

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 January 2000 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Compton (Chairman); Councillors Attwood, Aujla, Mrs Begg, Boad, Mrs Boad, Butler, Byrd, Caborn, Mrs Clayton, Cleaver, Cockburn, Coker, Copping, Crowther, Darmody, Davis, Dove, Dray, Mrs Evans, Evans, Ms Flanagan, Gifford, Gill, Golby, Mrs Goode, Guest, Hammon, Harris, Mrs Hodgetts, Kent, Kirton, Kohler, Mrs Leddy, MacKay, Mrs Pavier, Shilton, Short, Talbot, Tamlin, Thomas, Wooller.

528. **PRAYER**

In the absence of the Chairman's Chaplain, a prayer was offered by Councillor Attwood.

529. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Doody and Mrs Edwards.

530. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 November 1999, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

531. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(A) The Chairman referred to the firework display which formed part of the Millennium celebrations on 31 December 1999, and offered congratulations to all those who had been involved in the organisation of the event.

(B) On behalf of the Council, the Chairman expressed sincere condolences to Miss Janie Barrett, Chief Executive, following the recent death of her father.

532. **QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 7(2)**

(A) From Councillor R Crowther to Chair of the Leisure Committee:-

“Does the Chair of the Leisure Committee recognise that the facility to purchase light refreshments in Jephson Gardens has been sorely missed since the unfortunate closure of the Riverside Cafe? In the implementation of the exciting programme of restoration and development of the Gardens, can the provision of a refreshment facility be timetabled as soon as possible? How soon could it be achieved?”

Councillor Ms C Flanagan, Chair of the Leisure Committee, replied:-

“Can I thank my colleague, Councillor Crowther for raising this issue, which I am sure is one that many members of the public have also asked. I will be pleased to reply to this question, which on the face of it looks quite straight forward and simple, but in reality, like so many issues, is far more complex.

Councillor Crowther is quite correct that the opportunity to buy light refreshments in the Jephson Gardens was sorely missed last year, but I hope you will agree with me when you have seen my reply that the potential gains for the district outweigh the disadvantages of not having catering there last year (although this was offset by the opening of the cafeteria in the Royal Pump Rooms and the ice cream vans at the Newbold Terrace entrance. In the first instance, the damaged Riverside Restaurant became part of a complex insurance claim which involved the existing franchisee of the Riverside Restaurant. It was contractually impossible for the council to provide a service whilst this contract was in existence, and it was equally difficult to get the situation resolved whilst the three-way negotiations between the council, the franchisee and the insurance company continued about the insurance implications of the flood damage (particularly as the sum of money concerned was by no means an insubstantial one). The situation has now been happily resolved and the authority will be in a position to provide a minimal refreshment service in the gardens in the short term until the new catering facilities can be completed, if that is what the council require.

Many members of the public will also wonder why the Riverside Restaurant has not yet been removed, and this brings us on to the second part of the question.

Unfortunately, the negotiations with the lottery commission have been long and complicated. However, when one is talking about nearly £3 million of public money going into a £4.3 million project, it is understandable. It is absolutely vital that all the contractual requirements of the lottery board are met, and this categorically forbids any start on any aspect of the project until the final terms have been agreed. This is not a negotiable situation, and hence, it has not been possible to do anything with the Riverside Restaurant. I am happy to report that these negotiations, which have also been most complex, are now at an end and it is possible to proceed with the project in the foreseeable future. Several aspects of the work are currently out to tender, and it is likely that the general public will see a start on the project around about June of this year. Although there have been delays, can I confirm to all the Members that the end date will remain as was already envisaged - Spring 2002. As far as Councillor Crowther's specific question is concerned, it is hoped that work on the aviary (which will sell ice cream and light refreshments) will commence in Autumn 2000 and will be finished by May 2001, and will hopefully be in operation for June of that year. The biggest project, the restaurant and temperate house, is scheduled to begin in late Autumn 2000 with a view to completing that particular contract by September 2001.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

If this is the case, it will be expected to be operational by Autumn 2001. In view of the obvious interest in this subject, I have arranged for the Head of Leisure to circulate the notes that accompanied the briefing of the Leisure Spokespersons in November which will hopefully be helpful to Members. Members will also note that a newsletter will shortly be produced on the scheme, which will be available to the general public, and there will also be information available on the project throughout its life from the South Lodge.

I hope that this adequately covers Councillor Crowther's question."

In a supplementary question, Councillor Crowther asked the Vice-Chair (the Chair of the Committee being absent):-

"The last sentence in the second paragraph of the answer seems to open up the opportunity for a temporary arrangement to be put in place for the coming Spring and Summer season. Will this opportunity be taken up so that a cup of tea will be available for visitors during the Spring and Summer?"

In reply, Councillor Darmody, Vice-Chair, said:-

"We hope to arrange some kind of mobile unit that could provide tea, crisps, coke and so forth before the start of the Summer season".

533. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) It was moved by Councillor W L Gifford, and duly seconded:-

"Given the architectural and his historical importance of the Regent Hotel planning application and the considerable public concern, this Council calls upon the Secretary of State DETR to call it in for a Public Inquiry".

In accordance with Standing Order 5(5) it was moved and seconded that the motion proposed by Councillor Gifford be considered at the meeting.

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

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

534. STRATEGY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Dove, and duly seconded and

RESOLVED that

- (1) the reports of the meetings of the Strategy Committee dated 4 November, and 6 and 15 December 1999, be approved and adopted; and

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

- (2) that in Minute 3 of Appendix J (Economic and Community Development Sub-Committee), the declarations of interest recorded from Councillors Attwood, Mrs Boad and Guest be amended to read non-pecuniary, substantial.

535. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Crowther and duly seconded that the report of the Development Committee dated 15 November 1999, be approved and adopted.

(A) Stoneleigh Deer Park (440)

First It was moved by Councillor MacKay and duly seconded that the Amendment: the recommendations set out in Minute 440 be referred back for further consideration.

On a vote being taken, the amendment was declared lost.

(B) Public Speaking At Plans Sub-Committee (442)

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Boad that the recommendations set out in Minute 442 be deleted and the following inserted:-

"that the officers be asked to report back on a draft scheme of arrangements allowing the public to speak at the Plans Sub-Committee".

On a vote being taken, the amendment was declared lost.

(C) Adoption of Report

The original motion was then put to the meeting and declared carried.

536. LEISURE COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Ms Flanagan, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Leisure Committee dated 16 November 1999, be approved and adopted.

537. HEALTH AND CONTROL COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Attwood, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Health and Control Committee dated 17 November 1999, be approved and adopted.

538. HOUSING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Byrd, duly seconded and

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

RESOLVED that the report of the Housing Committee dated 24 November 1999, be approved and adopted.

539. **CONTRACT SERVICES BOARD**

It was moved by Councillor Attwood, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Contract Services Board dated 1 December 1999, be approved and adopted.

540. **PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Tamlin, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the meetings of the Plans Sub-Committee dated 8 and 29 November 1999, be approved and adopted.

541. **SECTION 92, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In addition to Members who had already disclosed their interest in the appropriate Committee and Sub-Committee Minutes the following declared their interest in respect of the Minutes set out in columns (1) and (2) below and, when the Minutes were discussed by the Council, took no part in the discussion and did not vote.

(Those shown with * indicate Members who left the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion.)

<u>Minute</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Person declaring interest</u>
488	Notice of Motion	Councillor Wooller * (pecuniary)
525	Appendix J - Economic and Community Development Sub-Committee - Minute 3 - Service Level Agreement with South Warwickshire Tourism Ltd	Councillor Mrs Boad* (non pecuniary, substantial)
527	Royal Priors, Royal Leamington Spa	Councillor Kohler* (pecuniary)

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

542. **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 8.40 p.m)

CHAIRMAN

\\MINS\CM5-1