

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 November 2019, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.05pm, which will be considered by Council on 26 February 2020.

PRESENT: Councillor Illingworth (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Bartlett, Boad, Cooke, Cullinan, Davison, Day, J Dearing, K Dickson, R Dickson, Falp, B Gifford, C Gifford, Grainger, Hales, Heath, Jacques, Kennedy, Kohler, Leigh-Hunt, Luckhurst, Mangat, Margrave, Matecki, Milton, Morris, Murphy, Nicholls, Noone, Norris, Redford, Rhead, Roberts, Russell, Syson, Tracey, Weber and Wright.

36. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Dearing, Evans, Skinner and Tangri.

37. **Declarations of Interest**

Minute 43 – Excerpt of Executive report of 13 November 2019

Councillors Falp, Heath and Margrave declared an interest because it concerned Whitnash Community Centre and they were Whitnash Town Councillors. They all left the room during the discussion on this specific minute.

38. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 4 September 2019 were proposed by Councillor Day, duly seconded by Councillor Read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

39. **Communications and Announcements**

The Chairman informed Council that:

- since the last meeting, Heather Calver had resigned for health reasons and he offered the thoughts of the Council to her and her husband at this time;
- Councillor Daniel Russell had been elected on 29 October 2019 to replace Heather Calver and took the opportunity to welcome him to the Council;
- Suki Sanghera was no longer a member of the Council and there would be a by-election to replace him on 12 December 2019;
- since the last meeting, he had attended a number of Parish Council meetings, as well as a number of properties as part of the Heritage Open Days;
- the recording facility for the Council Chamber PA system was no longer operational and therefore meetings could not be recorded until the replacement PA was introduced; and
- there was no business for the Council to consider under Items 5 - Petitions, 6 - Notices of Motion or 7 - Public Submissions.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Davison explained that Councillor Evans had attended the meeting of Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee on 12 November 2019 and therefore Agenda Item 12 would not be proposed.

40. **Leader's & Portfolio Holders' Statements**

The Portfolio Holder for Development Services, Councillor Cooke, informed Council that over £200,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy had been distributed to Town & Parish Councils within the District. The design work for Bath Street was now underway thanks to CIL funding and Warwickshire County Council Cabinet had approved £4.7million funding for the Kenilworth to Leamington Cycle Way, including a new bridge over the River Avon.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment & Business, Councillor Rhead, informed Council that:

- (1) following on from the work of Barford Parish Council, three further Parishes were considering how they could start their journey to become carbon neutral;
- (2) the Climate Change action plan had been approved and it encouraged Councillors to look at all opportunities to take the plan forward;
- (3) in respect of procurement, a contract award criteria for major contracts of 30% on environmental credentials had been introduced; and
- (4) a meeting had taken place with other District/Boroughs in Warwickshire and Warwickshire County Council to consider how to work together on the climate change agenda.

The Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, Councillor Falp, informed Council that:

- (1) Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee had considered the draft Air Quality Management Report, with the main headline that the particulate levels in the air had decreased; and
- (2) Overview & Scrutiny Committee had considered the annual report in respect of crime and disorder, which detailed that Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) was at its lowest level since 1998, that first intervention had resolved 89% success rate for ASB cases and that the information in detail could be made public from 27 November 2019.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Councillor Grainger, informed Council that:

- (1) The Humans of Leamington exhibition would return to the Leamington Art Gallery from 26 November to 5 December 2019; and
- (2) On 23 November 2019 would be the official opening of Warwick parkrun at Warwick Racecourse, starting at 8.45am.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Hales, informed Council that:

- (1) a report would be brought to Executive in December that sought to revise the Rural/Urban Capital Initiatives Scheme criteria to take into consideration environmental criteria; and
- (2) he was due to hold a meeting with the fund manager to consider sustainable investment.

The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Norris, informed Council that:

- (1) the tender for the major contracts was being developed following the Members' briefing on Monday 18 November 2019;
- (2) the formal consultation on Tach Brook country park would start soon;
- (3) the formal consultation on Newbold Comyn was now closed and had received 3,500 responses, with most responses coming from those over 25 and the cross party member working party would now develop a master plan which would be followed with further consultation in 2020;
- (4) consultation had started on the Abbey Fields master plan;
- (5) new car parking meters had been installed in all service car parks to enable

- payment by card;
- (6) the play equipment renewal programme was now progressing; and
- (7) the rangers now had a second electric vehicle replacing the large 4x4 diesel powered vehicles.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Day, took the opportunity to:

- (1) welcome Councillor Russell to the Council;
- (2) inform Members that the following week was national tree week and next year, this would form a key part in the ambition to plant over 160,000 trees in the District. Officers had spoken with the Woodlands Trust, Severn Trent, the National Farmers Union and Warwick Tree Wardens. There had also been a number of potential grant funding opportunities identified and as a result, an innovative business plan was being developed; and
- (3) the deadline to register to vote for the general election was 26 November 2019.

(Councillor Noone arrived during this item.)

41. Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders

Councillor Kohler asked if the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Business had considered the opportunity of hydrogen fuel cell power rather than through electricity/battery storage as used by other service providers, for example, buses in London.

In response, Councillor Rhead agreed that there could be opportunities for use on public service vehicles as part of the major contract renewal and asked for details to be passed on.

Councillor Gifford asked the Portfolio Holder for Culture, if they had congratulated the Leamington Art Gallery team for the work they undertook, overnight, to protect the Pump Rooms and its contents from flooding.

In response, Councillor Grainger agreed that the team should be congratulated and as a precautionary measure, the team would install the flood protection barriers each evening as a matter of course.

Councillor Kennedy asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing what target the Council had in place to address homelessness.

In response, Councillor Matecki explained that the target was to have no homeless people and work was underway to look for further sites to provide more accommodation.

Councillor Roberts asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Business if he was willing to accept an offer to visit the Passivhaus scheme in Norwich and if the Council could adhere to Passivhaus design for the new leisure facilities in Kenilworth as per the new centres in Exeter.

In response, Councillor Matecki, the Portfolio Holder for Housing, was aware of the invitation but officers were not intending to go. However, officers were considering a number of design options that he would share with Councillor Roberts.

In response, Councillor Grainger, Portfolio Holder for Culture, added that advice had been received from MACE that Passivhaus might not be appropriate for leisure centre builds. Options were being considered in respect of the new build at Castle

Farm, but options were more limited for Abbey Fields which would be a partial rebuild of the centre.

Councillor J Dearing asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection that the Strategic Risk Assessment was now over six years old and if this was considered sufficient.

In response, Councillor Falp explained that the plans had worked during the previous weeks of flooding within the District and was supplemented by the Major Emergency Plan. The continued flood risk in the District would be a matter led by the Environment Agency and Warwickshire County Council.

Councillor Davison asked the Leader if the Council could improve how it kept the local community informed and involved within the democratic process.

In response, the Leader explained that Councillors should be representing the views of all within their respective Wards. However, the Council should be seeking to enhance its digital provision/engagement where possible. If Councillors wished, they could bring forward proposals for a Task & Finish Group to look at this.

Councillor Cullinan asked the Leader if he was aware that some meetings with Shadow Portfolio Holders were not taking place and if so, how could this be improved?

In response, the Leader asked Councillor Cullinan to raise this at the next Group Leaders' briefing so it could be considered in detail.

Councillor Weber asked the Portfolio Holder for Culture if she was aware that the criteria for the museum accreditation was that the exhibitions had to be kept safe at all times, and this included minimising movements.

In response, Councillor Grainger agreed to investigate and provide further detail to Councillor Weber.

Councillor Dickson asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance how much of the £52,452 budget for Brexit preparations from the Government had been spent?

In response, Councillor Hales explained that nothing had been spent.

Councillor Boad asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Business if alternative fuel technology would be considered as part of new contracts.

In response, Councillor Rhead welcomed this and encouraged Councillor Boad to bring forward this discussion as part of the contract renewal working party.

42. **Appointments**

(1) it was proposed by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Cooke and

Resolved that:

- (a) Councillor Boad be appointed to the Licensing & Regulatory Committee for the Liberal Democrat Vacancy;
- (b) Councillor Russell be appointed to Planning Forum;

- (c) Councillor Russell be appointed in place of Councillor Boad on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- (d) Councillor Boad be appointed as a substitute for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- (e) Councillor Russell be appointed as a substitute for the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee and Employment Committee; and
- (f) Councillor Illingworth be appointed to Warwick District Conservation Advisory Forum.

(2) it was proposed by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Cooke and

Resolved that:

- (a) following the reduction in outside appointments, with the loss of Kenilworth Town Centre Partnership and the LGA District Councils Network and Warwickshire Waste Management Forum (both becoming Executive appointments as per their terms of reference), Council agrees that outside appointments are not made on a politically proportionate basis for this municipal year; and
- (b) Councillor Boad be appointed as the Council's representative on the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust.

43. **Executive report**

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

Resolved that the recommendations from the 3 October 2019, plus Appendix A and its Addendum, and 13 November 2019 Executive meetings, be approved.

44. **Public & Press**

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

45. **Confidential Executive Report**

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

Resolved that the confidential recommendations from 3 October 2019 Executive meeting, be approved.

46. **Common Seal**

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 7.03pm)

CHAIRMAN
26 February 2020