

**BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH****2008/2009**

---

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL****10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2008**

Present - Councillors Connell (Mayor), Adia, P. Allen, R. Allen, Ashcroft, Ayub, P. Barrow, R Barrow, Bashir-Ismail, Mrs. Brierley, P. Brierley, Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Clare, Cottam, Critchley, Darvesh, Mrs. Fairclough, Greenhalgh, Hall, Hayes, Higson, Hollick, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Kay, Lever, Lord, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Peel, Rock, R. Ronson, J. Rothwell, Mrs. Rothwell, Rushton, Scowcroft, Shaw, Sherrington, J. Silvester, R. Silvester, Spencer, Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, A. Walsh, J. Walsh, White, Wild, A. Wilkinson, D. Wilkinson, Williamson, Woodward and Zaman.

**57. PETITION**

A petition was received from representatives of the Ukrainian Community with respect to the Holodmor and was referred to the Executive Member Human Resources and Diversity for report.

**58. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2008 were submitted and signed as correct records.

**59. CONSTITUTION – QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION REGULATIONS**

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

That the quarterly report on Executive decisions made under the special urgency provisions of the Access to Information Regulations be noted.

**60. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES**

It was moved by Councillor Hornby, seconded by Councillor Shaw and resolved -

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

- (1) That Councillor Hornby replace Councillor Morris on the Cannon Slade Trustees.
- (2) That Councillor Sherrington replace Councillor Murray on the Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.
- (3) That Councillors A Walsh and Murray be appointed to the Essa Academy
- (4) That Councillor Morris replace Councillor Adia on the Management Committee of the Forwards Centre PRU.
- (5) That Councillor Bashir-Ismail replace Councillor Adia on the Bolton Literacy Trust.
- (6) That Councillor Mrs Thomas be appointed to the AGMA Shadow Public Protection Commission

**61. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)**

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

- (i) By Councillor D.A. Wilkinson relating to the establishment of a Winter Gritting PDG.

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ii) By Councillor D.A. Wilkinson relating to the Business Rate Supplements Bill.

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iii) By Councillor J. Silvester relating to the skatepark.

The Executive Member for Culture, Young People and Sport replied to this question.

- (iv) By Councillor J. Silvester relating to the Toilet Strategy.

The Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer replied to this question.

- (v) By Councillor Mrs. Rothwell relating to child protection.

The Executive Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (vi) By Councillor A.S. Walsh relating to pupils attending PRU's.

The Executive Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (vii) By Councillor Mistry relating to mortgage interest relief.

The Executive Member for Regeneration and Housing replied to this question.

- (viii) By Councillor Peel relating to the petition from the Ukrainian Community.

The Executive Member for Human Resources and Diversity replied to this question.

- (ix) By Councillor Clare relating to the Three Stars for Adult Services.

The Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care replied to this question.

- (x) By Councillor White relating to the Children at Risk Register.

The Executive Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (xi) By Councillor Lord relating to the expansion of the Apprenticeship Scheme.

The Executive Member for Human Resources and Diversity replied to this question.

- (xii) By Councillor R. Silvester relating to the winter gritting service.

The Executive Member for Environmental Services replied to this question.

- (xiii) By Councillor Bashir-Ismail relating to the Free School Meals Policy.

The Executive Member for Environmental Services replied to this question.

- (xiv) By Councillor Burrows relating to the Kearsley Sorting Office.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration replied to this question.

## **62. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(c)**

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(c):-

- (i) by Councillor D.A. Wilkinson relating to Tasers

The spokesperson for Greater Manchester Police replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor R. Silvester relating to TIF

The spokesperson for Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor R. Silvester relating to the use of the GMPTA logo

The spokesperson for Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority replied to this question.

## **63. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Hornby and seconded by Councillor Woodward –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be approved.

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Williamson and seconded by Councillor Kay –

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee be amended by the addition of the following:-

“and that with respect to such minutes the Council notes the concerns expressed by members with regards to the involvement of Councillor Rock in application 81012/08 at the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.”

Following a discussion as to how to proceed with the issue and agreement that the matter be dealt with at meetings of Leaders and Whips and Planning Improvement Working Party the mover of the motion withdrew the motion by leave of the Council.

The original motion was then put to the Council and agreed.

#### **64. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough, seconded by Councillor Lord and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be approved.

#### **65. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

It was moved by Councillor Lever, seconded by Councillor Hollick and agreed –

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

Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2008

Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2008

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2008

Adults and Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2008

Children's Services and Young People and Sport Scrutiny Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2008

External Organisations Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2008

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2008

## **66. AREA FORUMS**

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Area Forums, now submitted, be approved.

## **67. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – POST OFFICE CLOSURES**

Councillor Mrs Fairclough declared a personal interest with respect to the following matter owing to her husband's business interests.

It was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor D.A. Wilkinson –

That the Council welcomes the announcement by the Government on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 that it would, after all, allow the Post Office to continue to run the Card Account which distributes benefits to 4.3 million claimants. The National Federation of Sub Post Masters had warned that a further 3,000 post offices would close if the contract was lost. The Government had previously started a bidding process for the contract.

Council notes that in July one of the Borough's Members of Parliament, David Crausby MP had signed an Early Day Motion on the subject which stated:

'That this House notes with concern the fact that the Department for Work and Pensions has written to Post Office card account holders informing them that the Post Office card account contract ends in 2010; further notes that Post Office card account holders, many of whom have made a conscious decision to support the Post Office by retaining their card account, are being instructed to take out bank accounts in order to receive benefits beyond 2010; expresses its dismay at the fact that the letter does not mention the fact that a replacement for the current card account is currently out to tender, or make any mention of other Post Office products or services; believes that this is a deliberate attempt to encourage people to switch payment to direct debit and remove the role of the Post Office; notes the additional damage inflicted on the Post Office by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, who are currently sending out licence renewal reminders as part of a communications campaign which makes no mention of the Post Office; calls on Ministers in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to encourage Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions to consider the impact on communities across the country if the Post Office card account is not renewed; and encourages all Government departments to make their services available through post offices in order to ensure that they have a viable future.'



Council also notes that his signing of this Early Day Motion was well publicised in Bolton as signalling his support for Post Offices.

Council notes with concern that at the end of a debate in the House of Commons on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 all three of the Members of Parliament representing Bolton supported the Government by voting against an opposition Motion, even though its wording was identical to the wording of the earlier Early Day Motion; the Motion was lost. This action by the three MPs was far less well publicised in Bolton.

Council believes that this action by the Borough's MPs indicates their lack of support for Post Offices. In the case of David Crausby MP, in announcing his support for a course of action and then voting the opposite way when it mattered is considered to be tantamount to hypocrisy.

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

#### **68. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – REGULAR REVIEWS OF TENANTS OF SOCIAL HOUSING**

It was moved by Councillor D.A. Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor J. Rothwell –

That this Council confirms its support for the current type of council house tenancies and notes the serious issues concerning housing availability and affordability in the Borough, however this Council does not agree with the proposals of the New Local Government Network being suggested to government ministers that there should be regular reviews of tenants of social housing to see if they can be moved on.

Such proposals would undermine recent efforts of this Council to create more mixed groups of residents and more sustainable areas to live in.

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

**69. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –  
IMPLICATIONS FOR BOLTON OF THE RECESSION**

It was moved by Councillor D.A. Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Rothwell –

That given the seriousness of the current recession both for residents and business of the Borough and the implications of wellbeing both for individuals and the general community this Council agrees to review its governance processes to ensure that all possible help, advice and support by the Council and its partners to affected residents and businesses is fully co-coordinated and effective and to consider the creation of an all party working party or policy development group to oversee that work.

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

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.30 p.m.)