

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 April 2013, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.05pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Kinson (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Brookes, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Cross, Dagg, Davies, Dean, Dhillon, Doody, Edwards, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Pratt, Rhead, Mrs Sawdon, Shilton, Mrs Syson, Vincett, Williams and Wreford-Bush.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gill, Mrs Goode, Guest, Heath, Illingworth, Kirton, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs, Pittarello, Weber, Ms Weed and Wilkinson.

105. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

106. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 March 2013 were approved as a correct record, subject to a minor amendment, and signed by the Chairman.

107. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements and communications:

- (1) The Chairman welcomed representatives of Warwick School Under 15 and offered them the congratulations of the Council to the Under 15 Rugby Team at Warwick School which had won the National Schools' Rugby Tournament at Twickenham;
- (2) The Chairman welcomed a representative of Leamington Brakes and offered him the congratulations of the Council to Leamington Brakes in winning the Evo-Stick Southern League Premier Division;
- (3) The Chairman, commended the work of the recycling contract which was going well and informed Council there would be a new guide coming out soon;
- (4) The Chairman informed Council about his concert at the Town Hall on 19 May by Leamington Chamber Orchestra and encouraged all to attend;
- (5) The Chairman congratulated Khalsa Hockey Team on finishing fourth in national league two; and
- (6) The Chairman offered congratulations on behalf of the Council to the Under 15 team of Racing Club Warwick which had won the Coventry and Warwickshire Under 15 League.

108. **ONE WORLD LINK**

The Council received a presentation from Mr J Archer about his recent visit to Sierra Leone.

(The Chairman explained that there had been no submissions for consideration under agenda: item 6, Public Interest Debate; item 7, Petitions; item 8, Notices of motion; item 9, Public Submissions; item 10, Questions to Committee Chairmen; and item 11, Questions to Portfolio Holders.)

109. **LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' STATEMENTS**

Councillor Cross, Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services, updated the Council about the audio system in the Council Chamber following the question to Councillor Doody at the last meeting.

As part of the capital renewal budget for 2013/14, there was a sum of money available to upgrade the current Audio Visual System in the Town Hall. There was a project for this with a view to completing as part of the Town Hall re-wire in August, however it might not be completed until October as it would depend on officer resources and consideration of some challenges for the new system.

The challenges that needed to be addressed related to having any audio system where the microphones were not in set positions for individual use, due to the need to set volumes for individual voice level and the potential for units to be moved, while not causing feedback. These would be some of the considerations for the new system as well as ensuring that it was transferable if a decision was taken to move Council & Committee meetings away from the Town Hall as part of the relocation of Riverside House. Consideration would also be given to if the Council should be purchasing or leasing a system to see which would provide the better financial and service/support to the Council overall.

In the interim period Democratic Services and Cultural Service Staff were liaising to identify which microphones were not working as well as others, during Council (as this seemed to be when there were specific problems) and take these units out of the system. However, there were no spare units and these units were no longer in production.

110. **QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADER**

Councillor Mrs Knight asked the Leader of the Council:

"If he was aware that Warwickshire County Council would be reducing the Children Centres budget from £5million to £2.3million, could he approach appropriate parties at WCC to encourage them to reconsider this and what could this Council do to support these centres?"

In response, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Doody, explained that following his previous commitment this Council would not take on the burden of WCC services. However he was willing to write to Warwickshire County Council, as Leader of this Council, expressing our concerns because of the implications for these centres in the reduction of funding.

In addition the Leader welcomed Councillor Mrs Knight back to Council following her recent illness.

Councillor Boad asked the Leader of the Council:

"If, as part of the letter to Warwickshire County Council, he could raise the concerns of this Council about the 30% cut of funding taken by Action for Children from each centre?"

In response, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Michael Doody, agreed to include this concern.

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 6.50 pm)

CHAIRMAN
15 May 2013