.05 pm

Mayor