

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2017, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Boad (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Bromley, Mrs Bunker, Butler, Cain, Mrs Cain, Cooke, D'Arcy, Davies, Davison, Day, Doody, Edgington, Mrs Evetts, Mrs Falp, Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Miss Grainger, Grainger, Heath, Hill, Howe, Illingworth, Mrs Knight, Margrave, Mobbs, Morris, Murphy, Naimo, Noone, Parkins, Phillips, Quinney, Mrs Redford, Shilton, Mrs Stevens, Thompson and Weed.

32. **Recording of the Meeting**

At the start of the meeting the Chairman proposed that considering the importance of the issues to be considered at the meeting including the public interest in them, it would be appropriate that the meeting should be recorded, as set out within Council Procedure Rule 33.

This was duly seconded and

Resolved that the meeting of Council on 20 September 2017 be recorded.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he would be taking the agenda in an amended order so that after apologies for absence and declarations of interest he would take Public Submissions followed by the Local Plan Adoption.

33. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrott, Coker, Cross and Whiting.

34. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

35. **Public Submissions**

The Chairman informed Council that he had agreed to permit the five registered speakers to address the Council for up to four minutes each. Whilst he was mindful that each wanted to address regarding the Local Plan Adoption, each wished to outline concerns about different aspects of the Plan.

The following addressed the Council regarding the Local Plan Adoption:

- Mr P Langley from CPRE;
- Mr R Flyer;
- Councillor R Davies from Finham Parish Council;
- Councillor A Taylor from Burton Green Parish Council; and
- Mr Kirby.

36. **Local Plan Adoption**

The Executive considered a report that sought to adopt the Local Plan 2011 – 2029, for Warwick District, subject to the Main Modifications put forward by the Inspector in his report, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, and encompassing a number of minor modifications set out in Appendix 3, to the report. The report also sought agreement to adopt the Policies Map to accompany the Local Plan as shown in Appendix 4, to the report.

The recommendations in the report were proposed and duly seconded.

At the request of the Chairman, the Chief Executive reminded Members that the decision to be taken was either to adopt the Local Plan or not to adopt the Plan and the risk associated with these decisions. There was not an option to accept part of the proposed plan.

Councillors; Grainger, Cooke, Mrs Bunker, Thompson, Gifford, Davison, Doody, Illingworth, Mrs Redford, Morris, Heath, Quinney, Mobbs and Rhead.

Resolved that the

- (1) Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029 is adopted in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and that this Local Plan supersedes the earlier policies as set out in Appendix C of the report, of the Schedule of Main Modifications;
- (2) adopted Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029 is the Submitted Local Plan - 28 January 2015 (as shown in Appendix 1 to the report) as amended by:
 - a) the schedule of Main Modifications recommended by the Local Plan's Inspector as set out at Appendix 2 to the report; and
 - b) the schedule of minor modifications as set out Appendix 3 to the report;
- (3) adoption statement and the final sustainability appraisal report is issued on or before Friday 29 September 2017 in accordance with regulations 17 and 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 (as amended);
- (4) authority is delegated to the Head of Development Services to make minor modifications to the Plan prior to it being published, where these modifications are confined to the correction of typographical errors, amendments to policy or paragraph reference numbers, and consequential cross referencing; and
- (5) Policies Map is amended, in accordance with Appendix 4 to the report, to reflect the new Local Plan 2011-2029.

37. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 August 2017 were taken as read and were duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38. **Communications & Announcements**

The Chairman offered Councillor Hayley Grainger the congratulations and best wishes for the future following her wedding earlier in the month.

The Chairman informed Council that there was no business to be conducted under Item 5 Petitions.

39. **Notices of Motion**

- (1) Councillor Quinney proposed, and it was duly seconded that the Council ring fences the remaining Right to Buy receipts held on reserve in the general fund solely for investment in new affordable and social housing.

Councillors Quinney, Bromley, Gifford, Grainger, Butler and Phillips spoke on this item.

On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

- (2) Councillor Quinney proposed and it was duly seconded that the Council should offer overnight accommodation to rough sleepers for every night once the temperature is predicted to drop to zero or below.

Councillor Naimo proposed an amendment to the Motion, that was duly seconded so that it read:

“that the Council recommends to the Executive that it should offer overnight accommodation to rough sleepers for every night once the temperature is predicted to drop to zero or below.”

Councillor Phillips asked the proposer of the amendment that it be amended so that in referring the matter to the Executive, the Council also asked for a report on the matter. This was accepted by the proposer and seconder. The Motion was therefore revised to read:

“That the Council asks officers to bring a report to the Executive for them to consider offering overnight accommodation to rough sleepers for every night once the temperature is predicted to drop to zero or below”.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried to become the substantive motion, for which there was no debate. It was therefore put to the vote and

Resolved that officers bring a report to the Executive for them to consider offering overnight accommodation to rough sleepers for every night once the temperature is predicted to drop to zero or below.

40. **Leader's and Portfolio Holders' Statements**

The Leader informed Council that Kuala Lumpur had withdrawn from the bidding process for the 2022 Commonwealth Games which left Birmingham in the key seat for delivering the Games. Officers would be looking at this opportunity with a view to bringing forward the maximum benefit for the District if the Games went to Birmingham.

The Leader informed Council that the current administration brought forward responsible plans. It was important the Council worked together and reflected the views of the community it represented. The role of opposition was easy because it could bring forward ideas without the need to consider the bigger picture. He took the opportunity to thank his colleagues on the Executive for their work including achieving savings each year without detriment to the services provided by the Council. In addition, plans had been approved to invest in services where it was required, for example pre application advice and HMOs. He reflected that when he became Leader, Jaguar Land Rover had a significant sub regional influence but no sites within Warwick District. They now had sites at Fen End, Whitley and Warwick Tech Park. There was also the investment in the District from Tata and Vitsoe. Overall high tech engineering was thriving in the District but more sites were required. The Council was leading on the Leamington Town Centre Vision along with the Creative Quarter. As a result this District was the motor of the sub-region.

The Leader informed Council that the adopted Local Plan sought to provide a balanced housing market for the District, and whilst the Council was committed to affordable housing, the challenge was finding the right position and delivering the right types. The Council was delivering affordable housing through new schemes like Sayer Court with 971 new affordable homes delivered and 1363 with permission but yet to be completed. This level of development was supported with equal investment in open spaces like the Tachbrook Country Park and Whitley South. The Council was committed to its current parks and was proud in its achievements in attaining Green Flag Status for its flagship parks. The Council was leading on investment in St Mary's Lands in Warwick, had secured funding over £1million for the Royal Pump Rooms and had appointed a Conservation Officer to work on making the historic canal network within the District a conservation area. He concluded that this administration was responsible and caring.

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Councillor Rhead, updated the Council following the recent Gypsy and Traveller briefing with Parish and Town Councils. He reminded Members that the aim was to help educate about the communities the Council was required to find a home for. The meeting had been positive and as a result a number of potential sites had been identified that had not previously been considered and these were being actively investigated. He reminded Council that there was a need to work together to resolve this.

Councillor Grainger, on behalf of Councillor Coker who was unable to attend, reminded Council that St Nicholas Park was due to reopen on Thursday 21 September 2017.

41. **Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders**

Councillor Naimo asked the Portfolio Holder for Development, if he could confirm what percentage affordable housing was expected to be delivered from

the redevelopment of the Riverside House site, because the submitted planning application was unclear?

In response to the question and supplementary question, Councillor Rhead confirmed that there would be an independent overview of the site and the matter should be one that the Council left for Planning Committee to determine without the risk of prejudicing it.

Councillor Davison asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, if, as part of the work of Warwickshire Waste Partnership to work together on the refuse and recycling contract, was work being undertaken to synchronise the end of current contracts, so that these did not make any proposal unviable?

In response to this question and a supplementary question Councillor Grainger explained that this was a major piece of work and the contracts dates were being looked at but this process was only just starting.

Councillor D'Arcy asked the Leader, if he was aware that 2018 was the 100th Anniversary of women winning the right to vote and because two leading figures in this movement Marry Louise Vellacott and Mary Dormer Harris lived in Leamington Spa, what would this District be doing to celebrate this?

In response the Leader thanked Councillor D'Arcy, agreed this was something we should look at and asked Councillor D'Arcy to send her ideas and aspirations for such an event to him, so consideration could be given as to what could be achieved.

Councillor Parkins asked the Portfolio Holder for Development what if any plans were being developed to improve sustainability and energy saving within properties in Warwick District, for example the fabric first principle?

In response Councillor Rhead explained that he and the Head of Development Services had met with a developer who had agreed to build a new show home to demonstrate that renewable energy was economically sound. The developer had concerns because in their view potential owners would struggle to get a mortgage for the additional costs. This view had been challenged by the Council which had also agreed to help market the property.

Councillor Quinney asked the Portfolio Holder for Development if the Executive would be reconsidering the refusal to adopt the minimum space policy recommended by central government in 2015, to which 60% of builds in Warwick District failed to meet?

In response Councillor Rhead replied that they would not be reconsidering this.

Councillor Quinney asked the Leader, if he could confirm that for each year since 2011 it was correct that the Council had come no closer than 50 short, of the target number of affordable houses that need to be built each year to meet the targets the Council had set itself within the Local Plan that had been adopted earlier in the evening?

In response the Leader reminded Councillor Quinney of the statement he had made earlier in the evening about the number of affordable homes that had been built in the District and would ask for officers to send round these figures to all Councillors.

Councillor Quinney asked the Leader, that because of the concerns about the level of affordable housing that would be delivered as part of the HQ relocation project, would the Executive commit to considering different options to the proposal with a view to delivering the sites as affordable house?

In response the Leader explained that it was easy for the opposition to provide ideas without consideration of the bigger picture. There would be an independent evaluation of the applications that would be determined by the Planning Committee. This was part of a significant investment in Leamington Town Centre including a new car park and HQ for the Council that would be cost neutral and result in significant revenue savings.

Councillor Mrs Falp asked the Leader if Warwick District Council would be making a budget available, as part of the budget setting process, for each town to hold events commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War in 2018?

In response the Leader confirmed that was something the Council did to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War and there should be no issue in a budget being allocated for each towns in the District to enable them to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Councillor Gifford asked the Portfolio Holder for Development if he would look into a new policy for all new housing to have electric vehicle charging points?

In response Councillor Rhead agreed that he would look into this.

Councillor Heath asked the Portfolio Holder for Development if he was aware that even if the Council had a temporary site available for Gypsies and Travellers and this was able to accommodate six-eight caravans the Police would be unable to move Gypsy and Travellers onto the site if the number of caravans was greater than the space available?

In response Councillor Rhead explained that he did not understand this to be the case but that the Police would be able to require those which could be accommodated on site to move to the site and require any remaining caravans to be move on.

Councillor Parkins asked the Leader that in light of the Local Plan decision earlier and the Notices of Motion that this showed the opposition could look at the bigger picture and the Council should put personal matters aside and work together?

In response the Leader agreed and offered Councillor Parkins the opportunity to join the Conservative Group.

Councillor Mrs Knight asked the Leader if he shared her concern that while the Council had a policy of 40% affordable housing on housing developments this was not always achieved and therefore should the Council have a Policy similar to Oxford where the aim was to achieve 60% affordable housing with a minimum level of 30%?

In response the Leader confirmed that the Council had a Policy of 40% affordable housing but this was subject to viability of each site. This was a

matter that Councillor Rhead was looking at along with the information on each case. However the Leader was mindful that Labour controlled Coventry City Council had set a level of 10% affordable housing and that the Executive cared about the community and looked to ensure a mix of housing within developments.

42. **Report of the Executive**

The reports of the Executive meetings were proposed duly second

Resolved that the Executive reports as follow, were approved:

- (1) 28 June 2017 (excluding minutes 13 to 17 that were considered by Council on 9 August 2017);
- (2) 26 July 2017 (excluding minutes 25 to 28 that were considered by Council on 9 August 2017); and
- (3) Excerpt of 31 August 2017.

43. **Review of Warwick District Council Ward Boundaries**

The Council received a report that brought forward the draft submission from this Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) regarding the size of the Council as part of the review of Warwick District Council Wards.

The Licensing & Regulatory Committee had met earlier in the afternoon to consider this report and had made the following comments:

Recommendations 2.1 – Was supported by the Committee

Recommendation 2.2a – A recommendation from the Committee that all the Council size should increase from 46 to 48 due to the increase in electorate and the retention of responsibility for services.

Recommendation 2.2b – Was agreed subject to revisions to the document to provide reasoning for the small increase which was recognised would need to be provided by Councillors.

Recommendations 2.3 to 2.6 – Were supported by the Committee.

Councillors Illingworth, Mobbs, Mrs Knight, Gifford, Quinney and Mrs Falp spoke on this item.

Resolved that

- (1) the timetable for the review of its Wards as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) the Council proposes an small increase in the number of Councillors to 48 recognising the usual tolerance of plus or minus one Councillor;
- (3) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Chairman of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee, be authorised to finalise the wording of

the submission, so long as it does not alter the proposed size of the Council;

- (4) the electorate forecasting methodology and forecast up to 2023, be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Chairman of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee;
- (5) officers make the submissions to the LGBCE as statements of fact as outlined in Paragraph 3.12 of the report; and
- (6) a report be brought to Council setting out the proposed Warding arrangements once the LGBCE has accepted the proposed size of the Council.

44. **Appointment to Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee**

It was proposed, seconded and duly

Resolved that Councillor Murphy be appointed as a member of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee.

45. **Public & 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 paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

Minute Nos.	Para Nos.	Reason
46	1	Information relating to an Individual
46	2	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
46	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

46. **Confidential Executive report**

The Chairman had agreed to the confidential report of the Executive on 31 August 2017 report being taken as an urgent item because of the need for the Council to consider an aspect of the Minute relating to Mallory Grange affordable housing to enable a proposal to proceed.

Resolved that the confidential Executive report of 31 August 2017 be approved.

45. **Common Seal**

It was

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

(The meeting ended at 8.49 pm)

Chairman
15 November 2017