

# WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held remotely on Wednesday 20 May 2020, at 6.15pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Illingworth (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Boad, Cooke, Davison, Day, A Dearing, K Dickson, Falp, B Gifford, Grainger, Luckhurst, Mangat, Nicholls, Redford and Wright.

## 61. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bartlett, Cullinan, J Dearing, R Dickson, Evans, C Gifford, Grey, Hales, Heath, Jacques, Kennedy, Kohler, Leigh-Hunt, Margrave, Matecki, Milton, Morris, Murphy, Noone, Norris, Rhead, Roberts, Russell, Skinner, Syson, Tangri, Tracey and Weber.

## 62. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 63. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 26 February 2020 were proposed by Councillor Day, duly seconded by Councillor Read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## 64. **Communications and Announcements**

The Chairman informed Council that since it last met, Eva Nicholls, an officer within Housing, had sadly passed away, as had former Councillor Bernard Kirton who had served on the Council from 1973 to 2015, including a time as Chairman. The Chairman also reflected on the current pandemic affecting the Country and the impact that was having on so many people, both within the District and across the Country and as mark of respect to Eva Nicholls, Bernard Kirton and those impacted by the pandemic, led a few moments silence.

The Chairman informed Council that there was no business to be considered under agenda items: 5 Petitions, 6 Notices of motion and 7 Public submissions.

## 65. **Leader's & Portfolio Holders' Statements**

There were no statements from the Leader or Portfolio Holders.

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

There were no questions to the Leader or Portfolio Holders.

## 67. **Decisions to be Taken**

- (a) Revisions to the Constitution in response to Coronavirus & associated regulations

The report brought forward for ratification by Council changes to Council procedure rules that were agreed by the Chairman & Group Leaders on 25 March 2020. These had been agreed following the cancellation of the scheduled Council meeting in March in response to Government restrictions

on movement. It also sought further changes following the publication of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 that enabled remote Council meetings.

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

**Resolved** that the recommendations in item 10(a) be approved.

The reports for items 10(b) to 10(e) had been agreed, following the cancellation of the scheduled Council meeting March in response to Government restrictions on movement, by the Chairman & Group Leaders. These were now presented to Council for ratification.

- (b) Pay Policy 2019-2020 - The report presented the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2019-2020 as required under the Localism Act 2011.
- (c) Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 - The report detailed the strategy that the Council would follow in carrying out its treasury management activities in 2020/21. Activities in pursuance of the Climate Emergency declaration would inform and direct the treasury management function until at least 2024/25.
- (d) Minor Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation –The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020 - The report brought forward minor amendments to the Officer Scheme of Delegation to reflect the Regulations brought in on 21 March 2020 to enforce closure of premises due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (e) Minor Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation - The report brought forward minor amendments to the Officer Scheme of Delegation to reflect the new Heads of Service from 1 April 2020.

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

**Resolved** that the recommendations in items 10(b) to 10(e) be approved.

## 68. **Public & Press**

As laid out on the agenda, it was proposed by the Chairman, duly seconded by Councillor Grainger 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.

## 69. **Confidential Decisions to be Taken**

The reports for items 12(a) to 12(c) had been agreed, following the cancellation of the scheduled Council meeting in March, in response to Government restrictions on

movement, by the Chairman & Group Leaders. These were now presented to Council for ratification.

- (a) Purchase of Land at Waverley Riding Stables, Coventry Road, Cubbington, Leamington, Warwickshire – The report brought forward proposals to secure the Freehold interest, on a consented parcel of land of circa 1.76 acres, for the development of 17 dwellings. The site had the benefit of a planning permission and sought to deliver income to both the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund. The land was currently owned by a private individual and went out to the open market for disposal prior to December 2019; having secured preferred bid status, the matter to recommend was a pressing one for the Council as the vendor required legal exchange and completion on the 16 April 2020.
- (b) Affordable housing purchase – Oakley Grove, Phase 2D – The report recommended that the Council purchased 43 affordable homes on the Local Plan-allocated site at Harbury Lane, called Oakley Grove, Phase D for retention as Housing Revenue Account assets.
- (c) Forward funding for the Relocation of Kenilworth School - The report sought forward funding for Kenilworth School to enable it to relocate from its current sites, and funding for the Council to purchase one of the School's current sites at Leyes Lane, noting that it had already agreed to purchase the other site at Rouncil Lane. The forward funding monies were expected to be recouped via the S106 education and sports contributions due over the coming years from developers of land in and around the Kenilworth area.

It was proposed by Councillor Illingworth, seconded by Councillor Grainger and

**Resolved** that items 12(a) to 12(c) be approved.

(The meeting resumed in public session.)

#### 70. **Common Seal**

**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 6.35pm)

CHAIRMAN  
24 June 2020