

# WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the additional meeting of Warwick District Council held at the Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, on Wednesday 7 September 2022, at 6.00pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mangat (Chair); Councillors Bartlett, Barton, Boad, Cooke, Davison, Day, K Dickson, R Dickson, Falp, B Gifford, C Gifford, Grainger, Hales, Illingworth, Jacques, Kennedy, King, Kohler, Leigh-Hunt, Luckhurst, Matecki, Milton, Murphy, Noone, Norris, Quinney, Redford, Rhead, Roberts, Russell, Skinner, Syson, Tangri and Tracey.

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashford, Cullinan, A Dearing, J Dearing, Evans, Grey, Margrave, Morris and Wright.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

## 3. Communications & Announcements

The Chair of the Council welcomed key officers and partners into the Chamber to present them with a certificate of gratitude for their work in delivering the Commonwealth Games events within Warwick District.

The Chair informed Council that Rose Winship would be leaving the Council at the end of September 2022. The Chair therefore asked that the gratitude of the Council to Rose Winship, for all her work during her time at the Council, be recorded in the minutes.

The Chair informed Council that there was no business under item 4, Petitions.

## 4. Notices of Motion

The Notice of Motion as set out on the agenda was not proposed and therefore not considered by Council.

With the discretion of the Chair the Leader provided a statement, on behalf of the Political Group Leaders (Councillors Boad, Davison, Mangat, Falp and himself) as follows to Council:

*"Warwick District Council agrees to give priority to developing a plan to give practical support to residents dealing with the rise in the 'Cost of Living'.*

*This Council recognises the tough financial choices that will be taken by our residents this winter, to address double-digit inflation and a surge in energy costs, and agrees that a local Action Plan is an urgent priority.*

*Government support initiatives are noted, including recent announcements; however, there is a clear role for this Council, working in cooperation with other authorities, businesses and community groups. Learning from the successful programmes delivered during the pandemic, it is important that a coordinated local plan is created to ensure support gets to where it is most needed.*

*It is recognised that our Officers are already engaged supporting residents helping to ensure they are claiming all of the benefits and financial assistance that they are entitled to. Additional work is also underway developing contingencies for a wider level of community assistance, especially in addressing severe cold weather events. However, now is the moment to refocus efforts on a comprehensive Action Plan, so we can utilise all our public assets to protect the most vulnerable and minimise the longer-term damage that this unprecedented situation could inflict on our communities.*

*We therefore agree that the Council's Leadership Co-ordinating Group, comprising Cabinet, the Leaders of all Political Groups and senior Council Officers will make the creation of a local Winter Action Plan a priority. It is further agreed that progress will be reported to the next meeting of this Group on Monday 19 September, when next steps will be agreed, including a programme for wider community engagement."*

In response to this statement Councillors Boad, Davison, Skinner and Falp addressed the meeting.

## 5. **Leader & Portfolio Holder Statements**

The Leader of the Council informed Council that in May the Annual Council Meeting, Councillor Mini Kaur Mangat was unanimously elected as Chair, who was not only the youngest person to fulfil the responsibilities of this role, but also the first woman of colour to be Chair of Warwick District Council.

It was with considerable regret therefore, that in the course of representing the Council at different public events across the District, Councillor Mangat had experienced serious and sustained racial abuse.

Councillor Mangat had come forward reluctantly and was understandably concerned that in making this public statement, she and her family might suffer further racist attacks. However, as a long-time campaigner against racism, the Chair firmly believed that it was important that the Council came together to speak out to condemn this unacceptable behaviour.

Whilst Councillor Mangat continued to enthusiastically carry out her duties at Chair, measures were being put in place to provide some protection, including restricting the online publication of her personal contact details. The local police force was also providing Councillor Mangat with advice and practical support, demonstrating just how seriously they took this form of hate crime.

The fact that the Chair had been attacked in this way had come as something of a shock, but he hoped that in shining a bright light on this abhorrent behaviour, it might also encourage others to challenge racism wherever it was found in our community. This was an attack on our way of life and the values on which Councillors were building a better society. Racism in all its forms must be confronted whenever it was encountered, and he commended Councillor Mangat for her bravery at what must have been a difficult time for her and her family.

This was also an appropriate moment to reaffirm that Warwick District Council did not tolerate discrimination in any form, and continued to strive to ensure that racism and exclusion were eliminated in our community, as the Council worked to make Warwick District a safe and inclusive place for everyone to live, work and visit.

In response the Chair thanked the Leader for his statement and reminded Councillors that racism existed and there were challenges faced to eradicate it.

## 6. **Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders**

Councillor Tangri asked the Leader how the Council could build on the excellent work of the Equality and Diversity Task & Finish Group.

In response the Leader, Councillor Day stated that quality was a matter in everything the Council did and asked that equality should be included on the agenda of each PAB going forward.

## 7. **Cabinet Report**

At the start of this item George Martin addressed the meeting as a public speaker.

The recommendation of the Cabinet on 10 August 2022, in respect of the Net Zero Carbon Development Plan Document, as revised within the addendum that had been circulated and published online, was proposed by Councillor Rhead and seconded by Councillor Cooke.

Councillors King, Kennedy, Kohler, Davison, Illingworth, Boad and B Gifford spoke on this item.

**Resolved** that the Net Zero Carbon Development Plan Document as proposed by Cabinet, subject to the revisions in the addendum, be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination alongside a schedule of proposed revisions arising from the public consultation.

## 8. **Employment Committee Report**

The report of the Employment Committee of 6 September 2022 was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Redford and

**Resolved** that the report of the Employment Committee on 6 September 2022, be approved.

## 9. **Common Seal**

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Day and

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

(The meeting ended at 7.12pm)

CHAIR  
19 October 2022