

Notes on the Meeting of Rossendale Borough Council on Wednesday, 1st February 2006 at Bacup Leisure Hall.

Attended by Cllrs Mrs M Gray and Mrs I Smith. Apologies from Cllr L Brownlee.

Meeting took place at Bacup Leisure Hall on Burnley Road, Bacup where there was ample parking. Old offices have been or are in the process of being sold and new offices are in the process of being built. Tea and coffee was available for those present. This is a Conservative held Council by quite a large majority.

In attendance was the Mayor Cllr JD Cheetham who chaired the meeting, the Leader of the Council Cllr D Ruddick who sat in the middle of his Group, the Acting Chief Executive who is the Deputy Chief Executive at the moment, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. The Head of Finance (George Graham) was unable to attend and had given his apologies. 2 members of the Press were also present.

10 people were present in the Public section, but during the meeting it was realised that in actual fact only 1 true member of the Public was actually present. 4 people were there to receive an award on behalf of the Council for Investors in People, 5 others were also there for congratulations etc. So only 1 person was a true public participant.

Members' Question Time was done by written questions (see attached sheet - headed Item C). Members were given 2 minutes to speak to their questions. Answers were given by the Leader who had prior knowledge of the questions and had prepared answers.

The Public Question Time was supposed to be done by written questions but the one question that was asked did not appear to be written. It appeared to be a question asked of the Council after the Mayor asked if there were "any questions".

One item Cllr Mrs Gray and I thought was interesting was that the next Deputy Mayor (for 2005/2006) was elected during the meeting after withholding Standing Orders relating to the length of service which had been that "the holder of the post should be in their 2nd term of office" with at least 2 years to run. It ended up with the Deputy Mayor being elected after only having served 2 years on the Council and the other candidate considered had only 1 year's service.

The meeting finished approximately 8.30pm and the bar to the Leisure complex was opened.

Report prepared by Cllr Mrs I Smith