

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2012/2013

17TH APRIL, 2013

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

78. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

The Mayor referred to the recent deaths of former Councillor Peter Johnson and Lady Thatcher, former Prime Minister.

The Council stood in silent tribute to their memories.

79. PETITION

A petition was received from the residents of Little Lever regarding the conditions of the roads in the area which was referred to the Director of Environmental Services for submission to the relevant Executive Cabinet Member.

80. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS

It was moved by Councillor Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor J. Byrne and unanimously resolved –

That the cordial thanks of the Council be tendered to the Mayor for the most able manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office during the past Municipal Year.

The Council also wish to record their appreciation of the graceful manner in which the Mayoress has assisted in many mayoral functions during this year of office.

81. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 20th February, 2013 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

82. 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.

83. JOINT MINERALS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

It was moved by Councillor J. Byrne, seconded by Councillor Peel and agreed –

That the adoption of the Joint Minerals Development Plan Document and consequential changes to Bolton's Proposals Map be agreed to be effective from 26th April, 2013.

84. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

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

- (i) That Councillors Bashir – Ismail and McKeon be appointed to the Bolton PRU Management Committee as agreed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 11th March, 2013

85. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)

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

- (i) by Councillor Allen relating to the Framework Contracts

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Mrs. Swarbrick relating to the use of Farnworth Campus

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Haslam relating to Through Rail Services – representations

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor J. Byrne relating to Brightmet to Bolton Bus Fares

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Challender relating to the Bedroom Tax – Cost to the Council

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Dean relating to Retail Units – Town Centre

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor Dean relating to Entertainment and Leisure Facilities

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor J. Walsh relating to Town Centre Parking

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

86. PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 28th February and 28th March, 2013 be approved.

87. 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 25th February and 5th and 14th March and 9th April, 2013 be approved.

88. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor I. Ibrahim, seconded by Councillor Peel and resolved –

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee
– 10th April, 2013

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee – 2nd
April, 2013

Children's and Adults Services Scrutiny Committee
– 4th March and 8th April, 2013

Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee – 12th
March, 2013

89. AREA FORUMS

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Morris and agreed –

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

Astley Bridge Area Forum – 27th February, 2013

Bradshaw Area Forum – 6th March, 2013

Brightmet Area Forum – 21st March, 2013

Bromley Cross Area Forum – 20th March, 2013
Crompton Area Forum – 19th March, 2013
Farnworth Area Forum – 4th March, 2013
Great Lever Area Forum – 21st March, 2013
Halliwell Area Forum – 9th February, 2013
Harper Green Area Forum – 25th February, 2013
Heaton and Lostock Area Forum – 13th March, 2013
Hulton Area Forum – 7th March, 2013
Kearsley Area Forum – 11th March, 2013
Little Lever and Darcy Lever Area Forum – 18th February, 2013
Rumworth Area Forum – 7th February, 2013
Smithills Area Forum – 14th March, 2013
Tonge with the Haulgh Area Forum – 20th March, 2013
Two Towns Area Forum – 26th February, 2013
Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum – 6th February, 2013

**90. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –
“BEDROOM TAX”**

It was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Challenger -

That this Council;-

1. believes that the Government's new 'bedroom tax' will cause devastating consequences for the 3,500 Bolton residents who are being directly affected by it. This figure includes separated parents who share the care of their children and disabled people who have their home specially adapted for their needs;

2. acknowledges that the number of people facing the prospect of having to move to smaller properties far outstrips the number of social rented properties available;
3. believes that as well as being badly thought out, the bedroom tax is also bad economics as there is likely to be a rise in the national housing benefit bill, as more people enter the more expensive private rented sector; and
4. resolves to write to the Minister, Ian Duncan Smith, to urge the Government to immediately suspend the bedroom tax , and to carry out an urgent review into its consequences.

The motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows –

For the Motion 40 viz:-

Councillors Adia, Ayub, Bashir-Ismail, C. Burrows, D. Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, Challender, A. Connell, M. Connell, Cunliffe, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Francis, S. Harkin, Hayes, A. Ibrahim, I. Ibrahim, Iqbal, Jones, Kay, Kell, Kellett, McKean, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Peacock, Peel, Pickup, Radlett, Sherrington, Silvester, Spencer, Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, Watters and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 14 viz:-

Councillors Ashcroft, Cox, Critchley, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Greenhalgh, Hall, Haslam, Morgan, Rushton, Shaw, A. Walsh, J. Walsh and Wild.

Abstentions 2 viz:-

Councillors Allen and A. Wilkinson.

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

**91. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BLACKLISTS**

It was moved by Councillor J. Byrne and seconded by
Councillor Donaghy -

That this Council notes that a number of construction companies have been challenged about supporting the existence of and subscribing to construction industry 'blacklists', which detail covertly and potentially illegally gathered information on trade union members in the construction industry. Blacklisting is an unacceptable practice and cannot be condoned. The GMB union is leading a national campaign aimed at forcing those who have been involved in blacklisting to apologise and provide compensation to those who have found it impossible to work in construction as a result of this blacklisting.

It is understood that the construction industry blacklist was collated by the Consulting Association (a private consultancy) and was then provided at a cost to construction companies as they sought to recruit/avoid new workers. The Information Commissioner has investigated and taken action against the Consulting Association for this practice. Furthermore, the Information Commissioner has taken enforcement action against a number of construction companies based on the evidence recovered from the Consulting Association.

Owing to the concentration of construction activity in and around large towns and cities, many of those alleged to have been discriminated against live in the country's major towns and cities, and undoubtedly this practice has disadvantaged Bolton residents.

Given the potential impact on Bolton residents the Council resolves to support the GMB campaign and, where lawful, not contract with companies who continue using this information for future work.

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

92. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – CUTS TO MATERNITY PAY

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Councillor Murray -

The Coalition Government promised to lead the most family friendly government ever. However, on 1st April, 2013 whilst millionaires received tax cuts of £100,000 cuts to maternity pay were introduced effectively introducing a 'mummy tax.'

This Council calls on the Coalition government to withdraw such policies and prioritise struggling mums and their families not millionaires.

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

93. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – SPEED LIMITS ON RESIDENTIAL ROADS

It was moved by Councillor Critchley and seconded by Councillor Wild -

This Council agrees in the principle of introducing a mandatory 20 mph speed limit on most residential roads in the Borough.

This proposal confirms this Council's policy to improve road safety, reduce the severity of casualties and improve the local environment.

Consequently, the Cabinet be requested to examine the introduction of speed limit of 20mph in phases over a period of two years, and that the speed limit and enforcement be closely discussed with Greater Manchester Police.

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

**94. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – GM
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

It was moved by Councillor Ayub and seconded by Councillor L. Byrne -

This Council notes with serious concern the Government's alarming proposals to privatise fire services.

This Council is deeply worried that the Government has lost sight of the fire service's main purpose and that it threatens to put private profit ahead of the need to save lives and help people feel safe in their homes.

This Council recognises the excellent work undertaken by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and applauds the commitment of its frontline and support staff. This Council also notes that those individuals' ability to protect the people of Greater Manchester is being jeopardised by the Government's actions.

This Council further notes that the Government's proposals are in the context of a programme of ill-conceived cuts to fire and rescue services. The impact this will have on Bolton is extremely worrying.

This Council notes data from Communities and Local Government which shows that Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service has already suffered a 12.4% reduction in the number of whole-time and retained fire-fighters, and that the Government plans to cut a further

5,000 fire-fighters and 1,000 support staff, nationally, by 2015.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to

1. cease their irresponsible cuts to our Fire and Rescue Services; and
2. pledge to protect the Fire and Rescue Services from the threat of privatisation

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

**95. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –
REGENERATION OF BOLTON TOWN CENTRE**

A motion under Standing Order No. 4 had been included on the summons and agenda for the meeting by Councillor J. Walsh relating to the regeneration of Bolton Town Centre.

The motion was withdrawn by the mover

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.00 p.m.)

A12

NOTES