

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4 February 2003 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Doody (Chair); Councillors Byrd, Copping, Harris, Kent and Shilton.

Mr George Dunkley (Warwick District Tenant and Leaseholders User Group).

Miss Rachel Hodgetts (Warwick District Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (Federation 2000)).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Kohler (Customer and Community Services Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Ms Flanagan (Cultural Services Portfolio Holder)

794. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 798 - Executive Minute Number 739 - Discretionary Rate Relief Budget Allocation - 2002-2003

Councillor Copping declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item because of his work for the Leamington Football/Rugby Club. However, he remained present as the matter was not the subject of discussion.

795. **HOUSING OPTIONS REVIEW - PRESENTATION**

The Committee received a presentation from TPAS.

796. **HOUSING OPTIONS - UPDATE REPORT ON VISITS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

A report was submitted from Housing informing Members of the visits completed to other organisations and the key learning points. Briefing notes from each visit were appended to the report.

On 24 April 2002, the Council had agreed that the decision on housing options should be deferred until more information could be presented on the following key issues - stock condition, the views of the tenants, the impact of the options on the tenants and on the Council as a whole. On 27 May 2002, the Executive had approved a comprehensive programme to enable more information on the above issues to be provided in order to facilitate a decision by July 2003. This included a programme of education and awareness raising for this Committee, and included visits to South Warwickshire Housing Association, Wycombe District Council and Shrewsbury & Atcham District Council. At a seminar on 5 December 2002 entitled "Stock Transfer - Experiences of South Staffordshire Housing Association Five Years On" was

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

also attended. A visit to West Oxfordshire County Council had been arranged and this would be reported to the Committee in due course.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

797. WORK PLAN 2002-2003 AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER PRIORITY AREAS

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services updating the their work plan for the year and monitoring the progress against the Portfolio holder priority areas. It had been agreed to consider the Committee's work plan as a standing item on each agenda. The current work plan reflected items raised by the Committee and was attached as an appendix to the report. The Executive had agreed priorities and work programmes for each Portfolio holder at its meeting on the 25 June 2001. The relevant priorities and work programmes for the Portfolios covered by the Committee were appended to the report.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

798. EXECUTIVE MEETING - MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2003

The minutes of the Executive held on Monday, 13 January 2003 which came within the remit of the Committee was submitted for information and scrutiny.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

799. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORT)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 10 February 2003, which came within their remit. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item Number 4 - Budget 2003/2004 and Council Tax - Calculation of Warwick District Council Element

[A revised budget report was circulated prior to the commencement of business. The final local government settlement had been announced on 3 February, 2003. Although it was still formally subject to debate in the House of Commons. The impact on the Council was a grant figure of £18, 212 less than advised in the provisional settlement. One parish precept had also reduced.]

The Committee did not comment on this item.

Agenda Item Number 5 - The Benefits Vision, New Tax Credits and the Pensions Credit

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Agenda Item Number 7 - Housing Rents 2003 and 2004

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 8 - Housing Investment Programme 2002/2003 to 2006/2007

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 10(A) - Heating, Lighting and Water Charges 2003/2004 for Council Tenants

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 10(B) - Grants to Voluntary Organisations

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 10(E) - Warwickshire On-Line Partnership

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

800. PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs 8 and 9 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

801. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 10 February 2003 which came within their remit. As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item Number 12 - Newbold Comyn Golf Course - Receipt of Tenders

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item Number 13 - Disposal of 1 St. Mary's Close, Weston Under Wetherley

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

(The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.)