

# WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2009, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

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

## 834. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Britland, Harris, Mobbs and Rhead.

## 835. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23 February 2009, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 836. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (A) The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the Venerable Michael Paget-Wilkes, Chair of the Council's Standards Committee, who would be retiring and moving from the area within the near future. The Chairman thanked Venerable Paget-Wilkes for his services to the Council and the community through his membership of the Standards Committee and wished him well for the future.

Councillor Michael Doody then endorsed the comments of the Chairman and, on behalf of members of the Council, thanked Venerable Paget-Wilkes for his work.

Venerable Paget-Wilkes then addressed the Council and thanked them for their best wishes and for their support of the work of the Standards Committee.

- (B) The Chairman informed the Council that this would be the last Council meeting to be attended by Mary Hawkins, Deputy Chief Executive, who would be leaving the Council's employment on 31 March 2009.

Councillors Caborn, Mrs Knight, Crowther, Boad and Kirton then expressed thanks to Mrs Hawkins for her services to the Council and wished her well in her new position.

### 837. MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS

Councillor B Gifford spoke in respect of the following petition:

“Petition to protect Leamington allotments and greenbelt, urging Warwick District Council to stick to its policy of protecting the greenbelt, as set out in the Local Plan, and say No to developing or building on Leamington allotments or greenbelt.”

At the invitation of the Chairman, one of the petitioners, Mr Geoff Southgate, spoke briefly about the reasons for the petition.

**RESOLVED** that the petition be referred for consideration as part of the preparation of the Core Strategy process.

### 838. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

The following questions were addressed to the Portfolio Holders as shown, who gave verbal responses:

(A) From Councillor B Crowther to Councillor Mrs F Bunker, Community Portfolio Holder:

“Referring to Objective CS6 Priority 3 of the Corporate Strategy; working with three key services including planning and housing to achieve the Warwickshire Award for Involvement of young people:

What action has been taken?

Are two services on track to achieve the bronze award during the current council year 2008/09?

Which two services are involved at this stage?

Has the third service to be included next year been identified?”

(B) From Councillor J Barrott to Councillor M Kinson, Environment Portfolio Holder:

“Many residents within our district want to have the same kerbside recycling collections that others enjoy. These collections have been denied them because of the design of the property or inaccessibility of the waste collection teams.

Will Councillor Kinson update us on what has and will be done in order for these residents to be allowed to participate in the scheme?”

(C) From Councillor Ms J Dean to Councillor Mrs M Grainger, Housing Portfolio Holder:

“The need for more affordable housing is especially urgent in the current economic climate.

What action is being taken to ensure that this Council takes full advantage of all available funding opportunities to buy up new homes that are currently unsold and to secure more affordable housing development?"

(D) From Councillor A Boad to Councillor M Doody, Corporate and Resources Portfolio Holder:

"Can the leader of the Council give a report on the work program of the Local Strategic Partnership?"

(E) From Councillor B Gifford to Councillor C White, Culture Portfolio Holder:

"What target audience is the 'Big on Play' booklet aimed at?

How many were produced and what were the costs involved?

Given the budget constraints of the Council, when can parents and children expect to see improvements on the ground?

Where does the Council propose to go from here, and over what time frame?"

(F) From Councillor A Boad to Councillor C White, Culture Portfolio Holder:

"Given our local communities concerns about the levels of anti-social behaviour across the district, as evidenced by the priorities for the Local Neighbourhood Panels, can the portfolio holder give this Council assurance that he is aware of the contents of the recent Audit Commission Report, Tired of hanging around: Using sport and leisure activities to prevent anti-social behaviour by young people.

Can he further confirm that he is intending to bring forward a considered report on this Council's response to the contents, and ideas contained in 'Tired and hanging around', with a view to taking a lead with our partners in the LSP to deliver closer partnership working and the 'joined up' thinking and actions demonstrated to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour?"

(G) From Councillor A Boad to Councillor M Kinson, Environment Portfolio Holder:

"With the rapid phasing out of incandescent light bulbs by the major retailers what plans are in place to inform and educate the public of the requirements for the safe handling, collection and disposal of the low energy light bulbs due to their mercury content?

What steps have been taken by this Council to ensure the safe disposal of the low energy bulbs to prevent mercury from being inadvertently released into the environment?"

(H) From Councillor N Pittarello to Councillor M Kinson, Environment Portfolio Holder:

“Will the portfolio holder confirm the number and frequency of cuts of the grass on urban roadside verges for 2009-10?

What was the number and frequency of cuts in the previous years, 2008-09, 2007-08?”

(I) From Councillor R Copping to Councillor L Caborn, Customer and Business Improvement Portfolio Holder:

“The distribution of the 'Beat the Credit Crunch' leaflet is currently taking place. The addressing of the leaflets is curious in that only one name is on the address label, what was the reason for this and how was the particular resident to be named selected?

Was the portfolio holder aware of how they were to be addressed and the potential offence caused?”

(J) From Councillor Mrs A Blacklock to Councillor M Kinson, Environment Portfolio Holder:

“Can the Portfolio Holder explain why a number of separate but simultaneous changes to the waste collection arrangements in Kenilworth were instigated by the contractor, with very minimal notice to the residents and no consultation with himself or the ward Councillors and what steps will he take to prevent such a confusing and highly undesirable situation happening again ?”

#### 839. **EXECUTIVE**

It was moved by Councillor Michael Doody, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Executive meeting held on 4 February 2009, excluding Minute No. 779, 780 and 781, which had been approved by the Council meeting on 23 February 2009, be approved and adopted.

#### 840. **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 7.15 pm)

CHAIRMAN