

# WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 September 2013, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.15pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Davies (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Cross, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Ms Dean, Edwards, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Mrs Sawdon, Shilton, Mrs Syson, Vincett, Weber, Ms Weed, Wilkinson, Williams and Wreford-Bush.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boad, Brookes, Dagg, Dhillon, Doody, Mrs Falp, Heath, Kinson, Kirton and Rhead.

## 38. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 39. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 26 June and 21 August 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 40. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman led a minute's silence in respect of two members of a family from Leamington who had been killed in the terrorist attack on a Kenyan shopping centre.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Ray Tomkinson who was one of the Independent Persons for the Council.

The Chairman reminded Councillors about the Dogs for Disabled event at the Town Hall on the evening of 5 October 2013.

The Chairman reminded all Councillors about the wine tasting event in aid of his charities on 22 November 2013.

The Chairman informed Council that there would be no business under items; 6, Public Interest Debate; 8, notices of motion; 9, public submissions; 10, Questions to Committee Chairmen; and 11, Questions to Portfolio Holders.

## 41. **PAST CHAIRMAN'S CONSORT AND CHAIRMAN'S CHAPLAIN**

Mrs Kinson was unable to attend and therefore this would now be presented in private. The Chaplain had his badge presented in private before the meeting, at his request.

## 42. **PETITION**

The Council received a petition, sponsored by Councillor Gifford, called "Warwick District Council: Don't use Victoria Park as a car park and caravan site".

The petition set out that the Council planned to allow up to 350 cars and 30 caravans into the park for 36 days between the third week of July and the first week of September every year during the National Bowls Championships.

The petition called on the Council to work with Bowls England to agree alternative, more suitable spaces for both cars and caravans which met the needs of those attending the championships without compromising the needs of park users.

Mr Adams spoke in support of the petition.

**RESOLVED** that the petition be referred to the Executive for investigation and report back to Council on their decision.

#### 43. **LEADERS AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS STATEMENTS**

(a) The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Councillor Cross made two statements.

The first statement updated Council on the 2 year Forbes Estate Community IMPACT Project which commenced in March this year and would run until 31 March 2015. It was being delivered by Sky Blues in the Community. They had developed the 'IMPACT' project to promote sport and physical arts to the residents of the Forbes Estate and immediate surrounding area.

The priorities of the project were to improve cardio vascular fitness and physical competencies and increase activity levels through involvement in sport and Arts activities to a wide range of participants from children aged 2 years, right through to an older people's group for those aged over 60.

At the end of August, 185 sessions and over 3,700 hours of activities had been delivered. This had involved a total 522 people between 2 and 70 years of age taking part in activities.

There were a wide range of free or heavily subsidised activities taking place each week which included:

- football and multisport sessions for young people three evenings each week;
- women's circuit training;
- mothers and early years (children aged 2-4) activity sessions;
- older people's activities including 3 hour sessions of exercise, lunch and crafts;
- Saturday clubs and holiday camps; and
- boxing, street dancing, archery, tennis, dodgeball, Yoga and Pilates.

There were at least 12 activity sessions taking place each week - right in the heart of the local area.

One full time and several part time people had been employed on the project, all of whom were Warwick District residents.

As well as offering all of these sessions, the project also looked to work with local venues, clubs and organisations and promote volunteering amongst local people.

So far activities had taken place at venues in the Forbes Estate including

- Warwick Sports Club, ABC Jackie Turpin Boxing Gym;
- Aylesford School, Westgate and Newburgh Primary Schools;

- Newburgh and Westgate Children’s Centre;
- Warwick Show Band;
- St Pauls Church and the New Life Church; and
- Playbox Theatre.

This means that funding was being put back into the local community through hiring their community venues.

Key partners in the project to date included:

- the Gap Community Centre;
- the New Life Church;
- Westgate and Newburgh Children’s Centre;
- local sports clubs, coaches and instructors; and
- a number of local residents who had got very involved in supporting the project and helping to spread the word amongst local people.

The Plans for the next 6 months included:

- consult with local people about activities and continue to refresh the scheme;
- include more dance and physical arts activities within the timetable;
- implement training and development for local people; and
- look in more detail at the sustaining elements of the programme beyond our 2 year period of funding.

The second statement informed Councillors that they would be receiving an invitation to an open day at the Leamington Art Gallery and Museum on 10 October following its biannual picture hang. The store rooms and behind scenes would also be open to visitors.

- (b) The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Shilton, made two statements:

The first statement offered congratulations to both Warwick and Royal Leamington Spa who had won Britain in Bloom gold medals.

The second outlined a new initiative with student unions to look at university students becoming a greater part of the community through specific projects two or three times a year. These projects could include clearing up and helping to rejuvenate areas within Leamington.

- (c) The Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Protection, Councillor Coker made three announcements.

The first provided feedback on the latest “your town your choice” operation in Leamington Spa, specifically targeting new students within the town. Following the format of previous events this was a multi-agency project involving Council staff, the Police, street pastors and street marshalls.

Secondly he highlighted how well the health agenda was being brought forward not only in the District but across the County and how it had shown how well agencies could work together to help the community overall.

Finally he thanked all members of staff for their professionalism and work in bringing together the Environmental Health and Community Protection Service Areas.

44. **QUESTIONS FOR THE LEADER**

In the absence of the Leader the questions were responded to by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Caborn.

- (a) Councillor John Barrott asked the Deputy Leader if he felt it was fair to the electors that both Councillor Dagg and Councillor Williams continued to be Councillors, although neither lived nor worked within the District?

Councillor Caborn responded explaining that it was perfectly lawful for them to continue to be District Councillors and copies of this advice would be circulated to all Councillors.

The Chairman permitted Councillor Williams to speak as a personal point of clarification. Councillor Williams said that in his opinion it was no shock or surprise that the two youngest Councillors were being attacked. He didn't feel that the Council accommodated young people very well. He had lived in Warwick all his life and would continue to represent people until the end of term.

- (b) Councillor Barrott asked the Deputy Leader if he had seen the statement from Councillor Mrs Grainger on her twitter account seeking support for a petition against the local plan, and surely this was predetermination of the matter by Councillor Mrs Grainger?

Councillor Caborn responded explaining that he was aware of the tweet and that he would discuss this with the Monitoring Officer and Councillor Mrs Grainger.

- (c) Councillor Weber asked the Deputy Leader that, in his opinion, was Warwick District Council a friendly and supportive Council, because in the opinion of Councillor Weber he had always found this to be the case even though he worked outside the District?

Councillor Caborn responded agreeing that he felt one of the greatest strengths of the Council was that it was a friendly and respectful Council.

45. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The reports of the Executive meetings of 19 June, 10 July, 7 August and minute 53 of 11 September 2013 were proposed by Councillor Caborn, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report be approved.

46. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12**

The Council received a report from Finance and the minutes from the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee of 25 September 2013.

**RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for 2011/12 be approved.

#### 47. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

It was proposed by Councillor Caborn, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the political composition of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee of 6 Conservatives, 4 Liberal Democrats, 3 Labour and 2 Independents, to maintain the balance of power with the opposition Groups, be approved;
- (2) the Committee membership changes from the Labour Group, as set out below, be approved;
  - (a) replace Councillor Barrott on Employment Committee with Councillor Mrs Knight;
  - (b) replace Councillor Mrs Knight as a substitute for Employment Committee with Councillor Barrott;
  - (c) in respect of (1) above to remove Councillor Gill on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and
  - (d) appoint Councillor Gill as a substitute for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- (3) the changes to Committee membership from the Conservative Group, as set out below, be approved;
  - (a) replace Councillor Mrs Bromley on Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee with Councillor Pratt;
  - (b) remove Councillor Mrs Mellor on the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee and leave it as a conservative vacancy on the Committee;
  - (c) replace Councillor Dhillon on Overview & Scrutiny Committee with Councillor Illingworth;
  - (d) replace Councillor Mrs Bromley on the Housing Appeals Review Panel with Councillor Doody;
  - (e) remove Councillor Pratt as a substitute for Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee;
  - (f) remove Councillor Illingworth as substitute for Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
  - (g) remove Councillor Dhillon as a named substitute on Regulatory Committee, Licensing Committee, Employment Committee and Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee;
  - (h) remove Councillor Mrs Bromley as named substitute for Planning Committee, Regulatory Committee, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and Employment Committee;
  - (i) remove Councillor Mrs Mellor as a named substitute for Employment Committee, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and Regulatory Committee;
  - (j) remove Councillor Mrs Bromley and Councillor Mrs Mellor from the Licensing Committee as Conservative representatives;
  - (k) leave a Conservative vacancy on the Licensing Committee; and
  - (l) remove Councillor Mrs Mellor, as Conservative representative, from the Housing Appeals Review Panel;

- (4) the changes to the Committee membership from the Independent Group; as set out below, be approved;
  - (a) in respect of (1) to appoint Councillor Mrs Bromley on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
  - (b) appoint Councillor Mrs Mellor to the Housing Appeals Review Panel;
  - (c) replace Councillor MacKay on the Housing Appeals Review Panel with Councillor Mrs Bromley;
  - (d) replace Councillor Heath on the Licensing Committee with Councillor Mrs Bromley;
  - (e) appoint Councillor Mrs Mellor to the Licensing Committee;
  - (f) appoint Councillor Heath as a substitute for the Licensing Committee;
  - (g) appoint Councillor Kirton as the substitute for the Independent Group for Standards Committee;
  - (h) appoint Councillor Mrs Bromley as a substitute for the Independent Group on Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, Employment Committee, Planning Committee and Regulatory Committee; and
  - (i) appoint Councillor Mrs Mellor as a substitute for the Independent Group for Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee; Employment Committee, Planning Committee and Regulatory Committee.

48. **APOLOGY FROM COUNCILLOR DHILLON**

In the absence of Councillor Dhillon the matter was deferred to the 23 October 2013 Council meeting.

49. **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

50. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The confidential report of the Executive meetings of 19 June, 10 July and 7 August 2013 was proposed by Councillor Caborn, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the reports be approved.

51. **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 7.01 pm)

CHAIRMAN  
23 October 2013