

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 September 2000 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Aujla, Mrs Begg, Boad, Mrs Boad, Butler, Byrd, Caborn, Mrs Clayton, Cleaver, Cockburn, Coker, Mrs Compton, Copping, Crowther, Darmody, Dray, Mrs Edwards, Evans, Mrs Evans, Gifford, Gill, Golby, Mrs Goode, Hammon, Harris, Mrs Hodgetts, Jackson, Kent, Kirton, Kohler, Mrs Leddy, MacKay, Mrs Pavier, Shilton, Short, Talbot, Tamlin, Thomas, Wooller.

147. PRAYER

A prayer was offered by the Chairman's Chaplain.

148. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Attwood, Davis, Doody, Dove, Ms Flanagan, and Guest.

149. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2000 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:-

Minute number 100 - The Executive

(a) Flooding From Watercourses in Warwick District (Executive Minute 24)

The outcome of the voting on the three amendments, moved by Councillor Coker, was corrected to read:-

A separate vote was then taken on each amendment and amendments (1) and (2) were declared carried, and amendment (3) was declared lost.

150. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, expressed best wishes to Councillor Attwood for the continuation in the improvement in his health.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

- (B) The Chairman reported that he had delivered to Clarence House an illuminated address on behalf of the District of Warwick to congratulate her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday on 4 August 2000. The following response had been received from the Personal and Private Secretary of the Queen Mother:-

“Queen Elizabeth greatly appreciated the loyal greetings on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday which you conveyed on behalf of the Members of Warwick District Council, staff and citizens of the District of Warwick. The Queen Mother most admired your illuminated address and was touched by the sentiments you expressed. Her Majesty sends her best wishes to all who joined in your kind message.”

- (C) The Chairman referred to the mobile play schemes in rural areas which had been organised during the school holidays by the Sports Development Team. These activities had proved to be very successful and he congratulated all those involved.
- (D) The Chairman expressed his personal comments regarding the new democratic process which the Council had introduced in May 2000.

151. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 7(2)

- (A) from Councilor C S Cleaver to the Leader of the Executive:-

Question

“Following the decision that this Authority take on the responsibility from the County Council of the cutting of highway grass verges in the rural areas, can I be told how many cuts are made during the growing season? “

Councillor Mrs M Begg, Leader of the Executive, replied:-

Answer

“The maintenance responsibilities for grass verges and open spaces in the rural areas is somewhat simpler now than previously, but still varies from area to area.

As the question does not detail any specific area in particular the answer concentrates on the general principles of the past and current situation.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

During the 1980s the situation was complicated with the County Council undertaking the maintenance of certain areas of verge maintenance via their own contractors, the District Council Engineers Department looking after other areas using a number of local contractors, and the District Council Leisure & Amenities Unit and Housing Units taking responsibility for the remainder via the main Grounds Maintenance Contract - at that time with Warwick Services. Differing contractors, frequencies and costs were a characteristic of this arrangement which did not always work well.

In the early 1990s the County Council changed the content of its Agency Agreement with the District Council and included for the first time the maintenance of all highway grass verges in the agreement. This required a substantial amendment to the GM Contract, which was priced and issued separately with a number of different frequencies and standards in 1992/3.

In 1998 the re-letting of the Grounds maintenance contract offered the opportunity to harmonise many of these differences to give the current situation which is as follows:

Verge maintenance within the rural area now falls into two main categories:-

Category 1 Areas within the villages, extending out as far as the speed limit de-restriction.

Category 2 Areas between the villages alongside the rural de-restricted adopted highways and main roads.

Category 1 areas are maintained via the Grounds Maintenance Contract, administered by Leisure & Amenities, at one of two possible frequencies dependent upon the condition and location of the verge. Either 3 cuts per year for rough or steeply banked field side verges, or up to 16 cuts per year for higher standard grass adjacent to properties within the village centres. (Actual frequency of higher rate areas dependent on season and growth rates)

Category 2 areas are maintained via local contracts administered by the Engineers Business unit at a frequency of 2 - 3 cuts per annum dependent upon season and growth rates.

I trust the above fully answers the enquiry, officers will be pleased to discuss in detail the exact situation with respect to specific plots of grass should any Member wish to contact them."

In a supplementary question, Councillor Cleaver asked the Leader:-

"Why is it that the grass cutting starts too late in the season, i.e. August, in my Ward?"

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

In reply, Councillor Mrs Begg said:-

“I should imagine it is due to weather conditions, that is normally what determines the grass cutting. If you wish for more details about why it had to wait until August, I am sure the officers can supply it.”

152. THE EXECUTIVE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Begg, and duly seconded that the matters which had been called in under Standing Order 18(c) or referred to the Council as recommendations for approval, as set out in pages 106-113, be approved and adopted.

(A) Capital Programme Monitoring (Executive Minute 106)

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| First Amendment | It was moved by Councillor MacKay and duly seconded that “Following the advice of officers that £78,000 would not make a significant impact on reserves, it is proposed that recommendation 2 be amended by deleting the words “the Rural Initiative’s Fund” and substituting the word “reserve”.” |
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On a vote being taken, the amended was declared lost.

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| Second Amendment | It was moved by Councillor Caborn and duly seconded that in Executive minute 106 recommendation 2 be deleted and the following inserted:- |
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“2(a) Campion Hills Cycleway Funding be deferred until 2001/02 and 2002/03; and
(b) funding now available from 2(a) be used in 2000/01 and 2001/02 to fund the Ashow Flood Alleviation Scheme”.

On a vote being taken, the amendment was declared lost.

(B) Adoption of Items from the Executive

The original Motion was then put to the meeting and declared carried

153. LICENSING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Shilton, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Licensing Committee, dated 6 July 2000, be approved and adopted.

154. ECONOMIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Shilton, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Economic Scrutiny Committee,

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

dated 17 July 2000, be approved and adopted.

155. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Boad, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Standards Committee, dated 25 July 2000, be approved and adopted.

156. ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Wooller, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, dated 26 July 2000, be approved and adopted.

157. SOCIAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Kohler, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Social Scrutiny Committee, dated 1 August 2000, be approved and adopted.

158. MEMBERS'/TRADES UNIONS JOINT CONSULTATION AND SAFETY PANEL

It was moved by Councillor Darmody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Members'/Trade's Unions Joint Consultation and Safety Panel, dated 2 August 2000, be approved and adopted.

159. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Kirton, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Planning Committee, dated 18 July and 8 August 2000, be approved and adopted.

160. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) It was moved by Councillor B Kirton, and duly seconded:-

"That the Council, being satisfied that there is no legal reason why the Chair of the Council cannot sit on Scrutiny Committees, agree to amend standing order 17(b) as follows:

'delete the words "to the Executive or a Scrutiny Committee", in the first and second lines and substitute the word 'or'."

RESOLVED that the Motion stand referred to the Executive.

161. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

In accordance with Standing Order 29, the Council considered the following Standing Order, as recommended to the Council meeting on 12 July 2000:

"22(3) Any members wishing to attend meetings of the Licensing Committee of which they are not members will be entitled to do so but without any right to take part in the proceedings, except by leave of the Chair subject to such attendance not contravening the national Code of Local Government Conduct or any local code. This entitlement will not extend to the discussion of any exempt information under Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or the decision making process. In those circumstances, however, non-committee members shall be entitled to an explanation of the decision as soon as is reasonably practical after the meeting".

RESOLVED that the proposed Standing Order 22(3) be approved and adopted.

162. 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 7.40 pm)

CHAIRMAN

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