

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2014

Present: Councillors Eileen Eastwood (Mayor); David Banks; Geoffrey Blackwell; Hugh Branney; Yvonne Clarkson; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Brian Dixon; Margarita Docherty; Geoffrey Garrity; Fred Gleaves; Phil Greateorex; Stephen Haraldsen; Reg Heathcote; Ian Hill; Lena Hogg; Joan Hully; Alan Jacob; John Kane; Peter Kane; Michael McVeigh; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Jack Park; Sam Pollen; Gilbert Scurrah; William Southward; Peter Stephenson; Gillian Troughton; Peter Tyson; Paul Whalley; Doug Wilson; Elaine Woodburn; Henry Wormstrup

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Jackie Bowman; John Bowman; Karl Connor; Jon Downie; Anne Faichney; John Fallows; Allan Forster; Keith Hitchen; Allan Holliday; John Jackson; David Riley; Robert Salkeld; Dave Smith; Graham Sunderland; Jeanette Williams; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman

C 32 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 September were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C 33 Declarations of Interest

Councillors David Banks; Joan Hully and Hugh Branney declared non disclosable pecuniary interests in Agenda item 8 –due to being directors of North East Copeland

C 34 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor referred to the various events she had attended since the last meeting.

C 35 To Receive Petitions under Procedure Rule 19

There were no petitions.

C 36 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Graham Roberts asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment Councillor Peter Kane

"Monday morning on Lowther Street in Whitehaven saw two Copeland Council litter operatives at work, equipped with refuse sacks and litter tongs at the front of the Wilkinson store.

One of the operators picked up a single cigarette stub with the tongs and moved on. Several stubs remained.

Could Copeland Council ensure in future that the correct equipment is provided and ensure that this area of pavement with all the dirt and debris is properly refreshed."

In response to the question from Mr Graham Roberts the Portfolio Holder Councillor Peter Kane undertook to ask that staff are reminded of their responsibilities and duties and that standards have to be maintained.

C 37 Questions from Members of the Council

Councillor Sam Pollen asked the following question to the Leader of the Council

Amec who are part of NMP have failed to address the issue of Blacklisting. Although historic, this illegal activity affected people working on the Sellafield site and is relevant today and in the future. Could the Leader contact the Chief Executive of Amec and NMP to seek assurances that they will work with unions to put systems in place to ensure that this type of activity is properly addressed and never happens again.

The leader of the Council Councillor Elaine Woodburn replied as follows;-

Thank you Councillor Pollen about the blacklisting I whole heartedly agreed with you and I know that some of our colleagues here have been affected by that. What I am more than happy to do is to write to the Chief Executive and NMP and ask them to work with the unions to make sure that it doesn't happen.

Hundreds of jobs have recently been transferred from Sellafield site to Whitehaven Town Centre. However, previously hundreds of jobs were transferred from Sellafield site to Chapel Bank in Workington, with the promise that when office space became available in Copeland those jobs would return to Copeland. Could the Leader confirm that those Sellafield jobs will return to Copeland as agreed, and if there are any future transfers from Sellafield Site that those jobs will remain in Copeland.

The Leader of the Council Councillor Elaine Woodburn replied as follows:-

"With regard to the jobs that have been transferred from the Sellafield site I did actually speak to Sellafield so I will actually read out their response as it is ultimately their question

"The Sellafield Ltd. have no plans either now or in the immediate future to further increase the number of employees based at chapel bank or indeed lease or build any new office accommodation in or around the Allerdale area. Furthermore no assurance was ever given to stakeholders either in public or private that those employees transferred to Chapel Bank would subsequently relocate to Copeland when additional office space became available."

It's probably fair to say that Sellafield is still working on the number of people they have on site and it's pretty much well known that they still need to transfer more off but we are having positive conversations about doing everything we can to ensure that they are transferred into Copeland."

Could the Leader also confirm that no workers are earning less than the living wage or are on zero hour contracts on Sellafield Site.

The leader of the Council Councillor Elaine Woodburn replied as follows:-

With regards to the Zero hour contracts again I contacted Sellafield and up until a quarter of an hour ago absolutely no response from them at all. I know to my knowledge that there are still workers on that site that don't receive the living wage I think that's pretty much well known. We took quite a brave decision to make sure that our employees received that and what I will do as I have had no response is write to them again and make sure that I get a written response and send out to all Members."

C 38 Executive Report

In moving the Executive report the Leader of the Council Councillor Elaine Woodburn

- a) announced the £3.7 Million which had been secured to Egremont North for flood defence;
- b) clarified that the Council's response to the National Grids consultations did emphasise the need to protect those areas with particular landscaping including the Lake District National Park and the St Bees Heritage Coast along with any other areas that visually need protected by using, where possible, underground cabling.
- c) thanked all those who had attended the Health Members Briefing.

RESOLVED – That the Executive report and updates be received and noted.

C 39 Industrial Action

In reply to a request from Councillor David Moore the Leader of the Council Councillor Elaine Woodburn undertook to write a joint letter from herself and David to Sellafield expressing concern over the grid lock the industrial action had caused and the that there appeared was no plan put in place to allow at least those who aren't on their workforce schools and emergency vehicles to move around West Cumbria.

C 40 Health Forum

In response to a question from Councillor Greatorex on the current status of the Health Forum and the potential for taking issues around the future hospital services and health the Leader of the Councillor Woodburn undertook to ask for this to be put on a future agenda and would report back to Members.

C 41 Christmas Car Parking

In response to a question from Councillor David Moore the Portfolio Holder for the Environment Councillor Peter Kane undertook to write to the harbour commissioners seeking their support for the free car parking in Whitehaven over Christmas.

C 42 Car Parking

In reply to a question from Councillor Stephen Haraldsen the Portfolio Holder Councillor Peter Kane undertook to provide a written reply on whether the availability of car parking was being monitored taking account of the increased workforce in Whitehaven and if so are there any projection including revenue opportunities for the Council?

C 43 Notice of Motion without Notice under Standing Order 14 – Health and Social Care

It was moved by Councillor Brian Dixon duly seconded by Councillor Fred Gleaves that

“Councillor Geoff Garrity write to Government to ask that it recognises the needs of North West Region in particular Copeland and work in partnership with us to deliver our key objectives economic growth, infrastructure, housing and Health and Social Care.”

Councillor Elaine Woodburn moved by way of an amendment that:-

“Councillor Geoff Garrity write to Government to ask them to recognise the needs of Copeland within Cumbria and work in partnership with us to deliver our key objectives economic growth, infrastructure, housing and Health and Social Care.”

The amendment was duly seconded and upon the amended motion being put to the vote it was declared **CARRIED** it was therefore

RESOLVED – That a letter be written to Government to ask them to recognise the needs of Copeland within Cumbria and work in partnership with us to deliver our key objectives economic growth, infrastructure, housing and Health and Social Care.”

C 44 Section 17 Training for Members

In reply to a question from Councillor Clements Councillor Hugh Branney undertook to ensure full training (through OSC) would be given to Members in the new municipal year on Section 17.

C 45 Cumbria LEP – EU Structural and Investment Fund Plans

In response to a question from Councillor Phil Greatorex the Leader of the Council Councillor Elaine Woodburn undertook to write to the Chair of LEP asking for clarification on how they envisage the additional £3million funding being committed during the programme.

C 46 ATMs in Rural Areas

In response to a request from Councillor Alan Jacob the Leader of the Council Councillor Elaine Woodburn undertook to see if anything could be done to retain ATMs in the more rural areas.

C 47 Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy Mid Year 2014/15

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive to agree to change the credit methodology of the current Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2014/15. The changes are required due to a change in the way the main ratings agencies review counterparties with whom the Council places its investments.

RESOLVED – That changes to the credit methodology whereby viability, financial strength and support ratings will not be considered as key additional criteria in the choice of creditworthy investment counterparties for the reasons as detailed in the report be approved.

C 48 Annual Meeting of Council 2015

It was moved duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That the annual meeting of Council be 1 June 2015

C 49 Community Governance Review – Whitehaven

Consideration was given to a report giving details of the Reorganisation Order following the decision of Council that a Parish Council for Whitehaven be established.

RESOLVED – That

- a) the amended Reorganisation Order be approved and that the Legal Services Manager be authorised to affix the Council's common seal to the Order to bring it into effect;
- b) the actual costs incurred in setting up the Parish Council for Whitehaven (estimated at £10,965.00) be initially funded by Copeland Borough Council and then recharged to the Parish Council for Whitehaven; and
- c) the budgetary requirement of the Parish Council for Whitehaven of £324,183.00 be approved.

C 50 Consultation of Site Allocation and Policies Plan Preferred Options

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Local Development Framework Working Party requesting Full Council approval for the Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options Report to be submitted for a ten week public consultation.

RESOLVED - That the Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options Report be approved for a ten week public consultation beginning in January 2015.

The Meeting closed at 2.35pm

Mayor