

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30 August 2017 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Bromley, Mrs Cain, Davison, Miss Grainger, Mrs Knight, Naimo, Shilton, Mrs Stevens and Weed.

Also Present: Councillors Butler, Coker, Gill, Grainger and Mobbs.

31. Apologies and Substitutes

- (a) There were no apologies.
- (b) Councillor Mrs Stevens substituted for Councillor Mrs Redford; and Councillor Weed substituted for Councillor Parkins.

32. Declarations of Interest

Minute 35 Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports – Thursday 31 August 2017) – Item 10 – Disposal of WDC land off The Holt / Cubbington Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa

Councillor Mrs Stevens declared a prejudicial interest because she lived close to the surgery mentioned in the report. She left the room whilst this item was discussed.

33. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

34. Cultural Services – Portfolio Holder Update

The Committee considered a briefing note from Councillor Coker, Portfolio Holder, Cultural Services, giving an update on his portfolio.

In response to questions from Members, Councillor Coker explained that:

- He was pleased with the response from the public in respect of Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre and the numbers of people taking up membership or expressing interest. So far 818 people had become members.
- The number of people enrolling for swimming lessons had stayed the same despite lessons now rolling over 52 weeks of the year, instead of just in school term time.
- There had been some problems and this had meant that the leisure centre had not fully opened. But temporary structures had been brought in to act as changing facilities in the interim. It was hoped to address the issue of family changing facilities at the end of the build.

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- Proper bicycle storage had been overlooked at the temporary facilities, but an order would be placed for a temporary unit imminently.
- The delays had been caused by issues outside of the Council's control; the problems were mostly concerned with utility services. Water services had not yet been completed and advice that works at Newbold Comyn could continue without the water supply being connected had proven mistaken, leading to plans having to be re-thought and delays. The Council was seeking legal advice over the delays.
- The swimming pool at Warwick was opening in the next couple of days¹ and the other two were expected to be completed in the spring.
- The Council would look at provision of a subsidy to improve the Spa Centre. The pantomime had proven to be very successful and the cinema was also attracting more visitors. More people needed to be made aware of the events happening at the Spa Centre.
- The box office had been moved to the Pump Rooms so now it was open five days a week. There was also an opportunity to sell more souvenirs from the shop.
- The timetable for Phase 2 was still flexible until Phase 1 had been completed, but Members would be informed once there was something to report. It was hoped to hold a workshop in October to start the process.
- Work would also be ongoing in parallel during the next 12 to 14 months on refreshing indoor leisure facilities and outdoor sports facilities. Section 106 funding helped with putting forward a case for the works. However, there were constraints that had to be borne in mind at the facilities themselves.
- A record had been kept of the lessons that had been learnt. Top of the list was not to underestimate the impact of utility services supply.
- The cultural quarter would directly impact the future use of the Pump Rooms. It was already known that artwork could get damaged by the risk of flooding at the Pump Rooms. The future use of the Town Hall was a work in progress.
- There would be full consultation on plans in respect of the open air swimming pool in Kenilworth.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Coker for answering the questions.

(Councillor Coker left the meeting.)

35. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Thursday 31 August 2017

The Committee considered the following items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Thursday 31 August 2017.

Item 12 – Delivery of the proposed Hotel forming part of the St Mary's Lands Masterplan, Warwick

¹ Following the meeting, the Head of Cultural Services confirmed that the pool would open on 21 September.

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The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(Councillor Mobbs left the meeting.)

Item 8 – 12 Month Waste Container Charging Update

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 10 – Disposal of WDC land off The Holt / Cubbington Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa

The Committee accepted the recommendations in principle but formally recommended that these were subject to a public consultation if it transpired that this was a legal requirement when disposing of open space public land.

(Councillor Grainger left the meeting.)

36. Events Review 2017

The Committee considered a briefing note from the Policy and Projects Manager which set out the Terms of Reference for the Events Review 2017, providing an update on progress and identifying some of the issues the Events Review was expected to address.

In response to questions from Members, the Business Portfolio Holder, Councillor Butler, explained that:

- The Events Review had started as an internal exercise because the Council did not hold any data on events happening in the District, and pressure on budgets meant that the Council could not be as generous. It was therefore necessary to have more data, and after the re-structure when the management of events moved from Cultural Services to Development Services, it was felt that the perfect time had come to collect the data and information. With reduced budgets, there was a need to prioritise.
- The Events Review would allow the Council to give more notice about cutbacks in funding for events so that organisers could adjust their plans and budgets.
- When the information phase was completed, then the team would contact stakeholders, who would include town and parish councils, and consultation/presentations was the next planned phase.
- The team had a full understanding of which departments within the Council were affected by events running in the District.
- The Council had very little control over traffic issues caused by events held on private land.
- The terms of reference for the Events Review did not include a review of Council policies but, if necessary, these could be reviewed later or in parallel.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Butler for answering the questions.

(Councillor Butler left the meeting.)

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37. Comments from the Executive

The Committee considered a report from Democratic Services which detailed the responses the Executive gave to the comments the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in July 2017. The report also included the comments made by the Executive in response to the report submitted by the Task & Finish Group – Off-Street Car Parking Charges Review report submitted in June.

Resolved that the report be noted.

38. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan

The Committee considered its work programme for 2017 and the Forward Plan. The latest copy of the forward Plan for September to December 2017 was circulated to Members.

The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) explained that in respect of recommendations on HMOs, a report would be produced in 12 months' time, but this would leave a substantial period without any further information. Therefore, he proposed to bring interim reports giving updates to Members. An Officer Working Group had been established to take the proposals for HMOs forward. The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) would present bi-monthly reports to Overview & Scrutiny.

Resolved that

- (1) Bi-monthly reports from the Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) be added to the Work Programme, with a 12 month report in April 2018;
- (2) Advice be sought on when a report giving an update on Forward Plan reference 880 – Policy on Regulating the Private Sector can be delivered;
- (3) An update on the public consultation phase of the Car Parking Displacement Plan be delivered October/November time;
- (4) An update subsequent to the report delivered 30 August 2017 be given on the Events Review be given in December²; and
- (5) Advice is sought on what the report on Revisions to the Constitution/Delegation Agreement – Forward Plan Reference 819 will entail.

(The meeting finished at 8.11 pm)

² Put on Work Programme for 3 January 2018 because there was not a meeting in December.