

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10 August 2016, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.05pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Knight (Chair); Councillors Ashford, Barrott, Boad, Mrs Bunker, Butler, Coker, Cooke, Cross, Davison, Day, Doody, Mrs Evetts, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gill, Miss Grainger, Grainger, Harrington, Mrs Hill, Illingworth, Margrave, Mobbs, Morris, Murphy, Naimo, Parkins, Phillips, Quinney, Mrs Redford, Rhead, Shilton, Weed and Whiting.

21. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bromley, Cain, Mrs Cain, D'Arcy, Davies, Edgington, Gifford, Heath, Howe, Mann, Mrs Stevens and Thompson.

22. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

23. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to Councillor Davies being included in the attendance and removed from the apologies.

24. **Communications & Announcements**

The Chair provided a summary of her work so far and highlighted that she would be producing a monthly article in the Leamington Observer about her work as Chair.

The Chair informed the Council that there was no business to be considered under Item 5 Petitions, Item 6 Notices of Motion, Item 7 Public Submissions, or Item 12 Standards Committee for Warwick District.

25. **Leader's and Portfolio Holders' Statements**

The Leader, Councillor Mobbs, informed Council that he had attended the "we stand together" event in July which was about working together against hate crimes. He also highlighted that the week commencing 8 October 2016 was hate crime awareness week, with a view to raising awareness of hate crimes and helping people who have been victims of these.

The Leader took the opportunity to highlight some of the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that this District benefited from. The LEP had submitted a £150m grant funding application for a local growth deal for sub region. Further review work was underway within the partnership, of the Strategic Economic Plan which would be based on the five core strategic themes of Unlocking our Growth Potential, Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Growing our Small/Medium Enterprises, Growing our Talent and Culture and Tourism. This should include specific projects within Warwick District, the

details of which would be circulated once the revised Strategic Economic Plan was confirmed in October 2016.

The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Shilton, informed Council that Jephson Gardens had been awarded a Green Flag for the tenth successive year. Jephson Gardens had also received a heritage garden award. In addition, he informed Council that on the 21 August there had been an event in Jephson Gardens to encourage everyone to take notice of nature.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Councillor Coker, informed Council that he had attended the opening of the National Bowls Championships and encouraged all Councillors to attend the event. He highlighted the danger of Members staying in their own towns and ignoring the wider District. This event provided the chance for all Councillors to enjoy the District.

The Chair reminded Council that in September 2016, the British Visually Impaired Bowling Championships would be taking place at Victoria Park.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture informed Council that he had attended Jephson Gardens Art in the park, Jephson Gardens and highlighted the current Camouflage in Leamington Exhibition at the Art Gallery and Museum.

26. **Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders**

Councillor Boad asked the Leader about the momentum poster on his office wall and if there was a political message he needed to inform the Council about?

In response, the Leader explained that momentum was an important word and how a small push in the right direction could make a big difference. However, regrettably it had been used by organisations who were using it to move in the wrong direction.

Councillor Boad asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services what action he would be taking about the condition of Victoria Park, where last week there was a significant volume of litter spilling from bins and the bottom of the paddling pool was covered in algae?

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Shilton, explained there had been problems with the paddling pools this summer but checks took place at least once a day, that said he assured Councillor Boad he would follow this matter up.

Councillor Weed asked the Leader that in light of his standing together event, should the Council be standing together with LGBT and asked if the Leader could confirm when the LGBT flag would be flown and when would a flag policy be brought to Councillors?

In response, the Leader, Councillor Mobbs, confirmed the flag would be flown from the Town Hall, and that while the Policy was an Executive decision it was one that he was keen for Councillors to have input into and it would come to Executive in September.

Councillor Barrott asked the Leader when the WMCA report, produced by Councillors Cain, Rhead and Thompson, would be received by Group Leaders and that following the Peer Review feedback, that the Council "needed to

continue to think how it gets the best out of regional context that was emerging” how would the Leader be responding to this?

In response, the Leader informed Council that the report would be circulated to all Councillors that evening. With regard to the Peer Review, this Council was not a member of WMCA, but had a Portfolio Holder who was keeping a watching brief. In addition, he felt that the Peer Review was reminding the Council that it should be considering options and providing a way forward.

Councillor Barrott asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, what work the Council was undertaking to respond to reducing omissions in those areas in the District where specific problems existed and how were these monitored?

In response, the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Grainger, explained that at this time she could not provide a detailed response with regard to monitoring. In addition, the Council was working with partners to improve air quality in Warwick Town Centre. Councillor Grainger added that, in her opinion, emissions would be reduced significantly by improved performance of cars and that the car industry would naturally change quicker than any influence that this Council had.

Councillor Quinney asked the Portfolio Holder for Development Services if the Council should adopt a minimum space standard for new properties in order to maintain our reputation for high quality housing?

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Development Services, Councillor Cross, explained that he thought the proposed development standards had been adopted by the Council but he would confirm this with officers and report back.

Councillor Quinney asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Property Services if the Council would be willing to adopt the best practice objective of 55 days to complete non-complex aids and adaptations?

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services, Councillor Phillips, explained that the previous way of working was not meeting the requirements of either the Council or its customers. The time for completing adaptations was now significantly below 200 days with a target of the average 150 days for completing any case. The average for this year of 176 days included some of the very old cases, which were taking in excess of 300 days. The team now had the medium term target of completing adaptations in 90 days but this was for all aids and adaptations not just the non-complex cases. He concluded by explaining that while he was pleased with the work to date, options for moving forward in the longer term were being considered and the best option would be reported back to the Executive in the autumn.

Councillor Quinney asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services if the Council could make the waste containers that customers had to pay for available from set collection points rather than including a mandatory £5 delivery charge for any bin, box or bag?

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services explained that hard decisions had to be taken and the delivery charge was a flat rate irrespective of the number of items you had delivered. There had been a good

take up with the current charging regime but feedback would be considered as part of the review.

Councillor Naimo asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services why there had been a change in practice to support events and that a charge was now made for the collection of bins from events?

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services explained that there had been consultation on this matter and it would be reviewed and reported back to Councillors.

Councillor Naimo asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services if this could have an impact on recycling rates and the reputation of the Council?

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services explained that the Council had one of the highest recycling rates in country at 56% and rising.

Councillor Naimo asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services if this was monitored and if data on recycling rates could be shared with other Councillors?

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services explained that it was and he would ask for the data to be shared.

Councillor Parkin asked the Portfolio Holder for Development Services if there was an opportunity to improve the sustainability of new developments?

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Development Services explained that he would need to consult with officers in order to provide a technical requirement.

Councillor Boad asked the Leader if he felt it was not appropriate for this Council to take a decision on WMCA on a Notice of Motion and therefore could he provide assurance that any future decision would be taken on a detailed report?

In response, the Leader explained that the Notice of Motion was used as a quick decision to ensure clarity and if the matter was revisited, Councillors would be provided with full information.

27. **Report of the Executive**

The confidential reports of the Executive meetings held on June 2016 (excluding minutes 3 to 5 and their appendices previously considered by Council on 29 June 2016), 29 June 2016; and the Excerpt of the Minutes of 27 July 2016 were proposed and duly

Resolved that the reports of the Executive meeting on 2 June 2016 (excluding minutes 3 to 5 and their appendices previously considered by Council on 29 June 2016), 29 June 2016; and the Excerpt of the Minutes of 27 July 2016, be approved.

28. **Committee membership**

Resolved that

- (1) the membership of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee be amended, replacing Councillor Day with Councillor Ashford; and
- (2) the named substitutes for Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee be amended, replacing Councillor Ashford with Councillor Day.

Councillor Barrott took the opportunity to thank Councillor Day for his work on the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee.

29. **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 relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

30. **Confidential Executive Report**

The confidential report of the Executive meetings on 29 June 2016 was proposed, duly seconded and:

Resolved that the Executive reports of 29 June 2016, be approved.

31. **Common Seal**

It was

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

(The meeting ended at 6.58 pm)

CHAIR
21 September 2016