

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Warwick District Council held at Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, on Wednesday 26 July 2023, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Syson (Chairman); Councillors Aizlewood, Armstrong, Barton, Billiald, Boad, Chilvers, Collins, Cron, Davison, Day, Dray, Falp, B Gifford, C Gifford, Gorman, D Harrison, J Harrison, Hunt, Kennedy, Kohler, Luckhurst, Margrave, Matecki, Milton, Noonan, Payne, Phillips, Roberts, Rosu, Russell, Sinnott, Tangri, Williams, Wightman and Yellapragada.

14. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Browne, K Dickson, R Dickson, Hales, Kang, King, Sullivan and Redford.

15. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

16. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 17 May 2023, were proposed, duly seconded, taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

17. **Communications & Announcements**

The Chairman informed the Council that:

- (1) Candy Outridge, our Equality Diversity & Inclusion Business Partner passed away on 12 July 2023; and
- (2) Councillors will also be aware Archie Pitts of the Leamington Society and Friends of Leamington Station passed away on 8 July 2023.

The Chairman then lead the Council in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Candy Outridge and Archie Pitts.

The Chairman informed Council that Councillor Brian Smart of Whitnash Town Council had decided to stand down as Parish & Town Council representative to the Audit & Standards Committee and took the opportunity to thank him for all his work on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Andrew Jones, Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer ahead of him leaving the Council, for his care, attention, and due diligence for his 22 years' service with Warwick District Council. Councillors Boad, Day, Davison, Falp and Harrison paid thanks to Andrew Jones on behalf of their respective political groups.

Finally the Chairman informed the Council, that she had agreed to take an urgent report following a request from Overview & Scrutiny Committee last week and that there was no business under item 6 Notice of Motion.

18. **Petitions**

The Council received a petition of *2318 signatures as follows:*

"Built in 1814 to be Leamington Spa's main attraction for residents and visitors and very successful as it is.

The new WDC have not yet abandoned the plan to locate customer services of WDC Housing Department in the space currently occupied by VIC shop selling local arts and crafts. There is an empty room for this in the Town Hall - where it belongs"

With the agreement of the Chairman, Chris Bowen addressed the Council for five minutes in support of the petition.

Councillors B Gifford, J Harrison, Matecki, Barton, Kohler, Davison, Sinnott and Day addressed the Council on this item.

On being put to the vote it was

Resolved that no further action be taken in respect of the petition.

19. **Call in of Cabinet Decision – Customer Services Relocation Options**

At the start of this item Councillor Boad, sought a suspension of Council Procedure Rule 13(5) to enable Councillors to speak more than once on any motion. This was seconded by Councillor Milton.

Councillors Davison, Day, Chilvers, Kohler and Barton addressed Council on this proposal.

On being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

The council then considered the Cabinet decision of 5 July 2023, that had been called in and debated by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 20 July 2023.

Councillors Milton, Boad, Kohler, Matecki, B Gifford, Day, Davison, Chilvers, Phillips, Noonan, Barton, Russell, Tangri spoke on this item.

It was proposed by Councillor Day, Seconded by Councillor Boad that the decision be referred back to the Cabinet for further consideration.

On being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

Prior to the vote Councillor Boad requested and was duly seconded by two Councillors that the vote be recorded. The votes were recorded as follows:
For: Councillors, Barton, Boad, Day, Falp, b Gifford, C Gifford, Kohler, Margrave, Matecki, Milton, Noonan, Payne, Phillips, Russell and Syson
Against: Councillors Aizlewood, Armstrong, Billiald, Chilvers, Collins, Cron, Davison, Dray, Gorman, D Harrison, J Harrison, Kennedy, Luckhurst, Roberts, Sinnott, Tangri, Williams, Wightman and Yellapragada

The Chairman then proposed, it was seconded by Councillor Milton and

Resolved that the call-in procedure for Warwick District Council, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted.

The Chairman of the Council adjourned the meeting for a short break at this time.

20. **Leader and Portfolio Holders' Statements**

The Portfolio Holder for Arts & Economy, Councillor Billiald, informed Council that:

- (1) work continued, in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council to bring forward the South Warwickshire Economic Strategy to Council for consideration in the autumn;
- (2) work at Spencer Yard was progressing and should be completed in September 2023;
- (3) the Council's partner CDP had submitted a planning application, for the next project in the Creative Quarter, at the former Stoneleigh Arms Public House;
- (4) listed building consent had been gained for the planned development works at Town Hall with work underway to secure contractor for works;
- (5) the Council would be supporting the delivery of events across the District including Warwick Folk Festival, Warwickshire Pride, Kenilworth Food Festival, Eco Fest, Art in Park and Leamington Food and Drink Festival;
- (6) the UK Shared Prosperity Year 2 funds had been released by the Government, projects were being allocated funding by the Council with the contract for supporting start-up businesses with Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce extended by two years to support this;
- (7) the Going Dutch Art Exhibition of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the Pump Rooms was open until September 2023 with over 6800 visitors attending the exhibition so far; and
- (8) the Ignite event to celebrate creative industries within the District had taken place with over 170 delegates attending.

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Councillor Kennedy, informed the Council that:

- (1) the Council's physical assets account for over 90% of the organisation's carbon emissions. Decarbonising Council buildings would contribute to net zero targets set out in the climate emergency action plan and reduce energy bills and enhance well-being for residents;
- (2) a comprehensive Heat Decarbonisation Plan was under development, and the Climate Change Team were in the process of procuring a renewable energy study to explore low carbon energy supply for the Council's buildings and operations. It was anticipated this would provide external capacity and expertise to explore the potential for
 - Power Purchase Agreements with local sources of renewable energy
 - Investment in or links with local Solar Farms
 - Rooftop solar and solar canopies;
- (3) officers had worked up plans for Jubilee House in Kenilworth and were developing options for the Temperate House in Jephson Gardens, to reduce their energy consumption;
- (4) decarbonising the Council-owned homes was a major challenge both in terms of the technical inputs required and funding. Good progress had been made, but much more needed to be done. The Housing team would be working to:
 - (a) Review the performance of new homes built by or purchased by the Council to measure how low their energy requirements were in use, and how these homes using new technologies were experienced by the residents. The aim was to inform the development of future Council houses.

- (b) Develop a comprehensive plan for Council housing decarbonisation to help with energy bills, to be delivered alongside statutory requirements for health and safety and decent homes standards;
- (5) the Council would continue to apply for new Green Homes Grants provided by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero and those coming through the Midlands Net Zero Hub. Previous schemes had already delivered over 100 measures in social properties including air source heat pumps, solar PV and smart heating controls; and over 170 measures in private properties including air source heat pumps, solar PV, smart heating controls, loft and cavity wall insulation and high heat retention storage heaters; and
- (6) the Council was funding a new phase of Act on Energy support in two areas:
 - Additional outreach staff to engage with more disadvantaged and vulnerable communities and customer groups.
 - The Home Energy Help Scheme – a specific high-level innovative service to support 'able to pay' private householders with the installation of energy efficiency measures.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing & Assets informed Council that:

- (1) the Council had 5553 homes that it managed, and it had a duty to ensure that residents in these properties felt safe and had good community facilities, the Council would now be under greater scrutiny to deliver this with the introduction of the Social Housing Regulation Act;
- (2) the Council was developing a 10-year plan for improved energy efficiency and decarbonisation for its properties;
- (3) there were fire safety works at flats underway including replacing some of external cladding;
- (4) the Council was reviewing the lessons learned from unsafe damp and mouldy environments and there would be policy brought to Cabinet along with a proactive programme of works;
- (5) the Council had plans to deliver new affordable and rented properties across the district, looking to ensure that they were energy efficient and to avoid building on greenfield sites; and
- (6) there would be a residents engagement strategy brought to Cabinet for approval, which would seek to reflect the diverse needs of tenants and how to engage with them effectively.

The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood, Councillor Roberts, informed Council that:

- (1) Warwick District had been awarded Green Flags for Jephson Gardens, Crackly Wood, Oakley Wood and the Pump Room Gardens. This went alongside Jephson Gardens also winning a green heritage award, and a national poll where the district's green spaces were voted amongst the best in the UK;
- (2) whilst construction had been paused at Abbey Fields in Kenilworth, the children's play area would be open throughout the week for the summer holidays and not just weekends;
- (3) with the recent dry weather and the dropping water levels in the Abbey Fields lake, Officers had been working with a local fishery to safely remove a number of fish as a precautionary measure;
- (4) No Mow May was a decision made before May's elections, it was a success for biodiversity across the district, and it was great to see the abundance of wildflowers and an increase in insects. There were issues; the length of the grass meant the electric mowers struggled and additional equipment was needed to be brought in. That equipment wasn't available immediately and this caused a further delay in cutting. A review of what happened, including

- the results of the survey and wider feedback received, was underway and was due to come to Cabinet in September.
- (5) the Waterman Group had been appointed to help deliver the Council's ecological emergency plan. The first draft of the action plan was due in late autumn after consultations with a variety of stakeholders;
 - (6) the role of waste education and enforcement officer within contract services team had been filled and the new member of staff was due to join in September;
 - (7) he had visited Oakley Wood crematorium to see the work they do, because the Council's bereavement services was an area that was not spoken about very often. He thanked officers for the great work they do in this department; and
 - (8) he had visited the new recycling facility in Coventry last month (also known as the MRF). Warwick District was a shareholder in this new facility, and it was world leading in its design and how it handled recycling. Warwick District was due to start delivering its recycling to this facility in August.

In the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Place, Councillor King, Councillor Wightman provided an update on this area to the Council, as follows:

- (1) work continued on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP), with Stratford-on-Avon District Council. Councillor King had regular meetings with the relevant Portfolio Holder Stratford-on-Avon District Council together with the Leaders of the two councils. The SWLP Advisory Group had met three times since the elections and would be continuing to push forward on this important area of work;
- (2) a project to replace the Idox/Acolaid software which supported most the planning work including planning applications and building regulations processes, was underway. This was a major procurement exercise for the Council and a team from across several services, including ICT and Procurement had been put together to execute it. Officers were refining the specification and planned to be in a position to commence a formal procurement shortly. This would take many months, but once the system was in place it should improve processes and assist officers, councillors and the public as they engage with many elements of our planning service;
- (3) the consultation on the Main Modifications to the Net Zero Carbon DPD had finished. The representations would be sent to the Inspector, who would consider them when preparing the Final Report on the DPD. It was expected that the report would be received in October. If the Inspector found the DPD to be sound, a report would be brought to Cabinet and then Council recommending adoption of the DPD. To support the implementation of the DPD, the policy team were producing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) with further guidance for applicants and Development Management colleagues. This was being produced with an expectation to consult on this in September;
- (4) following a decision at July's Cabinet, on the Statement of Community Involvement, the policy team commenced a six week public consultation, which would close on 29 August 2023. This document set out how the council would consult on planning matters;
- (5) all Building Control Officers were in the process of initial registration with Building Safety Competence Foundation (BSCF). When their applications were accepted, they would then sit a validation test of competence to register with the Building Safety Regulator (BSR);
- (6) the Council had five nominations for the Annual LABC (Local Authority Building Control) Awards. Judging for West Midlands Region was due to take

place in August and if successful the Council would automatically be entered into the National Awards in London that were due to be held in January 2024;

- (7) there was to be a review of the H6 section of the current Local Plan with respect of Purpose Built Student Accommodation, the local parking SPD and ensuring the HMO regulations were both clear and effective; and
- (8) the Cabinet understood the significance and importance of the climate emergency and the drive to cut energy bills. It wanted to ensure that those living in Listed Buildings and buildings in Conservation Areas were as able to help address these challenges.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Chilvers, reminded Council about the budget cycle. He informed Council that officers would be circulating a timetable to Councillors on the key steps within the budget process and near budget setting the details of the impact of possible spending and income priorities. The Council would need to deliver a balanced budget and recognise the challenges within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). There were assumptions within the MTFS such as the average rise in Fees and Charges of 10% and the maximum increase in Council Tax each year. If these were to be changed then the money would need to be found elsewhere. The budget also included recognising the reserves that were in place and the purpose behind them. In addition to this, there was the Capital spending and borrowing to fund this which would impact on revenue available. He also highlighted the importance of good procurement and the work under way to increase the skills of all members and officers in this area.

The Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Councillor J Harrison, informed Council that:

- (1) her Portfolio covered the work of HR, Communications, Marketing, Customer and digital services;
- (2) the skills of the Council's staff were invaluable and the impact of the pandemic, the merger with Stratford and the relocation were well recognised. For that reason, there was regular work through the pulse surveys, appraisals, the peer review and further engagement such as the working for Warwick award to support all staff;
- (3) the Council attended many careers events to promote the Council as an employer and had hosted a three-day work experience expo;
- (4) the Council had launched the Electric Vehicle (EV) Salary Sacrifice Scheme for staff to help make electric vehicles more affordable but also to help officers move away from internal combustion engine vehicles;
- (5) the communications team were involved in significant areas of work responding to enquiries regarding No Mow May, Newbold Comyn Cycle Trails, Abbey Fields and Castle Farm Leisure Centres, and the relocation to the Pump Rooms of front line services, as well as promoting the Bowls National Championships and Eco Fest;
- (6) the Council's website had won a plain English accreditation;
- (7) the gender and ethnicity pay gap reports would be brought to Employment Committee for consideration;
- (8) there was to be a briefing on recruitment and retention for all Councillors in August;
- (9) ICT were working on providing opportunities for residents to access high speed high quality broadband;
- (10) ICT were working with key suppliers to deliver new network infrastructure for the Council to not only enable the relocation of services but also to enhance the resilience of the network; and

- (11) the Digital Strategy was due to come Cabinet soon that would set the ambitions of this Council for Digital Services to provide the same consistent customer service no matter how services were accessed.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Leisure & Environment informed Council that:

- (1) her area of responsibility was a service provider with priorities to promote support and oversee a 'feel safe, be safe' in the communities that we live and work in;
- (2) the team worked closely on Crime Prevention and Anti-Social Behaviour matters with the Police and Community Safety Partnership;
- (3) the Council had an award winning on street CCTV which was used with the Police to protect business, residents and the vulnerable on the streets;
- (4) the service looked to supporting the night time and wider economy while keeping people safe;
- (5) the Portfolio will challenge the sources of inequalities in the community;
- (6) the team would look to encourage active lifestyles for those who were able provide support for those face barriers to an active lifestyle;
- (7) next Month the District would host the National Lawn Bowls Championships, supported by officers from the Service Area;
- (8) officers would look to encourage participation in tennis, cricket and cycling within the District; and
- (9) officers would continue to undertake the food safety inspections, animal safety inspections, licensing of premises and air quality monitoring.

The Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership, Councillor Davison addressed Council and:

- (1) explained that the correct vacancy rate for the Council was 14% with an annual turnover of 17%;
- (2) thanked officers and partners for engaging with the Peer Challenge and informed that the draft report was awaited and once finalised this would be shared with all Councillors;
- (3) the plan was for the Corporate Strategy to come forward for debate in the Autumn, and he hoped that all Councillors would have the ability to contribute to wider strategy development, but at present there was no agreement with Group Leaders on how to do this;
- (4) there had been no changes to Portfolio Holder remit but for confirmation Councillor Kennedy had a focus on effective reduction of carbon emissions across the District, especially for Council assets. As Leader, he would lead on other areas unless it was a good fit elsewhere, for example the Net Zero DPD which was being led by Councillor King;
- (5) there were challenging timelines for leaving Riverside House and the Council needed to focus what benefits this would bring to enable officers to work effectively and use it to reaffirm what it meant to work for WDC; and
- (6) he reminded Council that there were a number of live challenging projects which were all slower, more expensive and presented a number of challenges but highlighted how proud the Council should be of what it was doing to benefit residents.

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

Councillor Margrave asked the Portfolio Holder for Place what could be done to expediate the guidance on adding double glazing to listed buildings, to aide the determination of such application by the Planning Committee.

In response, the Leader explained that each application needed to be determined on its merits and was a complex judgement on the balance of policies. However, the review of Policy was being considered by the Portfolio Holder for Place.

Councillor Margrave asked two further questions where he was concerned because responses to emails he had sent in January and April had not been responded to by officers.

In response Councillor Davison, in the absence of Councillor King, apologised as the responses should have been sent. Officers had looked for these emails but were unable to locate them so he requested they be resent. He also highlighted there were times when there were pressures in specific teams where responses may not be as prompt as Councillors would hope.

The Chief Executive added that if Councillors were not receiving a reply from officers, they should follow this up with the officers Line Manager, Head of Service or if necessary with himself.

Councillor Kohler asked the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change if a diagram could be shared showing their responsibilities so it was clear for all, and if Council was committed to Net Zero by 2025, even if this would mean there was a need to off-set carbon emissions?

Councillor Davison responded to the questions by agreeing to circulate the responsibilities of all Portfolio Holders. He agreed that the Council would not meet its Net zero ambition of 2025 without off-setting and there was a review of the Climate Emergency Action Plan due to report to Cabinet in December. This review might see some areas prioritised over others in order to get the most value for money and best results from the projects taken forward.

Councillor Kohler asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing if he could provide an update on the investigation works at Southern Court and Ashton Court and when these works would be completed.

In response, Councillor Wightman agreed to report back to Councillors in writing.

Councillor Kohler asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources if he could provide an update on the Change Management Programme.

In response, Councillor Chilvers explained he would ask officers to provide an update but there were a number of projects being considered and due to be brought forward to Cabinet.

Councillor Falp asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing if he could provide a timescale for when Christine Ledger Square would be demolished.

In response, Councillor Davison, explained that there was a need to complete negotiations with the lease holders of flats. Once this was completed a timeline would be provided.

Councillor Falp asked the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Leisure & Environment if Councillors could receive the monthly updates on the service area that were provided before the election.

In response, Councillor Hunt agreed to arrange this.

Councillor Milton asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services if he could (1) provide an update on the Management Plan for Abbey Fields, (2) inform a Council when the consultation on Abbey Fields Cycle Path route would take place and (3) provide an update on work with partners to help with pupils cycling to the new school in September.

In response, Councillor Roberts agreed to provide a written response on questions 1 and 3.

In response to question 2, Councillor Kennedy explained the route was being designed and would be reported to Cabinet soon.

Councillor Milton asked the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Leisure & Environment why she appeared reticent in mentioning cyclists in her earlier statement.

In response, Councillor Hunt explained this was because of the delay in delivering the cycle trails in Newbold Comyn.

Councillor Milton asked the Leader if an update on the delivery of Abbey Fields Swimming Pool could be provided.

In response, Councillor Davison explained that the original assumption was that there would be a number of small finds. This was not the case with a number of significant finds being made on the site. This had caused a delay and therefore additional expense. The next step would be to receive the sign off from Heritage England that that works were acceptable. From this, a timeline and costs could be calculated. In response to a supplementary question, he confirmed there were a number of meetings taking place over the next two weeks which would hopefully provide clarity.

Councillor Phillips asked the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Leisure & Environment that following the Australian hosts withdrawing from delivering the 2026 Commonwealth Games and the suggestion that London or Birmingham could deliver these instead. Had the Council been approached or offered to host the Lawn Bowls.

Councillor Davison explained that if the Council was approached, it would consider the request.

Councillor Boad asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood if new waste collection calendars would be published because the current ones ended in July 2023.

In response, Councillor Roberts explained there would not be new ones printed but officers were looking at how to ensure those who did not have access to digital services could be provided the information.

Councillor Boad asked the Leader if in future the statements from Cabinet could be circulated in advance of the meeting to help reduce the length of the meeting and

secondly when the strategic direction of the future of the Council would be required.

In response, the Leader noted the observation and explained that the statements had been part of providing the direction of the Council and in future were anticipated to be shorter. He would take advice from his Cabinet members and officers regarding providing statements in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Barton asked the Portfolio Holder for Arts and Economy if they were aware of the significant milestones coming forward for both World War 1 and World War 2 and if there would be support for events to commemorate these from the District Council.

In response, Councillor Billiald offered to meet with Councillor Barton to discuss the proposals and events.

Councillor Noonan asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood, how the success of No Mow May he had reported earlier had been measured and what impact there was on the biodiversity on leaving the area to grow, and then the subsequent cut.

In response to this question and to a supplementary question, Councillor Roberts explained that the success was, in his view, from seeing more wildflowers and insects. There was a review ongoing which would report back on these figures and would and learning points for next year.

Councillor Matecki asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources how the £360k for the delay in move from Riverside House and extra cost of the move to the Pump Rooms would be funded.

In response, Councillor Chilvers explained that the move from Riverside House would take two years for savings to arrive. Each month the Council remained at Riverside House after June 2023 cost £58k. That had in impact on the bottom line that would be looked at as part of the budget papers.

Councillor Matecki asked the Leader why he had failed to attend any meetings of the Leamington Transformation Board since he had been elected as Leader and if this was because he no longer lived in the District.

In response, the Leader explained this was not correct because he had attended the last meeting. In respect of where he lived this was on public record since December 2021 and he met the criteria of standing for election.

22. **Council Procedure Rule 36(2)**

In line with Council Procedure Rule 36(2), as the time was later than 9.30pm, the Chairman of the Council proposed that the Council consider the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 July 2023, appointments to Committee and Common Seal. The Chairman explained they were then minded to adjourn the meeting until 6.00pm on Wednesday 9 August 2023.

This was seconded by Councillor Margrave and

Resolved that the Council meeting continues to consider the recommendations of the of Cabinet meeting held on 5 July 2023, appointments to Committee and Common Seal.

23. Cabinet Report

It was proposed by Councillor Davison seconded by Councillor Luckhurst and

Resolved that the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 July 2023, be approved.

24. Appointments to Committee & Outside Bodies

It was proposed by Councillor Davison, seconded by Councillor J Harrison, and

Resolved that

- (1) Councillor Sullivan be appointed in place of the Labour vacancy on the Audit & Standards Committee;
- (2) Councillor Browne be appointed in place of the Labour Vacancy on Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- (3) Councillor Sinnott be appointed in place of Councillor Kang on Overview & Scrutiny Committee ;
- (4) Councillor Kang be appointed as a substitute for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- (5) Councillor Redford be appointed to Overview & Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Hales;
- (6) Councillor Hales be appointed as substitute for Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- (7) Councillor Phillips be appointed to Planning Committee in place of Councillor Day;
- (8) Councillor Day be appointed as a substitute for Planning Committee in place of Councillor Phillips; and
- (9) the appointments to outside bodies as made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority from Council on 15 May 2023, as set out at Appendix 1 to the Minutes be noted.

25. Common Seal

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Davison, and

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

At 9.55pm the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9 August 2023 at 6.00pm

Minutes of the resumed meeting of Warwick District Council held at Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, on Wednesday 9 August 2023, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Syson (Chairman); Councillors Aizlewood, Barton, Billiald, Boad, Browne, Chilvers, Collins, Davison, Day, K Dickson, R Dickson, Dray, Falp, Gorman, Hales, D Harrison, J Harrison, Kang, Kennedy, Luckhurst, Margrave, Matecki, Milton, Noonan, Phillips, Redford, Roberts, Russell, Sinnott, Sullivan, Williams, Wightman and Yellapragada.

26. Communications & Announcements

The Chairman took the opportunity to congratulate Councillor Rosu on the safe arrival of his baby daughter.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Arts Manager, David Guilding, who was leaving the Council after 12 years.

The Chairman informed the Council that former council employee John Gould, who had 49 years of service with the Council, had sadly passed away. The Chairman of the Council then led the Council in a moments silence as a mark of respect.

27. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Armstrong, Cron, B Gifford, C Gifford, Hunt, King, Kohler, Rosu and Tangri.

28. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

29. **Item From Councillor Boad under Council Procedure Rule 7 – Advisory Committee.**

The Chairman informed Council that this matter would be split into two parts to debate them. The first would consider the proposal that the Council reaffirm its pledge to the declarations of Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergencies. The second part would be to consider the proposal to bring forward proposals to establish a Climate and Biodiversity Advisory Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Boad and seconded by Councillor Milton that *"This Council reaffirms its continuing support for the previous Council's declarations of Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergencies."*

Following proposed amendments from Councillors, Kennedy, Sinnott, Matecki and Phillips, Councillors Boad and Milton accepted these proposals so the substantive motion was as follows:

"This Council reaffirms its continuing support for addressing the climate change and ecological emergencies noting the original declarations and subsequent Cabinet reports."

Councillors, Boad, Milton, Kennedy, Sinnott, Matecki, Phillips and Falp spoke on this item.

The proposal was put to the vote and

Resolved that this Council reaffirms its continuing support for addressing the climate change and ecological emergencies noting the original declarations and subsequent Cabinet reports.

The Chairman then moved to the second aspect regarding the proposal to bring forward proposals for establish Climate and Biodiversity Advisory Committee.

Councillor Boad proposed and Councillor Milton seconded that:

"The setting up of a fully serviced and timetabled Climate and Biodiversity Advisory Committee (CBAC) to be investigated with the final recommendations and

Constitutional Changes presented for decision no later than the 15th November Council meeting.”

Councillors Davison, Aizlewood, R Dickson, Wightman, Chilvers, Collins, D Harrison, Day, Matecki, Redford, Hales, Williams, Russell and Noonan spoke on this item.

On being put to the vote the proposal was lost. Prior to the vote a recorded vote had been requested and was recorded as follows:

For: Barton, Boad, Day, K Dickson, R Dickson, Falp, Hales, Margrave, Matecki, Milton, Noonan, Phillips, Redford, Russell, Syson.

Against: Aizlewood, Billiald, Browne, Chilvers, Collins, Davison, Dray, Gorman, D Harrison, J Harrison, Kang, Kennedy, Luckhurst, Roberts, Sinnott, Sullivan Williams, Wightman and Yellapragda.

Councillor Davison proposed and it was seconded by Councillor Collins that:

“This Council welcomes the input of all members to address the Climate Change and Ecological Emergencies through the democratic processes of the Council including development of the corporate strategy, programme advisory boards or their equivalents, and O&S. These democratic processes should hold public meetings and seek input from experts and other members of the public where appropriate”.

Councillors Day, R Dickson, Boad, Phillips, Wightman, Matecki, Barton and Luckhurst spoke on this item.

It was put to the vote and

Resolved that this Council welcomes the input of all members to address the Climate Change and Ecological Emergencies through the democratic processes of the Council including development of the corporate strategy, programme advisory boards or their equivalents, and O&S. These democratic processes should hold public meetings and seek input from experts and other members of the public where appropriate.

30. **Appointments to Committees**

The Chairman informed Council that following its last meeting the Leader had amended the membership of the Cabinet, with Councillor Sinnott replacing Councillor Hunt. As a result there was a vacancy on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the Labour Group. The Chairman had agreed to take this as an urgent item to ensure there was a full compliment of members on that Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor Wightman and

Resolved that Councillor Hunt be appointed to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the Labour vacancy.

31. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Chairman proposed, it was seconded by Councillor Davison 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 items 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.

32. **Confidential Cabinet Report**

The Confidential report of the Cabinet of 5 July 2023 was proposed by Councillor Wightman, Seconded by Councillor J Harrison and

Resolved that the confidential Cabinet report of 5 July 2023, be approved.

The Chairman of the Council explained that they had accepted this item as an urgent item in order to enable the Milverton Homes Business Plan Revision to be progressed if it was approved.

33. **Common Seal**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Davison, and

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

(The meeting ended at 7.50pm)

CHAIRMAN
26 September 2023

Cabinet appointments 2023-24

(Appointments made by the Cabinet and therefore not a decision for the Council and not subject to political proportionality rules)

Cabinet Appointments	Number of places	Councillor
Warwickshire Police & Crime Panel	1	PH Safer Communities, Leisure & Environment Councillor Hunt
District Councils' Network (Leader of the Council)	1	Leader of the Council Councillor Davison
West Midlands Combined Authority (Leader of the Council)	1	Leader of the Council Councillor Davison
Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board	1	PH Safer Communities, Leisure & Environment Councillor Hunt
South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership	1	PH Safer Communities, Leisure & Environment Councillor Hunt
Warwickshire County Council Health & Wellbeing Board	1	PH Safer Communities, Leisure & Environment Councillor Hunt
Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH)	1	PH Housing Councillor Wightman
Warwickshire Waste Management Forum	1	PH Neighbourhood Councillor Roberts
Shakespeare's England	1	PH Arts & Economy Councillor Billiald
Total	9	

Warwick District Council appointments 2023-24

Appointment	Number of places	Councillor 2023/2024	*Evaluation Criteria
Coventry Airport Consultative Committee	1	Payne	2
Kenilworth Abbey Barn Advisory Committee	1	Hales	4
South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust	1	Sinnott	5
Warwickshire County Council – Adult Social Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1	Redford	5
Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee	1	Aizlewood	2
Bid Leamington Board	1	Billiald	2
National Parking Adjudication Service (PATROL)	1	Dray	1 & 3

South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (Non Executive rep)	1	Falp	1
Chase Meadow Community Centre	1	Rosu	4
Warwickshire Local Council's Climate Emergency Partnership*	2	Kennedy Kohler	3
Total	11		

*Asked that one of the two seats is the PH for Climate Change

*Evaluation Criteria Key:

Council agreed criteria:

1. A body or partnership to which the Council provides significant financial contribution;
2. An established Council partnership with agreements in place;
3. A body or partnership to which the Council is obliged to appoint a Member;
4. A body or partnership which relates to the management of an asset of the Council;
or
5. Appointments made at the discretion of the Council.

Additional Criteria used by the Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer:

6. Does the body play a significant role in local service delivery; or
7. Does the body have significant influence on local or national policy.