

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2012, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Edwards, Heath, Mrs Higgins and Wreford-Bush.

73. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

74. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements and communications:

- (1) The Chairman informed all members that they could attend the Holocaust Memorial Day Service in Warwick at 10.50am on Friday 27 January 2012;
- (2) The Chairman reminded all Councillors about her theatre evening on 27 March 2012 at Priory Theatre Kenilworth;
- (3) The Chairman informed Councillors that she would be holding a Councillors supper in the evening of 11 May 2012, the ticket price would be announced in due course.

(The Chairman explained that there had been no submissions for consideration under agenda: item 5, Public Interest Debates; item 6, Petitions; item 7, Notices of Motion; item 8, Public Submissions; item 9, Questions to Committee Chairmen; and item 10, Questions to Portfolio Holders)

75. **LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' STATEMENTS**

- (A) Councillor Mrs Gallagher, Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services, addressed members and congratulated the Friends of the Pump Room Gardens for their recent fundraising efforts to undertake work to the Linden Arches. This had been an excellent example of community involvement and the eight new arches would be installed between February and March 2012.

The Council had made an initial £47,000 contribution towards the renovation works of which £40,000 was to now be returned. Councillor Mrs Gallagher thanked the officers from Community Protection and Neighbourhood Services for their continuing hard work to ensure completion of this project.

- (B) Councillor Mrs Gallagher, Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services, advised members that the new catering contract had commenced on 3 January 2012 at the Pump Rooms, the Aviary in Jephson Gardens and Jephson's Brasserie (formerly the Restaurant in the Park). She herself had dined there and had received excellent feedback from events held there so far. All members were

supplied with flyers advertising the options available at the restaurants and were encouraged to attend and give feedback to herself and officers.

- (C) Councillor Mrs Gallagher, Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services, stated that the Spa Centre had completed its best pantomime season yet and felt that in its 40th Anniversary, and following the excellent refurbishment, it finally felt like a proper theatre. She advised that views were to be taken shortly, with details in the press, for the public to suggest a new name for the venue.
- (D) Councillor Norman Vincett, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services, advised that it had been agreed to hold extra Scrutiny Committee meetings and an Executive in March 2012 to discuss the Housing Business Plan. The Scrutiny Committees would be held on Monday 5 March at 7pm, following Group Meetings, and the Executive would follow on Tuesday 6 March at 6pm. He also advised members that there would be a presentation from officers prior to Group Meetings on Monday 5 March 2012.
- (E) Councillor Coker, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, informed members that a recent survey of the District's food outlets identified that 89% of premises were compliant with all relevant hygiene regulations. He reminded members that this was largely thanks to the regime of inspections carried out by the Council's food safety team.

76. **QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADER**

- (A) Councillor Mrs Mellor asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

"Why is it important for members to register as a Data Controller with the Information Commissioners Office?"

In response, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Doody explained that it was important for councillors to register as data controllers to protect themselves from future issues. This was also in line with advice from the Council's officers.

He advised members that the easiest way to register was by telephone, and for £35.00, he would encourage all members to get on board.

- (B) Councillor Pratt asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

"Does the Council intend to provide financial assistance to town and parish organisations to help with the cost of the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations?"

In response, Councillor Doody explained that £14,000 had been set aside for use by the Community Forums with the celebrations. He advised that discussions had taken place with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Mobbs, to look at giving £2,000 to each Community Forum and would demonstrate a goodwill gesture to residents of the District in what had been a difficult couple of years financially.

Councillor Mrs Knight asked a supplementary question because she was concerned that the Council was supposed to be saving money and hoped that a business case would be provided to ensure the money was not only available, but also going to be used correctly.

In response, Councillor Doody stated that this was an important year for the country with not only the London Olympics but also the Queen's Diamond

Jubilee celebrations. Although he sympathised with Councillor Mrs Knight's concerns he felt that it was imperative that the Council showed their support and respect to the monarchy and that Warwick District's residents deserved to be a part of the country wide celebrations.

Councillor Gifford asked if the Leader welcomed that Royal Leamington Spa Town Council had already put funds aside totalling £10,000 because their members had also felt that the Queen's Jubilee celebrations were important to a lot of people. Councillor Doody responded welcoming this funding.

Councillor Boad asked for assurance that assistance would be given to local groups organising events, especially with regard to public liability insurance and was advised by Councillor Doody that this help would be provided.

77. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The report of the Executive meeting of 14 December 2011 was proposed by Councillor Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report be approved.

That minutes 110, 111 and 112 of the Executive meeting of 11 January 2012 was proposed by Councillor Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report be approved.

78. **LOCAL PLAN TIMETABLE**

Members received a report from Development Services which advised of a revision to the Local Plan timetable to enable partners, notably Warwickshire County Council Transportation, to undertake infrastructure modelling work in relation to site options.

The revised timetable was attached as an appendix to the report and showed a slippage of two months from the originally proposed dates.

An alternative option was to pursue the existing timetable which had been agreed at Council on 1 December 2011. However, this would carry significant risks for soundness of the Plan, could make it impossible to develop infrastructure requirements and would result in difficulties with completing the transport work because key pieces of evidence would not be complete.

Councillor Caborn addressed members and asked that the revised timetable be approved. He assured members that this would not affect timings of the public consultation and would ensure full co-operation with the County Council.

Members were concerned that there was no guarantee that the County Council would manage to complete their work in the two month timescale and wanted reassurance that meetings would be held to ensure the timetable was kept on track. Councillor Caborn advised that the County Council were aware of the holiday period and had assured the work could be completed on time. In addition, he stated that he and the Chief Executive were involved in the project, would be attending meetings to ensure input on a senior level and the work would be more memberled this time.

The report was proposed by Councillor Caborn, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the revised Local Plan timetable, as set out at Appendix 1 to report, be approved.

79. **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
80	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

80. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The report of the Executive meeting of 14 December was proposed by Councillor Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report be approved.

81. **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 6.45 pm)

CHAIRMAN
22 February 2012