

# Warwick District Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 August 2014, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Sawdon (Chairman); Councillors; Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Mrs Bromley, Brookes, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Cross, Dagg, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Ms Dean, Doody, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gill, Mrs Goode, Hammon, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, Mrs Knight, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs, Pittarello, Mrs Syson, Vincett, Weber, Ms Weed, Wilkinson, Williams, Wilkinson and Wreford-Bush.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boad, Davies, Dhillon, Edwards, Gifford, Mrs Grainger, Guest, Heath, Kirton, MacKay, Pratt, Rhead and Shilton.

## 22. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 23. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2014 were taken as read and, subject to Councillor Kinson and Councillor Weed being added to the list of those present, were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## 24. **Communications and Announcements**

The Chairman thanked all Members, staff and members of the public who had attended the major events across the District in the summer months. These had included the carnivals across all towns, the Peace Festival, the Bowls Championships and food festivals.

The Chairman introduced visitors from the Royal Leamington Spa Bowls Club; the President, Mrs Simmons, her husband and the Vice Chair of the Club, Mrs Kerr. The Chairman stated that it was important to thank them and all their members for the support during the National Championships. She explained that the new pavilion looked terrific and thanked all those members involved in providing refreshments and managing the bar. In conclusion, Councillor Mrs Sawdon thanked them for all their great work.

The Chairman congratulated Mr Wiggins, her chauffeur, for his excellent result in coming runner up in the local allotment competition and presented him with a prize.

The Chairman informed Council that there would be no business under items; 5, Public Interest Debate; 6, Petitions; 7, Notices of Motion; 8, Public Submissions; 9, Questions to Committee Chairmen; and 10, Questions to Portfolio Holders.

## 25. **Leader's and Portfolio Holders Statements**

The Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services, Councillor Mrs Gallagher, advised that the feedback from the National Bowls Championships had been great and that the greens had stood up well despite some periods of rain. Councillor Mrs

Gallagher highlighted the dedication of the green keeping team and advised that she had received many positive comments including one from a gentleman from Worthing. She advised that the media coverage had been great with the Courier and Midlands Today attending. Councillor Mrs Gallagher recognised the efforts made by all the volunteers, from Royal Leamington Spa Bowls Club and Warwick District Council staff, who had manned the Information Stand which had been a great asset to the event. She concluded by encouraging Members to embrace the exciting month ahead and welcoming the Men's Championship along with thanking the Head of Service, Rose Winship, Tom Duckham and Stuart Poole for their hard work.

## 26. **Questions to the Leader**

- (a) Councillor Kinson asked the Leader if he had any response to the recent article on page 7 of the Courier, whereby the Chief Executive had responded to allegations made earlier in the week?

In response the Leader, Councillor Mobbs, advised that being Leader of the Council was similar to being the manager of a football team and he fully supported the actions that officers of the Council had taken in response to legal challenges. He reminded Members that officers had to deal with actual clear facts and not misdirection.

- (b) Councillor Mrs Higgins asked the Leader now that Leamington Brakes had spent three quarters of a million pounds on their site and were stating that they didn't want to sell the land, what is the truth?

In response the Leader, Councillor Mobbs, explained that the football club needed better facilities if they had any chance of climbing the promotional ladder. They also needed a central location to attract crowds of two to three thousand. He reminded Members that delicate discussions such as these take time but he wanted to communicate the message that the Council was fully supportive of Leamington Brakes.

- (c) Councillor Kinson asked the Leader if he had seen a copy of an email relating to St Mary's Lands which appeared to alter the membership of Planning Committee to ensure an application was successful?

In response, the Leader, Councillor Mobbs, took exception to this accusation and assured Members that nothing had been manipulated to engineer an application through the planning process. He stated that this was simply not true and asked Councillor Kinson to retract his statement.

(Councillor Kinson refused to retract the question)

## 27. **Draft Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Allocation of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers**

Members received a report from Development Services which informed them of the outcome of the Preferred Options for Sites for Gypsies and Travellers consultation.

The report advised of the next steps required to enable the submission of the Development Plan Document (DPD) to the Secretary of State and requested

approval to carry out public consultation for the DPD for the Allocation of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

The report explained that the Allocation of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan put forward sites to be allocated through the Local Plan process, for the use of Gypsies and Travellers. This was to satisfy a need identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2012 and fulfil the Council's responsibility under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 and the Housing Act 2004 to meet the accommodation needs of the population within its area.

The Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 required that Development Plan Documents (DPD) proceed through a number of key stages. This report brought to an end the preparation stages as set out in Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations and commenced the 'publication' stage of the DPD as set out in Regulation 19.

A Joint Scrutiny Committee and Executive meetings had been held prior to the Council meeting. The Joint Scrutiny Committee resolved to refer the matter to Council for full debate.

Having considered the report, the Executive had resolved that that the consultation on the potential for employment development on land at Stratford Road, Warwick agreed by the Executive at its meeting on 30 July 2014, be amended to refer to the wider area of land as shown in Appendix A of Appendix 2 of the report.

In addition, the Executive recommended to Council that an additional recommendation be added to assure the football club that a compulsory purchase order would not be used and to ensure that any new location was fit for purpose and made available for use, prior to any relocation. This recommendation was agreed by Members and added in as recommendation 2.2.8.

The remaining recommendations proposed that Council resolve to note the report of the public consultation as attached at Appendix 1 and the updated sites assessments attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

The report also recommended that the Draft Development Plan, the Allocation of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers attached as Appendix 2 and the amendments to the Policies Map, attached as Appendix A of Appendix 2, be approved for publication under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012.

Members were advised that the Draft Development Plan, amended policies map and sustainability appraisal would be open to representations for a period of six weeks, to coincide with the Local Plan consultation on the potential for development at Stratford Road, Warwick.

Approval of the Statement of Representations Procedure and publication of the sustainability appraisal was proposed to be delegated to the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Deputy Leader of the Council. In addition, delegated authority was proposed to the Chief Executive, following the six week consultation period, acting in consultation with Group Leaders and the Deputy Leader, to submit the Draft Development Plan and amended Policies Map for

independent examination, together with a table of any proposed modifications, provided that only minor, non-material modifications were proposed.

Finally, the report recommended that Council resolve to delegate authority to the Executive to approve the submission of the Draft Development Plan Document for independent examination, together with a table of proposed modifications including material modifications, provided that such modifications do not require further statutory consultation. Approval to delegate authority to the Head of Development Services, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, was also required to make any necessary non-material amendments to the Development Plan before the commencement of the consultation.

The Portfolio Holder for the Local Plan, Councillor Caborn, endorsed the report and reminded Members that this issue had to be addressed to ensure a sound Local Plan. He moved the recommendations as laid out along with the additional recommendation 2.2.8 as proposed by the Executive, which he hoped would help alleviate the fears relating to the site. Councillor Caborn reiterated the Leader's comments from earlier assuring the meeting that the Council were doing all it could do to help enhance and progress the club.

Councillor Caborn went on to explain the circumstances of the late inclusion of the Stratford Road, Warwick site and advised that a three way consortium had been established and was progressing well.

It was proposed by Councillor Caborn that the recommendations in the report, including the additional recommendation 2.2.8 be approved, and were duly seconded:

**Resolved that**

- (1) the Report of Public Consultation on the Preferred Options for Sites for Gypsies and Travellers, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, and the updated site assessments, attached at Appendix 3 to the report, are noted;
- (2) the Draft Development Plan, the Allocation of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, and the amendments to the Policies Map, detailed in Appendix A of Appendix 2 to the report, are approved for publication under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012;
- (3) the Draft Development Plan, amended policies map and sustainability appraisal be open to representations for a period of six weeks, to coincide with the Local Plan consultation on the potential for development at Stratford Road, Warwick. The consultation will be undertaken in accordance with a Statement of Representations Procedure to be made available in accordance with regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012;

- (4) approval of the Statement of Representations Procedure and publication of the sustainability appraisal is delegated to the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Deputy Leader of the Council;
- (5) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, following the six week consultation period, acting in consultation with Group Leaders and the Deputy Leader, to submit the Draft Development Plan and amended Policies Map for independent examination, together with a table of any proposed modifications, provided that only minor, non-material modifications are to be proposed;
- (6) if it is considered desirable to propose material modifications, authority is delegated to the Executive to approve the submission of the Draft Development Plan Document for independent examination, together with a table of proposed modifications including material modifications, provided that such modifications do not require further statutory consultation;
- (7) authority be delegated authority to the Head of Development Services, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, to make any necessary non-material amendments to the Development Plan before the commencement of the consultation; and
- (8) the Council will undertake no move to develop the Leamington Football Club site as a Gypsy and Traveller site, until a location is found and made available for use and has been agreed by the Council and Leamington Football Club Ltd. The Council also confirms that no Compulsory Purchase Order will be used in relation to this site.

Prior to the vote being taken, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bromley and duly seconded by two Councillors that a recorded vote should be taken on this item. The votes were recorded as follows:

For: Councillors; Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Brookes, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Cross, Dagg, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Dean, Doody, Mrs Gallagher, Gill, Mrs Goode, Hammon, Illingworth, Mrs Knight, Mobbs, Pittarello, Mrs Sawdon, Mrs Syson, Vincett, Weber, Ms Weed, Wilkinson, Williams and Wreford-Bush.  
Against: Councillors; Mrs Bromley, Mrs Falp, Mrs Higgins, Kinson and Mrs Mellor.

There were no abstentions to the vote.

## 28. **Reports of the Executive**

The reports of the Executive meetings of 11 June (excluding minutes regarding Final Accounts 2013/14 and HRA Rent Setting for Void Properties), 2 and 30 July 2014, were proposed by Councillor Mobbs, duly seconded and

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

29. **Public and Press**

**Resolved** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

30. **Confidential Report of the Executive**

The confidential reports of the Executive meetings of 11 June and 2 July 2014, were proposed by Councillor Mobbs, duly seconded and

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

31. **Common Seal**

It was

**Resolved** that the Common Seal of Warwick District Council be affixed to such deeds and documents as may be required for implementing decisions of the Council arrived at this day.

(The meeting ended at 9.10 pm)

CHAIRMAN  
13 August 2014