

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2005

Present: Councillors: N Clarkson (Mayor); Mrs W Metherell (Deputy Mayor); M Ashbrook; D Banks; Mrs M Barnes; G Blackwell; Mrs Y R T Clarkson; P C Connolly; Mrs M D Docherty; Mrs E Eastwood; Mrs D A Faichney; F J Gleaves; J E Hewitson; K H Hitchen; Mrs J Hully; J Jackson; Mrs J K Johnston; F McPhillips; M A McVeigh; S J Meteer; D W Moore; A Norwood; J Park; J Prince; R Salkeld; G Scurrah; W Southward; Mrs C Watson; P Watson; Mrs D A Wonnacott; Miss E M Woodburn; H Wormstrup; K Young.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Bradshaw; E Brenan; G Clement; J Close B.E.M; R Cole; B A Dixon; Mrs C Giel; D W T Gray; F R Heathcote; A Holliday; A J Johnston; J G Sunderland; P D Tyson; N Williams; Mrs M B Woodburn; A Wonnacott.

C43 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2005 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C44 Mayors Announcements

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

C45 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 Blackwell – Health and Diversity
 Councillor Miss E Woodburn – Housing and Community Safety
 Councillor Miss E Woodburn – Environmental and Cultural Services
 Councillor M Ashbrook – Resources and Local Democracy
 Councillor J E Hewitson – Business Growth
 Councillor H Wormstrup – Economic Infrastructure

C46 Whitehaven Rugby League

Prior to the Leader presenting her Portfolio report she congratulated Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club for achieving the National League One Championships at Rochdale, this was endorsed by the Mayor and the Leader of the Main Opposition Group.

C47 Budget Strategy

Arising from the Leader's Portfolio Members thanked Members and Officers of the Budget Working Party for their hard work in giving presentations on the budget to all of Copeland's Neighbourhood Forums.

C48 Customer Services

Arising from the Deputy Leader's Portfolio Members congratulated the Customer Services staff that gained their qualifications for the Institute of Customer Care in Communications and Innovations.

C49 Customer First Project

Arising from the Deputy Leaders Portfolio Report

- a) and response to a question from Councillor A W M Norwood's the Portfolio Holder agreed to provide a written response to clarify what the Council's involvement would be in the Local Government Associations newly launched Local Government Reputation Project; and
- b) the Portfolio Holder agreed that details of the Customer First project would be included on the Council's Web site and Parish Councils would be kept updated with meeting being held south of the Borough when necessary.

C50 Leisure Trust

Arising from the Deputy Leaders Portfolio Report, and in response to a question from Councillor A W M Norwood's the Portfolio Holder agreed to provide a written response to clarify how much is in the budget for options development and how much are we expecting it to actually cost.

C51 West Cumberland Hospital

Note: Councillor Mrs J Hully declared a personal interest in this item due to being employed by the NHS.

Prior to the Portfolio Holder Health and Diversity presenting his report the Portfolio Holder updated members on the current situation with regard to West Cumberland Hospital. Members noted that there was to be a Meeting with the Chief Executive of the North Cumbria Acute Healthcare Trust and the Chairman of the West Cumbria Primary Care Trust, which would be open to open to all Members.

Members felt that as much information should be gathered prior to this meeting it was therefore moved, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Social Well Being be asked to meet and gather information comparing healthcare services available in 2002 to services available in 2005.

C52 Health and Safety

Arising from the Portfolio Report – Health and Diversity and in response to a question from Councillor D Moore the Portfolio Holder agreed to provide a written response to update Members on what happened on Copeland's Amenity beaches this year and what safety measures were put in place.

C53 Training and Development

Arising from the Portfolio Report – Resources and Local Democracy and in response to a question from Councillor K Hitchen the Deputy Leader agreed to provide a written response to confirm when Members would be able to access the Council's email and Internet via a Broadband connection.

C54 Questions at Council

Arising from the Portfolio Report – Resources and Local Democracy and Councillor Norwood's expression of concern that his question from Council dated 28 July had not been answered fully and Councillor Scurrah's question had not been answered at all it was

RESOLVED – That a) the outstanding questions would be answered; and
b) the Chief Executive be asked to liaise with officers to ensure that all future questions be answered fully and within the timescale.

C55 Priority 2 European Programme West Cumbria

The Portfolio Holder – Business growth agreed to clarify the criteria to include Wards in the Priority 2 European Programme West Cumbria.

C56 Regional Economic Strategy Consultation

Consideration was given to a proposed response to the consultation on Regional Economic Strategy being carried out by the North West, deadline for responses being 30 September.

RESOLVED - That a) the response be agreed and disseminated to local partners; and

b) delegated authority be given to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Sustainability in consultation with the Leader of the Council to amend the document, if necessary, in the event of additional relevant comments being raised by partners.

C57 Councillors' Allowances

Consideration was given to proposals for reviewing the current scheme of Members Allowances.

RESOLVED - That a) the present position in respect of the Independent Remuneration Panel be noted;

b) the proposed terms of reference of the Panel be approved; and

c) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be delegated authority to appoint the members of the Panel in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; the Leader of the Opposition Group and the Portfolio Holder Resources and Local Democracy.

The Meeting closed at 3.50 pm

Mayor