

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 November 2008, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Britland, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Crowther, Ms Dean, Malcolm Doody, Michael Doody, Edwards, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Guest, Hammon, Harris, Hatfield, Heath, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, MacKay, Mrs McFarland, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs, Pratt, Rhead, Mrs Sawdon, Shilton, Mrs Tyrrell, Vincett, Weed, White.

567. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davies, De-Lara-Bond, Dhillon, Kirton, Mrs Knight, Pittarello and Mrs Scarrott.

568. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 8 October 2008, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

569. **PRESENTATION**

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman welcomed Simeon Packard of Cultural Services, who was attending to give a presentation on the Council's new Play Strategy.

Following the presentation and time for questions, the Chairman thanked Mr Packard for his informative and interesting presentation.

570. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (A) The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Nigel Bishop (Bereavement and Special Projects Manager) and Jackie Webb (Acting Waste Services Manager) who would be retiring from the Council's employment on 31 December 2008. The respective Portfolio Holders, Councillors Kinson and White, referred to their long and distinguished service to the Council and wished them a happy and healthy retirement.
- (B) The Chairman referred to the visit which had been undertaken by Mr Eric Moosa, Senior Environmental Health Officer of Bo Council, Sierra Leone, who would be returning home on 7 December 2008. Mr Moosa had been in the UK for three months on a Commonwealth Fellowship scheme organised through the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. The Chairman congratulated him on successfully completing the fellowship programme and wished him well for his return to Bo.
- (C) The Chairman referred to the recent death of former Councillor Ken Rawnsley and paid tribute to his services to the Council as a founder member.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

- (D) The Chairman expressed sympathy on behalf of the Council to Councillor Mrs Bunker on the recent death of her husband.
- (E) The Chairman reported that the recent Race Night had raised a total of £794 in aid of her charities.
- (F) The Chairman referred to the charity Christmas Concert which would be held in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa on 6 December 2008 and encouraged as many as possible to attend.

571. MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS

Councillor B Gill presented a petition on behalf of residents of Windmill Road and Richards Grove, Royal Leamington Spa requesting new play equipment for the Windmill Road play area.

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

RESOLVED that the petition be referred to the Executive.

572. EXECUTVE

It was moved by Councillor Michael Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Executive dated 29 September and 15 October 2008, be approved and adopted.

573. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Gifford, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 24 September and 14 October 2008, be approved and adopted.

574. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs McFarland, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Standards Committee dated 25 September 2008, be approved and adopted.

575. MEMBER/TRADES UNIONS JOINT CONSULTATION AND SAFETY PANEL

It was moved by Councillor Barrott duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Member/Trades Unions Joint Consultation and Safety Panel dated 1 October 2008, be approved and adopted.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

576. AUDIT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Ms Dean, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee dated 14 October 2008, be approved and adopted.

577. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Coker, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Employment Committee, dated 15 October 2008, be approved and adopted.

578. REGULATORY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Gallagher, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Regulatory Committee dated 10 November 2008, be approved and adopted.

579. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor MacKay, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Planning Committee dated 7 and 29 October 2008, be approved and adopted.

580. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) It was moved by Councillor G Illingworth and duly seconded that:

“This Council supports the Phase 2 Draft Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy agreed between the various local authorities in the area and condemns the attempt by the Government through the recently published Nathaniel Lichfield Report to increase the threat to the Green Belt around Coventry and to much open countryside in this District”.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5(6) it was moved and seconded that the motion proposed by Councillor Illingworth be considered at the meeting.

On this being put to the meeting, it was declared carried.

First Amendment:

It was moved by Councillor Boad, and duly seconded that the motion be amended to read:

“Recognising that this Council submitted its response to the Phase 2 Draft Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy in July, we believe that Regional Housing Targets are an inadequate mechanism for delivering the appropriate numbers, mix or distribution of housing to meet local needs.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

This Council believes that targets based on local housing needs assessments and consultation with local communities would be a far better way forward for meeting any identified local housing need and the subsequent impact on employment opportunities and infrastructure, either by single authorities or clusters of authorities. A “bottom up” rather than the imposed “top down” approach favoured by this government.

Further, this Council believes that the recently published Nathaniel Lichfield Report, commissioned by the Government, is fatally flawed in that it is market driven ignoring the principles of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the distribution of housing, does not take into account its impact on the infrastructure, employment opportunities, or location. We believe that this report, if it finds support at the Examination in Public of the Regional Spatial Strategy, will have significantly increased the threat to the Green Belt around Coventry and to much of the open countryside in this district”.

On this being put to the meeting, it was declared lost.

Second Amendment:

It was moved by Councillor Barrott and duly seconded that the motion be amended to read:

“This Council supports the Phase 2 Draft Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy agreed between the various local authorities in the area and notes the Government’s concern that insufficient provision may have been made to meet the housing needs of the region up to 2026 and the Nathaniel Litchfield Partners Study commissioned to assess potential for making higher housing provision. The Council shares the Government’s objective that all our people should be able to access decent housing whilst also being concerned to maintain and enhance the environment of the District for present and future residents.”

On this being put to the meeting, it was declared lost.

The original motion was then put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, was declared carried.

581. 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 8.30 pm)

CHAIRMAN
14 January 2009