

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting held on Wednesday 8 July 2009, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Pratt (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Crowther, De-Lara-Bond, Ms Dean, Dhillon, Malcolm Doody, Michael Doody, Edwards, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Harris, Hatfield, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, Mrs Knight, Mrs McFarland, Mrs Mellor, Pittarello, Mrs Sawdon, Shilton, Mrs Tyrrell, Vincett, Ms Weed, White and Wilkinson.

27. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davies, Gill, Guest, Hammon, Heath, Kirton, MacKay, and Mrs Scarrott.

28. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 29 June 2009, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

29. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The Chairman welcomed to the meeting John Archer, former Head of Planning, who had officially retired from the Council's service on Friday 26 June 2009 after 28 years service. Mr Archer had been unable to attend the previous Council meeting due to his serious flying accident, and the Chairman was pleased to report that Mr Archer was now making a good recovery from his injuries.

The Chairman referred to Mr Archer's long and distinguished career with the Council and referred to a number of highlights, both in respect of specific planning projects and with planning management issues.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked Mr Archer for his services to the Council and the community and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The comments of the Chairman were then endorsed by Councillors Doody, Boad, Crowther and Mrs Falp.

In response, Mr Archer thanked the Council for their kind wishes regarding his recovery and retirement.

- (B) The Chairman welcomed to the meeting members of staff from Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre who had recently been involved in an incident when a member of the public had been taken ill. Through the actions of the staff, the member of the public had been resuscitated using specialist equipment and was now recovering.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated the members of staff involved and thanked them for their actions and presented them with certificates of commendation.

The staff members involved were Ryan Johnston, Daniel Shinkwin, Richard Walby, Zabrina Collier, Simon Bennett, Abi King, and John Cook.

30. **CALLED IN ITEM – PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL’S DISCRETIONARY ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEME**

The Council considered minute 970 of the meeting of the Executive held on 14 April 2009 entitled “Proposed Changes to the Council’s Discretionary Assisted Travel Scheme”.

The item had been called in, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19 of the Council’s Constitution and considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9 June 2009 when it had been decided to refer the matter to the Council meeting for discussion.

It was moved by Councillor Boad and duly seconded that:

- “1. The process used to arrive at the Executive’s decision to provide travel tokens for residents in certain rural areas, and the abandonment of the previous community taxi scheme, was flawed in that it did not thoroughly investigate all the possible options available.
2. We urge the Executive to, having first investigated a potential revised community link scheme, as successfully operated by Stratford upon Avon District Council in conjunction with Warwickshire County Council, then re-tender for an enhanced community taxi scheme before continuing with their decision.”

The Leader of the Executive indicated his agreement to the motion and it was therefore agreed that it should be carried.

31. **EXECUTIVE**

It was moved by Councillor Michael Doody, and duly seconded that the report of the meeting of the Executive held on 10 June 2009, excluding minute nos. 5, 8 and 9 which had been approved by the Council meeting on 29 June 2009, be approved and adopted, subject to the recommendation set out in minute 7 being deleted and replaced as follows:

“That the current format for the agendas for Council meetings be continued with for the time being, but that a working party of members be formed to investigate alternative procedures followed by other Councils.”

(A) Council Meeting Agenda Format

First Amendment: It was moved by Councillor Boad and duly seconded that in minute 7:

- “(a) With regard to questions to Portfolio Holders, a verbal supplementary question by the questioner could then be asked to clarify the answer given by the Portfolio Holder;
- (b) the proposed amendment to the revised format for council agendas, as detailed in the fourth paragraph on page 9 of the Executive minutes, be deleted; and
- (c) the final sentence in the fifth paragraph on page 9 of the Executive minutes be deleted and replaced by “during that time alternative methods of operation could, with the agreement of group leaders, be trialled to arrive at a more suitable and relevant format for the Council that could engage with the general public.”

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

(B) Members’ Allowances 2009/10

Second Amendment: It was moved by Councillor Boad and duly seconded that in minute 10 (Members’ Allowances 2009/10) the following be added:

- “(3) Inland Revenue rates on mileage be applied to all Councillors from 1 July 2009 whatever the type and engine size of the vehicle”.

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

(C) Adoption of report.

The original motion, as amended by the second amendment, was then put to the meeting and declared carried.

32. LICENSING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Mellor, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the meeting of the Licensing Committee of 26 May 2009, be approved and adopted.

33. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Gallagher be appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee until 10 July 2009 and then replaced by Councillor Mrs Bunker.

(NB: Although the above item was not included on the agenda for the meeting, the Chairman agreed that the matter should be considered as a matter of urgency in view of the need to agree the membership of the Licensing Committee.)

34. **SECTION 92, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In addition to Members who had already disclosed their interest in the minutes of the Executive and Committees, the following declared their interest in respect of the following minutes. Where the interest is shown with an asterix the members involved left the meeting during the discussion and voting on the item.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Person Declaring Interest</u>
Executive: 8 June 2009: Minute 27: Shop Mobility Service	*Councillors Crowther (Prejudicial: being a trustee of the Shop Mobility Service)
Licensing Committee: 26 May 2009: Minute 6: Suggested Amendments to the Licensing Policy regarding the cumulative impact zones	*Councillor Gifford (Prejudicial: being a resident living within the proposed new cumulative impact zone)

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 7.55 pm)

CHAIRMAN
19 August 2009