

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2016, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.05pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Doody (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Barrott, Boad, Bromley, Mrs Bunker, Butler, Coker, Cooke, Cross, Davison, Day, Edgington, Mrs Evetts, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Harrington, Heath, Mrs Hill, Howe, Illingworth, Mrs Knight, Mobbs, Morris, Naimo, Parkins, Phillips, Quinney, Mrs Redford, Rhead, Shilton, Mrs Stevens, Thompson and Ms Weed.

63. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cain, Mrs Cain, D'Arcy, Davies, Mrs Falp, Grainger and Whiting.

64. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

65. **Public Submissions**

The Council were addressed by Mr Stephen Cowden and Ms Jennifer Lorch in relation to the Petition on the Council agenda.

66. **Petitions**

Mr Ben Wesson presented a petition to the Council of 2318 signatures entitled "Stop privatisation of Leisure Centres". The detail of the petition was "*Warwick District Council, with cross-party support, is planning to invest £12m in upgrading and expanding our two main Leisure Centres in Warwick and Leamington. This should help local residents to keep active, improve their overall health, tackle problems such as obesity and to have fun. By sensible borrowing, better marketing and no real increase in charges, it looks affordable and should generate surpluses. However the current Conservative administration wants to privatise the management of all Leisure facilities in the District at the same time. The directly-employed staff who have successfully run the services and have played a key part in developing the new plans will be transferred to a private organisation. Their terms and conditions will be at risk. Prices charged by a private operator are likely to rise, especially for annual memberships. Those with most to gain from our Leisure Centres may find them hard to afford. The culture of serving the community and working closely with other local organisations will be put at risk by the arrival of a profit-maximising outside company. Perhaps even worse, the private operator will enjoy all or most of the surpluses which will be generated over 15 years by a major public investment. These should be available for future spending on Leisure or other services within the District. The inhouse team has shown it can deliver the efficiencies and revenues needed, as well as excellent services. They should be trusted to go on doing so.*"

Mr Wesson addressed the Council on the petition.

Councillor Mobbs proposed that the time limit for discussing a petition was extended from 15 minutes to 30 minutes. This was seconded by Councillor Coker and

Resolved that the time for debating the petition be extended from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

The Chairman asked for indications from Councillors who wished to address the meeting. On receiving requests from 15 Councillors he proposed that the time limit be revised to enable each Councillor to speak for 3 minutes each. This was duly seconded and

Resolved that each of the 15 Councillors who had requested to speak be permitted to address the meeting for three minutes each.

Councillors; Ashford, Barrott, Boad, Davison, Edgington, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Heath, Mrs Knight, Mann, Naimo, Phillips, Quinney and Rhead addressed the Council about the petition.

It was proposed by Councillor Doody, that Council pass the Petition to the Executive for them to consider, as part of their deliberations of item 8 on their agenda for the evening and asking them to be mindful of the debate at Council. This was duly seconded and

Resolved that the Petition be referred to the Executive for them to consider as part of their deliberations of item 8 on their agenda for the evening, asking them to be mindful of the debate at Council.

(The meeting ended at 7.00 pm)

CHAIRMAN
27 January 2016