WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 2011, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor MacKay (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Crowther, Davies, De-Lara-Bond, Ms Dean, Michael Doody, Edwards, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Guest, Hammon, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, Mrs Knight, Kirton, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Rhead, Mrs Sawdon, Mrs Scarrott, Shilton, Vincett, Ms Weed and Wilkinson.

104. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Malcolm Doody, Harris, Hatfield, Heath, Mrs McFarland and Tyrrell.

105. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 March 2011 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

106. **PUBLIC INTEREST DEBATE**

There was no public interest debate.

107. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements.

(A) The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, paid tribute to and thanked Councillors Crowther, Harris, Hatfield, Mrs McFarland and Mrs Scarrott for all their work on the Council;

(B) The Chairman reminded the Council he would be participating in a 10km charity walk starting and finishing in Pump Room Gardens on 8 May 2011. This event was organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association who were hoping to raise over £250,000; and

(C) The Chairman agreed to write on behalf of the Council to Prince William and Kate Middleton sending them the Council's best wishes for their wedding and married life.

108. **LEADERS AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS STATEMENTS**

(A) The Portfolio Holder for Housing & Property Services, Councillor Mrs Grainger, informed the Council that earlier today there had been a successful meeting and inspection with the Tenants Service Authority (TSA). The TSA had verbally confirmed that the Council had not only completed its targets, following the Audit last year, but exceeded some of these within seven months of the inspection report being issued.

The Portfolio Holder took the opportunity to thank all officers who helped in the completion of this programme, along with Tenants Panel,

Executive, Scrutiny Committees and Shadow Portfolio Holders. However, she explained that this was not the end of the journey and the aim was to continue on this course of improvement for the Service.

(B) The Portfolio Holder for Customer and Information Services announced that following the grants review all organisations had now been written to confirming their grants up to March 2012.

(C) The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, Councillor Coker, took the opportunity to clarify the position regarding Dog Control Orders.

"The Council was undertaking consultation on the proposed orders to enable the views of the community to be put forward and considered before a decision on the orders was taken. To date we had received over 400 responses. The proposals were not cast in stone and are open to amendment. The officers would bring a report to the Executive in June detailing the responses we received, along with proposal based on these responses. I am bound like others to consider those views before making a decision. To do otherwise would be unfair as I would not have had a chance to consider all the representations that were made. Further to express an opinion in advance could be judged to be predetermination and might debar me and others from voting on the subject.

What I can say is that there had been to my knowledge what appear to be some very reasoned and responsible suggestions made for consideration e.g. arising from the meeting at the Golf Club and I would certainly like these to be considered and investigated which I am sure officers would do before bringing the report to Councillors for consideration.

(D) The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Shilton, announced that following the publication of National Indicators the District had the cleanest streets in England.

109. QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(A) Councillor Vincett asked the Leader:

"To provide an update on Kenilworth Public Service Centre?"

The Leader explained that a bid had been verbally accepted for Kenilworth Police Station. This would provide the opportunity to move Kenilworth Town Council from Wilton House to the Police Station. The sale of the Wilton House and development of the site was not necessary for the purchase of the Police Station. However these two steps were significant in the development of a Kenilworth Public Service Centre.

(B) Councillor Pratt asked the Leader:

"To inform the Council on the current funding position of Spencer's Yard and if we had received the consultant's report?"

The Leader explained the Council now owned the Church but was short of funding by £2.5 million from the original plan. The consultant's report on the development was due in the near future.

(C) Councillor Mrs Higgins asked the Leader:

"If he was aware of the excellent work undertaken by the Council's Conservation Team?"

The Leader responded explaining that he had the highest regard for the work of the Conservation Team and had done for many years.

(D) Councillor Shilton asked the Leader:

"For his view on the Kenilworth Railway Station Project, following the approval of outline planning permission?"

The Leader welcomed the outline approval which was very good news. However the key was finding the funding to enable the development to happen.

(E) Councillor Boad asked the Leader:

"If Housing Services were improving why were Councillors receiving more complaints about repairs, in one instance a report had to be re made three weeks after no response to original repair request?"

The Leader reminded Councillor Boad that there would be the few repair cases which slip and personally he had received no complaints. However, he offered if Councillor Boad would provide him with the details of this case he would investigate it.

(F) Councillor Boad asked the Leader

"If we now have the cleaner streets what are we doing to reduce litter in the Council's parks?"

In response the Leader highlighted that the Council's parks had just received a national award for their high standards,

(G) Councillor Mrs Mellor asked the Leader:

"If he could provide an update on the Royal Spa Centre?"

In response the Leader explained that following the change of Management at the Spa Centre considerable changes have been made which has lead to a greater number of people attending shows and a greater number of full houses. The Manager and his teams should be congratulated for their achievements so far. In addition, approval had been given as part of the replacement programme for new seats in the main auditorium and studio.

(H) Councillor Kinson asked the Leader:

"If he could provide an end of term report on the work of the administration?"

The Leader responded that the majority of the previous questions had outlined the good work of this Council over the last four years. This included the purchase of the United Reform Church, the establishment of reserves, the promise of a Council Tax Freeze for 2011/12 and 2012/13, the contribution to the HS2 fighting fund, £40,000 towards the Linden Arches Project, £60,000 to Warwick Town Council for refurbishment of the Court House, the purchase of Oakley Wood and Crackley Woods and the very good performance for recycling rate and the income this generates.

The Leader also took the opportunity to thank the Chief Executive and all members of staff at the Council for taking the Council forward. He also thanked the opposition by keeping the Executive on track and helping to deliver the Council's work.

110. **EXECUTIVE**

It was moved by Councillor Michael Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive of 30 March 2011 be approved and adopted.

111. **COMMON SEAL**

It was

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

(The meeting ended at 6.55pm)

CHAIRMAN
20 April 2011