

# WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2014, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.05pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Davies (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Copping, Cross, Ms Dean, Doody, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, Kirton, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Rhead, Shilton, Mrs Syson, Vincett, Weber, Ms Weed, Wilkinson, Williams and Wreford-Bush.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brookes, Coker, Dagg, Dhillon, Edwards, Mrs Goode, Guest, Heath and Mrs Sawdon.

## 109. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 110. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 111. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed Council they may have noticed a Councillor Davies has got in to trouble for comments passed on social media. The Chairman reassured Council that it was not him who had made the comments or who was in trouble.

The Chairman informed Council that there would be no business under items; 5, Public Interest Debate; 6, Petitions; 8, Public Submissions; 9, Questions to Committee Chairmen; and 10, Questions to Portfolio Holders.

## 112. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Pittarello proposed and it was duly seconded that:

"This Council requests Officers to bring forward a consultation with a view to implementing a Late Night Levy in Warwick District.

*The costs of policing and management of drink-related incidents are significant. These include drafting in extra police officers into town centres on Friday and Saturday nights, expenses for street marshals and street pastors, clean-up services, safety awareness campaigns, and monitoring of routes heading out of town in the early hours. The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 enables licensing authorities to raise a contribution from late-opening alcohol suppliers towards policing the night economy. The Police Commissioner for Warwickshire, Ron Ball, has confirmed that he would support a consultation looking into such a scheme."*

Councillor Vincett proposed an amendment that was duly seconded so that the motion read:

“This Council requests officers to review the situation subsequent to Central Government’s current consultation on licensing matters and to bring forward an updated report at the earliest possible time on the implications of introducing a late night levy in Warwick District”.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried and became the substantive motion. On being put to the vote the substantive motion was

**RESOLVED** that this Council requests officers to review the situation subsequent to Central Government’s current consultation on licensing matters and to bring forward an updated report at the earliest possible time on the implications of introducing a late night levy in Warwick District

(Councillors Weber and Ms Weed left during this item)

### 113. **LEADER’S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS’ STATEMENTS**

- (A) Councillor Mobbs, Leader of the Council, informed the Council about his recent work as Leader.
  - (i) He informed them that on Monday the City Deal had been signed with the Minister Greg Clarke. A press release had been issued on this because it would provide greater power to help local firms and attract business to the area. For this he thanked Councillors Caborn and Doody along with officers for ensuring this could be achieved;
  - (ii) He informed Council that he attended a Local Enterprise Partnership meeting where all partners, including the County Council, had agreed to support the partnership and work to its targets;
  - (iii) He had attended the first meeting of the Sub-Regional Joint Committee which had been held at Riverside House;
  - (iv) He had delivered a key note speech in Kenilworth to launch the business rate relief for Small and Medium Enterprises in the District. He confirmed that these businesses had been sent the details of how to apply for this; and
  - (v) He had a one to one meeting with the Leader of the County Council and would be holding a similar meeting with the Leader of Stratford upon Avon District Council in the next 10 days;
- (B) Councillor Cross, Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services, informed Council that he had received a headline report on the first year of impact activities for everyone on the Forbes estate, in Warwick. There had been over 860 participants in over 390 sessions covering over 7478 contact hours. The team were now working on a project to make the work sustainable for post 2015;
- (C) Councillor Grainger, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Community Services, informed the Council that the Council’s new website had now been launched. The new website was designed around customer feedback and in recognition of demand. Therefore it now rendered itself to mobile devices, it had an improved search engine, new websites pages

for the Pump Rooms and Spa Centre and improved usage of images with the use of galleries;

- (D) Councillor Shilton, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, spoke to register the thanks of the Council to Ian Coker, who would retire on 27 March, for his excellent and dedicated work for the Council.

**114. QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADER**

Councillor Boad asked the Leader what was happening with regard to the replacement of the audio system because at present it was unacceptable and was an embarrassment when members of the public were present at Planning Committee?

In response, Councillor Mobbs explained that he agreed the situation was unacceptable.

Councillor Mrs Bunker asked the Leader where the new curtains were for the Council Chamber?

In response Councillor Mobbs said that he would take this issue on board and look into it.

Councillor Barrott explained that he was interested in the meetings with other Council Leaders and as no other party was present he asked the Leader if the question of a unitary authority had been raised?

In response, Councillor Mobbs said that only important issues like improving the communities we served, reducing unemployment and working together to achieve these had been discussed. However in respect of the unitary authorities debate he referred to the statement in the House of Commons by Eric Pickles, Minister for Communities and Local Government that he had a pearl handled revolver waiting for anyone who approached him about Local Government reorganisation. On that basis the five District and Borough Councils would be writing to the minister expressing their dissatisfaction with the proposal from Warwickshire County Council.

**115. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The reports of the Executive meeting of 12 February, 3 March and minute 161 of 12 March 2014 were proposed by Councillor Mobbs, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report be approved.

**116. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE – PETITION AGAINST HIGH SPEED RAIL (WEST MIDLANDS) BILL**

Minute 175, Petition Against High Speed Rail (West Midlands) Bill, of the Executive meeting on 26 March 2014 was proposed by Councillor Hammon, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report be approved.

Prior to the vote being taken it was proposed by the Chairman and duly seconded by two Councillors that a recorded vote should be taken on this item. The votes were recorded as follows:

For: Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Copping, Cross, Davies, Ms Dean, Doody, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, Kirton, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Rhead, Shilton, Mrs Syson, Vincett, Wilkinson, Williams and Wreford-Bush.

There were no votes against or any abstentions.

117. **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 7.55 pm)

CHAIRMAN  
23 April 2014