

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2013

Present: Councillors Geoffrey Garrity; (Mayor); David Banks; Geoffrey Blackwell; Jackie Bowman; John Bowman Hugh Branney; Yvonne Clarkson; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Brian Dixon; Eileen Eastwood; Allan Forster; Phil Greatorex; Stephen Haraldsen; Ian Hill; Lena Hogg; Allan Holliday; Joan Hully; Alan Jacob; John Jackson; Peter Kane; Michael McVeigh; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Sam Pollen; David Riley; Robert Salkeld; Gilbert Scurrah; Dave Smith; Peter Stephenson; Graham Sunderland; Gillian Troughton; Peter Tyson; Elaine Woodburn; Carole Woodman.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Karl Connor; Margarita Docherty; Jon Downie; Anne Faichney; John Fallows; Fred Gleaves; Reg Heathcote; Keith Hitchen John Kane; Jack Park; William Southward; Paul Whalley; Jeanette Williams; Doug Wilson; Felicity Wilson; Henry Wormstrup.

C 45 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 September 2013 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C 46 Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Yvonne Clarkson declared a non Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 6 on issues relating to Townscape Heritage Initiative and left the meeting during its discussion.

Councillor Graham Sunderland declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a question from Councillor Margarita Docherty to the Portfolio Holder Community Planning on Discretionary Housing Payment and left the meeting during its consideration.

C 47 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor congratulated Councillors Lena Hogg, Jackie and John Bowman in attaining an NCFL Level 2 Certificates from Lakes College and thanked all who attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade and to the United Reform Church for hosing the service for the first time.

The Mayor further agreed to add an additional item on grounds of urgency to extend a Councillors period of absence from meetings.

C 48 To Receive Petitions under Procedure Rule 19

There were no petitions.

C 49 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

C 50 Questions from Members of the Council

There were no questions from members of the Council.

C 51 Executive Report

In moving the Executive report the Leader of the Council congratulated Councillor David Moore in his retirement after achieving 40 years as a retained fire fighter and also reminded members of the visit to West Cumberland Hospital in January 2014.

RESOLVED – that the Executive report be received and noted;

C 52 Britains Energy Coast

Arising from the Portfolio Holders report and a question from Councillor David Moore the Leader of the Council undertook to send copy of the BEC review and its prioritisation review when available.

C 53 Local Enterprise Partnership

Arising from a question from Councillor Greateorex the Leader of the Council undertook to write to LEP expressing Council's concern over the lack of representation from Copeland on the Board.

C 54 Living Wage

Arising from a question for Councillor Sam Pollen the Leader of the Council undertook to ask Sellafeld Ltd if they had adopted the living wage for staff at the next meeting of Strategic Nuclear Working Party.

C 55 Pension Deficit

Arising from a question from Councillor Alistair Norwood the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources undertook to provide a written reply on what the pension deficit was at the last actuarial review 3 years ago.

C 56 Housing Statistics

Arising from a question from the Leader of the Council the Portfolio Holder for Community Planning confirmed that he was in the process of obtaining figures/statistics from housing associations on many 3 bedroom properties there are there that can't be allocated due to bedroom tax and how many were going to people outside of Copeland and undertook to make them available to Members once received.

C 57 Adoption of Core Strategy and Development Management Policies

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Local Development Framework Working Party that Council approve the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies for adoption.

RESOLVED – That the adoption of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD as modified in line with the report of the examining Inspector be approved.

C 58 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review

Consideration was given to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review.

RESOLVED – That a) the Mid-Year Review be noted; and

b) the forecast investment income currently in line with budget, subject to current economic conditions prevailing to year end be noted.

C 59 Community Governance

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Policy Development Group on Whitehaven Governance that the Council undertakes a Community Governance Review for Whitehaven.

RESOLVED – That a) a Community Governance Review be undertaken for the unparished area of the Borough, namely Whitehaven, under the powers contained in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;

b) a Panel be appointed to oversee the conduct of the Review, and that powers be delegated to the Panel to consider and determine all aspects of the Review, with the exception of the making of a Community Reorganisation Order, which will be reserved to full Council;

c) Councillors George Clements; Stephen Haraldsen; John Kane; Peter Kane; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Gillian Troughton and Peter Tyson be appointed to the Panel with a political balance of 6:3, and includes one from each of the seven unparished Wards, and one from outside Whitehaven who is also a parish councillor; and

d) the Panel be asked to report to Council with its final recommendations by no later than September 2014 to enable, in the event of the Council making a Community Reorganisation Order, all necessary arrangements to be in place for the first elections to the new parish council to be held in May 2015.

C 60 Property Disposals Policy – Demolition of Non-Operational Assets

Consideration was given to proposed changes to the Council's constitution following changes in legislation, particularly through the Localism Act. These changes prompted a review of the

details of the Council's Property Disposals Policy and has identified anomalies in the constitutional arrangements for the demolition of a Council owned property asset, and the roles of the Council in managing those assets and as local planning authority.

RESOLVED - That the necessary constitutional changes to enable a decision to demolish a building for practical or operational reasons to be delegated to the Head of Corporate Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and the Head of Nuclear, Energy and Planning. Any subsequent decision made through the planning process would remain subject to the provisions of the constitution which require planning decisions about where the Council has a property or financial interest to be made by the Planning Panel.

C 61 Extension of Absence

It was moved by Councillor Elaine Woodburn Duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 Councillor Anne Faichney's absence from the Council be extended for a period of six months due to ill health..

The meeting closed at 6.35pm

Mayor