

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 September 2019, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.05pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Illingworth (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Bartlett, Boad, Cooke, Cullinan, Day, A Dearing, J Dearing, K Dickson, R Dickson, Falp, B Gifford, C Gifford, Grainger, Hales, Heath, Jacques, Kennedy, Kohler, Leigh-Hunt, Luckhurst, Mangat, Margrave, Matecki, Milton, Murphy, Nicholls, Noone, Norris, Redford, Rhead, Roberts, Sanghera, Skinner, Syson, Tracey, and Wright.

23. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Calver, Davison, Evans, Morris, and Weber.

24. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

25. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 26 June 2019 were proposed by Councillor Day, with the following amendments:

- (a) the Council meeting was held on 26 June and not 28 June; and
- (b) In respect of Minute 17, the Housing Portfolio Holder said that William Wallsgrove House had capacity for 22 rough sleepers, not that it was running near to capacity with space for 2 rough sleepers; and in the last paragraph in Minute 18, they said that they were willing to meet with residents, not that they had met with residents.

They were duly seconded by Councillor Matecki, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26. **Communications and Announcements**

The Chairman informed Council that Bob Meacham OBE, one of the Independent Persons to Standards Committee, had passed away. The Chairman had written to the family to offer the condolences of the Council. With the agreement of the Chairman, Councillors Cooke and Falp spoke reflecting on their work with Mr Meacham. The Chairman then led a moment's silence as a mark of respect for Mr Meacham.

The Chairman informed Council that he had represented the Council at 32 events since the last Council meeting which included the 900th Anniversary of Kenilworth Abbey.

The Chairman reminded all Councillors about the Heritage Open Days taking place across the UK and encouraged them all to attend a property, especially any which were in their own Wards.

The Chairman received a signed shirt from the Australian national bowls team who had recently visited ahead of the Commonwealth games to inspect the local area and facilities, as well as the bowls venue.

The Chairman informed Council that there was no business for Item 5 - Petitions or Item 7 - Public Submissions.

27. **Notices of Motion**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Kohler and seconded by Councillor Boad:

"The Council's role in co-ordinating assistance, advice and Information for our residents and businesses to help them through Brexit.

The Council notes:

that over the past 3 years numerous illegalities have been proven surrounding the official Vote Leave campaign during the 2016 referendum;

the key personnel of the Vote Leave campaign are now the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and senior advisors to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer;

the Vote Leave campaign boasted that it wouldn't be very hard "to do a free trade deal very rapidly indeed" and the Prime Minister has said that leaving the EU without a deal is a million to one chance, but his Government has increased spending on No Deal preparations by billions of pounds, and the Prime Minister is now talking up the prospect of leaving without a deal;

that a key slogan of the Vote Leave campaign was to 'take back control', but more than 3 years later, we still have no certainty about our future relationship with the EU and the Prime Minister is clear that he intends to circumvent the will of Parliament if it does not agree with him;

EU27, EFTA and Swiss nationals living in the UK were reassured by the Vote Leave campaign that nothing would change for them, but to stay in the UK they will have to apply for (and be granted) Settled Status or pre-Settled Status, which will give them fewer rights than they currently enjoy;

that in the event of a No Deal scenario the government has announced that free movement of people will be stopped at midnight on the 31st October;

that the Council is currently working with others in the sub region to understand the implications for the local authorities.

Given the uncertainty of the potential for leaving the EU on 31st October, with or without a deal, this Council resolves to work with other Council's and relevant bodies to collate information and advice for residents and small businesses, including, but not limited to:

- 1. Informing residents of key changes, as they arise, that might affect them, for example, whether they are travelling around the EU, are thinking of studying in or moving to an EU27 country, or already own a property in another EU country;*
- 2. Using both social media and advertising campaigns and other appropriate means to contact EU27 nationals living in Warwick District offering advice, guidance and assistance in establishing their settled status;*

3. *To explore working alongside the voluntary sector to establish a directory of locations and organisations across the District who are willing to provide assistance to those who need it, in applying for their Settled, or Pre Settled Status;*
4. *Provide information to local businesses who import from, export to, or provide services in any of the EU27 or EFTA countries as to the additional bureaucracy, such as customs forms, etc., that they will have to deal with."*

Councillors Kohler, Kennedy, R Dickson, Wright, Jacques, Falp, Nicholls, Day and Boad spoke on this item.

On being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

At the request of the Chairman, the Chief Executive encouraged Councillors that if they were aware of a resident who needed help with regard to Brexit, they should contact officers.

28. **Leader's & Portfolio Holders' Statements**

The Portfolio Holder for Development Services, Councillor Cooke, informed Council that:

- (1) the Annual Monitoring report for 2018/19 had been published and in summary, it detailed the Council had a homebuilding land supply of 6.3 years, 408 affordable houses had been delivered, which was 34 above target, the affordable housing delivery as a percentage had increased from 29.6% to 38.9%, with affordable homes of sites of ten or more at 33.4%;
- (2) the Community Infrastructure Levy had raised £438,000 last year and Section 106 to this Council had increased from £3.26 to £4.62million; and
- (3) in respect of staffing, two planners were starting Masters degrees, three were starting the new Royal Town Planning Institute degree course and in building control, the trainee apprentice and assistant were starting formal qualifications.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Day, informed Council that in respect of the ambitious target of planting 160,000 trees in the District, an alliance of organisations has been brought together with the Woodland Trust, Tree Warden Scheme and local schools. Further details would be included within the business strategy.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Councillor Grainger, informed Council that:

- (1) the half term holiday camps at St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre and Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre had both sold out;
- (2) the clip and climb facility at Newbold Comyn was now 12 months old and had had over 1,800 users during the summer. There was now a monthly SEN Clip and climb following successful trial;
- (3) Everyone Active were starting walking netball and football;
- (4) Everyone Active were working with partners to provide free gym and swim sessions for those diagnosed with dementia and their carer;
- (5) Everyone Active had been accredited to the weight loss scheme and could now take direct referrals from GPs;
- (6) from 1 October, single use plastic shoe covers would cease to be provided at Everyone Active Leisure Facilities;
- (7) she would be writing to all private gyms encouraging them to stop

- providing single use plastic shoe covers; and
- (8) the Archery Road bowling greens were due to be re-laid, ahead of the Common Wealth games, with work starting at the end of month.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Business, Councillor Rhead, informed the Council that:

- (1) the Climate Change Working Party had met twice and were on Target to bring an action plan to the Executive in November; and
- (2) Barford Parish had started work on its own climate change strategy under the heading of Bar Zero, with an event planned on 16 September, which all Councillors were encouraged to attend and was advocated by Councillor Redford as Parish/Town Council Champion who was also encouraging other local Councils to start similar initiatives.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Matecki, informed the Council that:

- (1) it had successfully rehoused five Syrian Refugee families within the District as part of the Government's resettlement scheme. The Council had approached the Government about rehousing more families but had been informed this specific scheme would be brought to an end in December 2019, to be replaced by a wider refugee settlement scheme with the same level of funding for the first year. While this limited the ability of the Council to help at this time, officers were progressing offers of housing to potentially rehome a further two families within the District before December 2019; and
- (2) the Lifeline Service had achieved accreditation following an audit by the care service.

The Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, Councillor Falp, informed Council that the on street CCTV upgrade project was slightly ahead of schedule and due for completion by April 2020.

The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Norris, informed Council that:

- (1) work was under way on the Major Contract renewal for next year and a key part of this was working with stakeholders with a view to making the contracts flexible and reduced carbon footprint;
- (2) work was underway on developing the Tachbrook County Park Scheme and consultation would be starting soon on the plans for Newbold Comyn;
- (3) the Ranger service vehicles were being replaced with electric vehicles; and
- (4) an electric road sweeper was to be tested for its viability by current contractors in the near future.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Hales, informed Council that the 2018/19 statement of accounts had been published with an unqualified audit finding by the 31 July 2019 deadline. There were lessons to be learned from the close down process and these would be reviewed and acted on for close down for next year.

29. **Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders**

Councillor Boad asked the Portfolio Holder for Development Services if he had seen the leaflet from the Leamington & Warwick MP regarding the numbers of affordable homes built and if the new figures could be provided to the MP.

In response, Councillor Cooke explained that he had seen the leaflet, the figures had been provided to the MP both via a link to the Council website, in a letter and verbally, by Councillor Matecki.

Councillor Boad asked the Leader if the Whitnash Residents Association and Conservative Party were the administration.

In response, Councillor Day confirmed that they were.

Councillor Boad asked the Leader if he recognised that meetings of the Council, Committees and its working parties should start at 6.00pm, unless the members of them agreed otherwise.

In response, Councillor Day agreed recognising the pressure upon Councillors, especially those who also worked full time.

Councillor Boad asked the Leader if in Leamington, he would consider the sustainability issue of maintaining the landscape and street scene, which would include working with both developers, residents and Warwickshire County Council.

In response, both Councillor Day and Norris agreed they would.

Councillor Boad, asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection to confirm that the CCTV system used by the Council did not include facial recognition technology.

In response, Councillor Falp explained that it did not.

Councillor Cullinan asked the Leader that following the removal of the Clublands area from the Creative Quarter, if any greater assurance/contract could be provided to the community groups in this area in respect of their leases.

In response, Councillor Day explained that there were ongoing discussions, with a report potentially coming through in January.

Councillor Milton asked the Portfolio Holder for Culture if this Council would commit to helping Kenilworth Town Council identify a site for a new Lido and assist with the technical skills for the specification and design work that could be required.

In response, Councillor Grainger explained that the Council could assist with the identification of a potential site but in respect of any work to confirm viability or design, the Council did not have these skills and had employed its own contractors for this. Therefore, there could be a need for contribution towards any resultant costs.

Councillor R Dickson asked the Leader if he or anyone at the Council had been asked to comment on the review of HS2.

In response, the Leader explained that he was not aware that the Council had been asked to Contribute but recognised it as a key time to review publically available information and contractors should be asked to stop work during the review.

Councillor R Dickson asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services for explanation on the delay to completing the upgrades to the Glendale Avenue and Weston play areas that should have been completed in May 2019.

In response, Councillor Grainger, on behalf of the Portfolio Holder, explained that a key member of staff had left, which had delayed the process, but now these projects were being progressed, as were others.

Councillor R Dickson asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Business if there were any events being planned in Warwick District as part of world car free day in Warwick District.

In response, Councillor Rhead explained that this was being considered, as were wider opportunities, and would be reported in the Climate Change action plan.

Councillor Wright asked the Leader if the Council could make a formal request to the government to stop HS2 works while the review was undertaken because some of the work, if continued, would leave a significant impact on the communities even if the project was later stopped.

In response, Councillor Day explained he would consult with Group Leaders and Executive including key concerns about any delay could impact on the delivery of the local plan.

Councillor Nicholls asked the Leader when the business plan for the Council would be brought forward and how Councillors could help shape it.

In response, the Leader explained the draft plan would be brought to the next Executive meeting and after this, it would be discussed with Group Leaders and all Councillors to define a shared vision.

Councillor J Dearing asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection if it was possible to provide the results of the Air Quality Monitoring on a more regular and timely manner.

In response, Councillor Falp agreed to check to see if this was possible, but felt it was unlikely because they were government reports for which the Council provided the data.

30. **Appointments**

It was proposed by Councillor Cooke, seconded by Councillor Hales and

Resolved that Councillors Grainger, Matecki and Norris be appointed as substitutes for Planning Committee.

31. **Executive report**

It was proposed by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Cooke and

Resolved that the recommendations from the 10 July 2019 Executive meeting be approved.

32. **Employment report**

It was proposed by Councillor Margrave, seconded by Councillor Falp and

Resolved that recommendation (3) of minute 43 of the 20 March 2019 Employment Committee meeting, which forms a recommendation to Council, be approved.

33. **Public & Press**

As laid out on the agenda, it was proposed by the Chairman, duly seconded and

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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

34. **Confidential Executive Report**

It was proposed by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Rhead and

Resolved that the confidential recommendations from 10 July 2019 Executive meeting, be approved.

35. **Common Seal**

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

(The meeting ended at 7.56pm)

CHAIRMAN
20 November 2019