

# WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27 September 2012, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Kinson (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Brookes, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Cross, Davies, Dean, Doody, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Guest, Hammon, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Rhead, Sawdon, Shilton, Vincett, Weed, and Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Dhillon, Edwards, Heath, Kirton, Mrs Syson, Weber, Wilkinson and Wreford-Bush.

## 24. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### Minute Number ?? – Questions to the Leader

Councillor Mrs Mellor declared a personal and prejudicial interest about the question about Racing Club Warwick, and left the room for this item.

## 25. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 June 2012 were approved as a correct record.

## 26. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements and communications:

- (1) The Chairman thanked the officers involved in coordinating and publicising the Heritage Open days in Warwick District;
- (2) The Chairman congratulated Nigel Murray from Royal Leamington Spa on winning a Bronze medal at London 2012 games;
- (3) The Chairman also congratulated Nick Skelton, a former resident of the District, who had won a gold medal at the London 2012 games;
- (4) The Chairman informed the Council that he would be holding a Christmas concert at the Town Hall on 1 December 2012;
- (5) The Chairman informed the meeting that Dale Street Methodist Church Scouts would be attending the meeting later in the evening as part of current work they had undertaken on democracy;
- (6) The Chairman welcomed representatives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers to the meeting.

(The Chairman explained that there had been no submissions for consideration under agenda: item 5, Public Interest Debate; item 6, petitions; item 8, Public Submissions; item 9, Questions to Committee Chairmen; and item 10, Questions to Portfolio Holders.)

## 27. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

It was proposed by Councillor Davies, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers is a fine unit with historic associations with the towns and villages of Warwick District and is well-recruited and efficient we call upon the Government to reconsider the intention to disband it. We believe that Her Majesty's Government should allow the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers to remain in the Order of Battle and be neither disbanded nor merged with another unit; and
- (2) a letter raising these concerns be sent, signed by Group Leaders, to the two MP's for Warwick District and the Minister for Defence.

(Councillor Mrs Higgins left and Councillor Mrs Sawdon arrived during this item)

## 28. **LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' STATEMENTS**

- (A) Councillor Shilton, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, made two announcements:
  - (i) That following the agreed procurement process the major contracts had been offered and advertised until 5 October as follows (a) waste collection – Sita, (b) Grounds maintenance – English Landscapes, (c) Street Cleansing – Viola, and (d) Building cleaning – Ocean Cleaning; and
  - (ii) Jephson Garden had been awarded a Green Heritage Site award for 2012/13.
- (B) Councillor Coker, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Protection, made two announcements:
  - (i) Following the move to national indicators for food premises, 89% of food premises in the District were rated between 3 or 5 stars; and
  - (ii) From 30 September to 13 October 2012 Foodie Fortnight was taking place in Kenilworth and details of this had been circulated to the meeting.

## 29. **QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADER**

Councillor Boad asked the Leader of the Council:

“If following the clear outrage to the SEV licences being granted in south Leamington, what steps were being taken to bring forward a nil cap, to provide a clear signal that the Council does not want these venues in the District”

In response, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Doody, explained that each application should be determined on its individual merits and that the majority

of the Council was not present when the decision was taken and therefore we do not know the detail and merits of these individual cases.

In response to a question of clarification, Councillor Doody explained that he did not feel there was a need to send a message by setting a nil cap.

Councillor Mrs Falp asked the Leader of the Council:

"If he could provide the reasons why Councillor Mrs Gallagher resigned from the Executive and explain what action would he be taking to address the inequality on the Executive which now only had one lady."

In response the Leader of the Council, explained that in his opinion Councillor Mrs Gallagher had resigned for her own reasons. He also took the opportunity to recognise the very good job Mrs Gallagher had done and the new Portfolio Holder would have a lot to live up to. With regard to the inequality he believed in taking the best person for the role.

Councillor Boad asked the Leader of the Council:

"If he now had the best members of his Group on the Executive any Portfolio Holder changed now will be replaced by second division Councillors?"

In response the Leader explained that this was not the case because he had a number of excellent Councillors.

Councillor Hammon asked the Leader of the Council

"If he would write to Chiltern Railways asking them to change the name of Leamington Spa Railway Station to Royal Leamington Spa"

Councillor Doody agreed that he would and asked his fellow Group Leaders if they would write a joint letter from the Council.

Councillor Weber asked the Leader of the Council:

"If he agreed that while Warwick was the ain tourist destination in the District Royal Leamington Spa played a key role in tourism for the District and that the possible move of the Tourist Information Centre to the Town Hall was not an ideal solution?"

In response the Leader agreed that Royal Leamington Spa was very important part of tourism for the District and he hoped that the Town Councils would join the Tourism Strategy for all the Towns to provide a coordinated approach.

Councillor Gifford asked the Leader of the Council

"If the Leader felt that to ensure the Tourism Strategy was correct the industry experts within the District were the most important source of knowledge which would also ensure that they felt part of the process"

In response the Leader agreed.

Councillor Boad asked the Leader of the Council:

"If he would write to Leamington BID to thank them for their efforts in arranging the success of Leamington Food Festival after it brought over 10,000 into the event"

In the response the Leader explained that he had not been able to attend but that he would write to congratulate the BID on the event.

**30. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The report of the Executive meeting of 20 June 2012 (excluding minutes 17 to 19) 11 July 2012 and 8 August 2012, including Appendix 1, was proposed by Councillor Doody duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the reports be approved.

**31. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12**

The Council considered a report from Finance that submitted the Statement of Accounts of 2011/12 for the Council.

The accounts had been closed in respect of the financial year 2011/12 and the outturn duly reported to the Executive in June. The unaudited Statements had been considered by Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee in July.

The Statements have now been audited by the Audit Commission and had been considered by the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2012, along with the external auditor's Annual Governance Report. The Committee were pleased with the work and recommended that the Council approved the report.

**RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts 2011/12 be approved.

(Councillor Mrs Falp left during this item)

**32. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

It was proposed by Councillor Doody duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) Councillor Rhead be appointed in place of Councillor Cross on Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee;
- (2) Councillor Mrs Gallagher be appointed in place of Councillor Rhead on Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- (3) Councillor Mrs Bromley be appointed in place of Councillor Mrs Bunker on Planning Committee;
- (4) Councillor Mrs Bunker be appointed as substitute on the Planning Committee in place of Councillor Mrs Bromley;

- (5) Councillor Rhead be appointed as substitute on the Overview & Scrutiny in place of Councillor Cross; and
- (6) Councillor Gallagher be appointed as substitute on the Finance & Audit in place of Councillor Rhead.

Following the decision on the appointments the Leader informed the Council that as a consequence of these amendments he would be appointing Councillor Cross to the Executive as Portfolio Holder for Culture, in place of Councillor Mrs Gallagher.

**33. 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 paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

Minute No.	Para Nos.	Reason
34	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

**34. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The confidential report of the Executive meeting of 11 July 2012 was proposed by Councillor Doody duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report be approved

**35. 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  
24 OCTOBER 2012