

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 December 2011, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Bunker (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Brookes, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Dagg, Davies, De-Lara-Bond, Dean, Dhillon, Doody, Edwards, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, Kirton, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Rhead, Mrs Sawdon, Shilton, Tyrrell, Vincett, Weber, Wilkinson, and Wreford-Bush.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cross, Mrs Falp, Gill, Guest, Hammon, Mrs Mellor, Weed and Williams.

64. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in addition to those already declared in the Executive minutes.

65. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements and communications:

- (1) The Chairman thanked all those Councillors who had attended and supported her Christmas Concert;
- (2) The Chairman reminded members that there were still Panto tickets available for 16 December showing;
- (3) The Chairman congratulated the Council's Procurement Team for being nominated as one of three finalists in the "Award for Outstanding Achievement in Procurement" category at the Society of Procurement Officers awards. Recognised for their work with other local councils, although the Team did not win, their submission was highly commended. A great effort and particular thanks to Mel Gillman, Gill Brown and Philip Morgan. Effective procurement is a vital tool for the Council in dealing with its financial and service challenges. Over the last three years, the Team, with the support of the Member Procurement Champions, has raised the profile of procurement considerably. The Chairman presented the trophy, won by the team, was presented to Councillor Rhead, procurement champion, on behalf of the team who were not present at the meeting;
- (4) The Chairman announced that The refurbishment works at the former Kenilworth Police Station are drawing to a close, with the contractors due to hand over the property on the 16 December. The tenants of Wilton House – the Town Council, MP and Senior Citizens Club – are then due to move into the newly refurbished building on the 20 December. It is anticipated that a formal opening will take place in mid-January and the project team are currently in the process of working on this. As you might be aware there was a recent public competition to decide on the name of the new building, and we received many excellent entries. However, the judging panel came to a unanimous decision that the winning entry should be Jubilee House, to celebrate the year of its official opening; and

- (5) The Chairman offered best wishes, on behalf of the Council, to Councillor Sidney Tyrrell who was due to get married on Friday 9 December 2011 to Mr Andrew Syson

(The Chairman explained that there had been no submissions for consideration under agenda; item 4, Public Interest Debates; item 5, Petitions; item 7, Public submissions; item 8, Questions to Portfolio Holders; and item 9, Questions to Portfolio Holders. In addition the Chairman notified the Council that the Notice of Motion from Councillor Williams had been withdrawn and therefore would not be considered.)

66. LEADER'S PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' STATEMENTS

Councillor Coker, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environment, detailed the work of Operation "Your Town, Your Choice" on Saturday 3 December 2011 in Leamington Town Centre.

This was a joint operation between, St John's Ambulance, Warwick District Council CCTV, Community Safety, Licensing, Environmental Health & Town Centre Management, Warwickshire County Council Drug/ Alcohol Action Team & Trading Standards, Warwickshire Fire & Rescue and Warwickshire Police.

The aim had been to reduce violent crime and rowdy behaviour on the night and in future. This was to be achieved by; Targeting 18-30 yr old regular users of the town centre and any visitors in order to deliver key Going Out & Staying Safe messages; Securing information via questionnaire that will inform our work to make Leamington Town Centre safer and feel safer; and carrying out licensing enforcement visits to identify any breach of the licensing objectives and remind licensees of their responsibilities.

The objectives were to; provide a high visibility presence and safe and attractive environment to facilitate engagement with the target group; offer relevant and attractive promotional items in exchange for completed questionnaires regarding key messages on safe drinking, safe sex and going out and staying safe; provide a first aid facility to deal with the walking wobbly, injured or unwell preventing any further problem, safe exit from the town and hopefully avoid a trip to A& E or admission to hospital; Distribute water to people queuing to nightclubs to ensure they are hydrated; and Distribute lollipops to those leaving late-night venue in order to keep them quieter and put some sugar back into the blood.

During the event; no violence recorded. Any developing disorder was acted upon promptly preventing escalation; early intervention policy resulted in 15 x directions to leave being issued. 4 x Arrests for fail to comply with Sect 27 dispersal; 1 x Arrest for Drunk and disorderly; 2 x Fixed Penalty Notices for urinating in street; a life was saved, when a diabetic male collapsed in Bedford Street, due to the close location of the St John's Ambulance triage and ambulance first responders, one being a member of Warwickshire Police Support Staff, Paul Rowland, they were in attendance within seconds, this male had to be given CPR and other forms of airway assistance, and due to the fast response of the nearby qualified staff the male's life was clearly saved; St John's Ambulance also dealt with 4 or 5 walking wounded including one epileptic, and some who had alcohol-related falls, saving about 25 -30 hrs A&E time; the Joint Licensing Enforcement Team (led by Emma Millward) - no major problems encountered, minor breaches addressed with follow up visits re fire security at

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

two premises. There was good cooperation from Designated Premises Supervisors and managers at all the premises' visited. Multi agency personnel were pleased with visits and commented on the good working relationships between police and licensees; and there were hundreds of questionnaires completed on the street the results of which would be known in a few weeks.

In summary; the Main aims were achieved; tremendous atmosphere created through careful planning, briefing, attitude and approach from Warwickshire Police; an excellent range of partners attended; strong support from local business with free hire, expertise and time from Pete Smith at Tandy and donation of water bottles from Tony Wevill at Tesco; strong support from contractors Safetynet Security & Sketts; and Sgt Paul Calver in particular deserves our thanks for his efforts in the preparation and management of the Policing aspect of the operation.

Councillor Mobbs, Portfolio Holder for Finance, explained that all charitable organisations had been written to giving them 12 months notice of the cessation of rate relief . He appreciated that there was concern about this an appeal process had been put in place for this reason.

66. QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADER

There were no questions for the Leader.

67. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

The report of the Executive meeting of 16 November was proposed by Councillor Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report be approved subject to an amendment to Executive minute 83 on item 12 page 3, bullet point two be amended so it reads:

"2. With regard to the time frame for introducing these new areas and their signage this would be as soon as they were confirmed and signage erected. With regard to other play areas it had been agreed that the original time frame was too hasty and after consideration it had been decided that these would only be included after they had been inspected to confirm they were clearly demarcated and then considered by Scrutiny and approved by the Executive. Further in relation to those in the rural areas we would be approaching the Parish Councils to obtain their agreement before including them."

68. 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 items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

| Minute No. | Para Nos. | Reason |
|------------|-----------|---|
| 69 | 3 | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) |

69. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The report of the Executive meeting of 16 November was proposed by Councillor Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report be approved

70. **HIGH SPEED TWO (HS2) – UPDATE REPORT**

The Government's consultation on the HS2 (High Speed Rail) proposal took place during the summer of this year. The report updated members on matters that have arisen in the interim and informs them of possible future arrangements/ actions that Warwick District Council could undertake as a consequence of the Government's pending announcement regarding the future of HS2 (currently anticipated to be before the end of December 2011).

The proposed High Speed 2 Rail line was a very significant development proposal threatening the physical and economic integrity of Warwick District and potentially impacting on the future of many of its residents and businesses.

The Government's decision on whether to proceed with the proposal was likely to be announced before the end of December 2011. At that time it would be vital that the Council was in a position to act quickly in terms of making a decision on whether, and on what grounds, it wished to launch a legal challenge in conjunction with the 51M consortium of Local Authorities.

Recommendations 2.2 and 2.3 of the report ensured that the Council would be able to effectively respond to the Government's decision (within the window of opportunity) in the event it needed to participate in legal action to protect the interests of Warwick District. By undertaking this with the 51M group, the Council would strengthen its case and benefit from the pooling of resources, funds and expertise.

An alternative option would be to not to engage in any possible judicial review of a Government decision to progress HS2. However, this could prove detrimental to the ability of 51M to launch a successful challenge and could have detrimental consequences for Warwick District's environment/future.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the content of the information update regarding the HS2 proposal, set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted;

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

- (2) delegated authority, be authorised, for the Head of Development Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Development and the Leader of the Council to determine if it is in the best interests of the Council to participate in any Judicial Review initiated by 51M; and
- (3) subject to (2) above that any financial obligation in connection with a Judicial Review is met from the £100,000 previously allocated to oppose HS2.

71. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that Councillor Doody be appointed as a substitute on Planning Committee.

72. 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 7.36 pm)

CHAIRMAN
25 January 2012