

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2012/2013

5TH DECEMBER, 2012

Present - Councillors G. Harkin (Mayor), Spencer (Deputy Mayor), Adia, Allen, Ashcroft, Ayub, C. Burrows, D. Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, Challender, A. Connell, M. Connell, Cox, Critchley, Cunliffe, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Francis, Gillies, Greenhalgh, Hall, S. Harkin, Haslam, Hayes, A. Ibrahim, I. Ibrahim, Iqbal, Irving, Jones, Kay, Kell, Kellett, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Peacock, Peel, Pickup, Radlett, Rushton, Shaw, Sherrington, Silvester, Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, A. Walsh, J. Walsh, P. Wild, A. Wilkinson and Zaman.

**53. CHRIS MULLIGAN FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE PASSENGER TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE**

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Mr. C. Mulligan, the former Director General of the Passenger Transport Executive and informed Members that he would be writing to his family expressing the Council's condolences.

54. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 24th October, 2012 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

55. CONSTITUTION - QUARTERLY REPORT ON URGENT ITEMS

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and agreed –

- (a) That the quarterly report on Executive decisions made under the special urgency provisions of the Access to Information Regulations be noted.
- (b) That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel with respect to the payment to the Independent Person with regards to Standards be agreed and that the Members Allowance Scheme be amended accordingly.

56. POLICY FRAMEWORK - GAMBLING ACT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and agreed –

That the revisions outlined in the report now circulated be incorporated in the Council's Gambling Act Statement of Principles.

57. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL - LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and agreed –

That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, as outlined in the report circulated to members, be approved.

58. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and agreed -

That the following appointments and changes in membership be approved:-

- (1) That Councillor Sherrington replace Councillor Spencer on the Bolton at Home Board.
- (2) That Councillor Watters replace Councillor Cunliffe on the Council of Governors Bolton Hospitals Foundation Trust.

59. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(a) –

- (i) by Councillor Critchley relating to the Northern Hub
The Leader of the Council replied to this question.
- (ii) by Councillor J. Walsh relating to Smithills Garden Centre
The Leader of the Council replied to this question.
- (iii) by Councillor Dean relating to Offer Shop Volunteers
The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor Dean relating to MIDAS
The Leader of the Council replied to this question.
- (v) by Councillor Morgan relating to Royal Bolton Hospital Trust
The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.
- (vi) by Councillor Challender relating to the Government's Work Programme
The Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing and Skills replied to this question.
- (vii) by Councillor Hayes relating to the Co-operation of Neighbouring Authorities – Localism Act
The Executive Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills replied to this question.

60. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor A. Connell, seconded by Councillor Darvesh and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held 8th November, 2012 be approved.

61. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Kay, seconded by Councillor Jones and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 6th November, 2012 be approved.

62. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Spencer, seconded by Councillor Ashcroft and resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be approved:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee – 29th November, 2012

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee – 27th November, 2012

Children's and Adults Services Scrutiny Committee – 28th November, 2012

Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee – 30th October, 2012

63. AREA FORUMS

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Area Forums be approved:-

Astley Bridge Area Forum – 19th September, 2012

Bradshaw Area Forum – 26th September, 2012

Brightmet Area Forum – 3rd October, 2012

Bromley Cross Area Forum – 7th November, 2012

Crompton Area Forum – 19th September, 2012
Farnworth Area Forum – 26th October, 2012
Great Lever Area Forum – 8th November, 2012
Halliwell Area Forum – 18th September, 2012
Harper Green Area Forum – 17th September, 2012
Heaton and Lostock Area Forum – 31st October, 2012
Hulton Area Forum – 18th October, 2012
Kearsley Area Forum – 29th October, 2012
Little Lever and Darcy Lever Area Forum – 1st October, 2012
Rumworth Area Forum – 4th October, 2012
Smithills Area Forum – 11th October, 2012
Tonge with the Haulgh Area Forum – 7th November, 2012
Two Towns Area Forum – 6th November, 2012
Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum – 1st November, 2012

64. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 4 – COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

It was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Swarbrick -

Council reiterates its dismay at the cuts made in the Council Tax Support Scheme and its intention to attempt to protect those low income families who would be worst affected.

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Council welcomes all party initiatives by the Local Government Association (LGA) which have succeeded in bringing a number of improvements to the scheme, including a transitional grant, which in Bolton's case will amount to £485,000.

Council notes that one of the measures proposed to allow Councils to be more flexible was a proposal to reduce the single person discount for non-pensioner households from 25% to 20%. In Bolton, it is estimated that this could have made an additional £900,000 a year available to help less well-off households. This proposal was supported by the LGA Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent Groups. An amendment to introduce it was moved in the House of Lords on 21st October.

Council notes with disgust that the Labour Party in Parliament issued a three-line whip instructing its members in the Lords to oppose it, ensuring that it was defeated. Council believes this was an action of political opportunism driven by the belief that without lower income families feeling the pain, Labour would not get electoral gain.

Council notes that the only Labour Member of the House of Lords with the courage to stand by his principles, defy the whip and support the amendment was the Leader of Wigan Council, Lord Smith of Leigh.

Council resolves to write to Lord Smith to congratulate him on his stand.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared lost.

**65. MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –
HERITAGE TRAIL OF THE INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT OF BOLTON**

It was moved by Councillor Critchley and seconded by
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough -

Bolton has a proud Industrial Heritage that made major contributions to the Industrial Revolution, which transformed this country.

There is a wonderful heritage of canals, coal, cotton, railways, and includes all the people that made this possible, including The Duke of Bridgewater, Gilbert, Brindley, Richard Arkwright, Samuel Crompton, William Hesketh Lever, and many others.

Today we are still world leaders in many industries, including textiles and construction.

Within this town we have a most highly respected Museum, with its exceptional expertise and its important artefacts. This together with the various Local History Societies, which possess invaluable local knowledge and residents with spinning and weaving skills, using traditional methods and buildings of importance i.e. Hall-ith-Wood, churches, etc.

In addition, within this town we have in the University and College, the expertise in the development of new textiles and construction.

Therefore this Council requests the Cabinet to consider, with its partners, to bring together all the heritage, expertise, information, skills, to form a Heritage Trail, to enable an application to be made to the Heritage Lottery funding, to form “A Heritage Trail of the Industrial Development of Bolton”.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

**66. MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –
LIMITED FREE PARKING SCHEME**

It was moved by Councillor J. Walsh and seconded by
Councillor Greenhalgh -

In an attempt to revive their town centres some local councils are introducing schemes like limited free parking for say 20 or 30 minutes. This Council believes such schemes are worthy of consideration and requests the Executive Member to consider a report on the introduction of similar schemes in Bolton all year round not just for Christmas.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.10 p.m.)

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NOTES