

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2005

Present: Councillors: N Clarkson (Mayor); Mrs W Metherell (Deputy Mayor); M Ashbrook; D Banks; G Blackwell; Anne Bradshaw; Mrs Y R T Clarkson; P C Connolly; B A Dixon; Mrs M D Docherty; Mrs E Eastwood; Mrs C Giel; F J Gleaves; J E Hewitson; A Holliday; J Jackson; F McPhillips; M A McVeigh; S J Meteer; 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; H Wormstrup

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M Barnes; E Brenan; G Clements; J Close; B.E.M R Cole; Mrs D A Faichney; D W T Gray; F R Heathcote; K H Hitchen; Mrs J Hully; A J Johnston; Mrs J K Johnston; Mrs M B Woodburn; Mrs D A Wonnacott; K Young

C69 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2005 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to Minute **C61** being amended to

“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 proofing had been taken into account in the recent decision on the de-trunking of the A 595”

C70 Mayor’s Announcements

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

C71 Questions form Mr Johnstone to the Environmental and Cultural Services Portfolio

Mr Johnstone asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder Environmental and Cultural Services

“What actions are the Council currently taking and have planned to alleviate the flooding problems at Parton?”

Councillor Holliday, Portfolio Holder Environmental and Cultural Services Replied

“ We have spent in the past twelve/eighteen months of around £20,000 to help alleviate the flooding problems in Parton and we have budgeted for an extra £20,000 to be spent in the near future to help alleviate flooding problems in Parton”.

Mr Johnstone then asked the following supplementary question: -

“Can the Council please advise if it is due to planning consent and road improvement on higher grounds that it has exacerbated the problems for Parton community and are the Council responsible for cleaning the culverts?”

Councillor Holliday, Portfolio Holder Environmental and Cultural Services then replied: -

“ The sum of £20,000 was spent on cleaning the culverts and again I believe that we are responsible for the culverts and but the actual drainage is the County Council.

The first part of the question about the road, not that I’m aware of about it adding to the problem but we do have a new flood alleviation officer in post and he will be looking at Parton along with other areas to see if what’s been done in the past is actually increasing the flood problem and I’ve said the answer is no that we’re aware of, if that changes we will pass it on to Parton Parish Council.”

Mr Johnstone asked the second question of the Portfolio Holder Environmental and Cultural Services: -

“Are the Councillors aware of the petition and that 14 houses were seriously affected, 5 families having to move out for some months, and do the Council feel that this situation is acceptable?”

Councillor Holliday, Portfolio Holder Environmental and Cultural Services then replied: -

“The Council is not officially aware of the petition, but it has been brought to my attention that it will be sent in very shortly and as far as any flooding to any property is concerned we don’t think that it is appropriate that that is allowed to happen but we are under difficulty as far as finances are concerned, everything we can do we will do to alleviate flooding in Parton and the rest of the Borough.”

Mr Johnstone then asked the following supplementary question: -

“Should this happen again what provisions for support and compensation will be made available.”

Councillor Holliday, Portfolio Holder Environmental and Cultural Services then replied: -

“ I am not aware of any compensation but as far as the provisions are concerned we are working with the Parish Council to make sure that we have contact points so that some of the problems which arose at the last situation will not happen again. We will continue to work with the Parish Councils I did

attend a Parish council meeting and do intend to continue to attend the Parish Council meetings to continue to monitor the problems.”

C72 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 J E Hewitson – Business Growth
Councillor Miss E Woodburn – Economic Infrastructure
Councillor G Blackwell – Health and Diversity
Councillor M Ashbrook – Housing and Community Safety
Councillor A Holliday – Environmental and Cultural Services
Councillor N Williams – Resources and Local Democracy

C73 Customers First

Members wished their congratulations to be given to the Councils Parks Department for being awarded one of only thirteen places in the North West Business Excellence Awards 2005.

C74 The Beacon

Arising from the Deputy Leader’s report, and in response to a question by Councillor Norwood, the Deputy Leader agreed to give a written response with regard to visitor numbers to the Beacon.

C75 Performance Indicators

Arising from the Deputy Leader’s report, and in response to a question by Councillor Norwood, the Deputy Leader agreed to give a written response clarifying the figures for the upper and lower quartile figures against other districts for 2004/05 against 2005/06

C76 Trusteel Houses

Arising from the Housing & Community Safety report, and in response to a question by Councillor C Geil, the Deputy Leader agreed to give a written response detailing the reasons for the delay in the works to Trusteel houses

C777 To Consider a Report on the Revised Audit and Fraud Prevention Charter

Consideration was given to the revised Audit and Fraud Prevention Charter which takes into account the Councils restructure and revised roles and responsibilities of the Fraud Section.

RESOLVED – That the revised Audit and Fraud Prevention Charter be approved.

C78 Appointment to the Member Training and Development Panel

Consideration was given to an appointment to fill the vacancy on the Member Training Panel. It was moved by Councillor Miss E Woodburn duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mrs M Barnes be appointed to the Member Training and Development Panel.

C79 Cumbria Vision Strategy

Consideration was given to a proposed response to the consultation by Cumbria Vision

RESOLVED – That a) the response be agreed and disseminated to local partners;
b) the Corporate Director (Economic Prosperity and Sustainability) in consultation with the Leader of the Council be delegated authority to make any amendments in the event of any additional comments raised by partners if necessary.

C80 IEG 5 Return

Consideration was given to the draft IEG5 return for online submission to the ODPM.

RESOLVED – That the draft IEG5 return for online submission to the ODPM be approved

C81 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 paragraphs 1 & 8 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C82 Recruitment of Chief Executive

Consideration was given to increase the base budget for 2006/07 to increase the salary provision for the recruitment of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED – That the salary provision in the 2006/2007 base budget be increased by £17,000 (including on-costs) in accordance with the recommendation of the Council’s retained consultant

The Meeting closed at 4.14pm

Mayor