

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 November 2009 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Gifford (Chair); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Coker, Copping, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Dhillon, Mrs Higgins, Mrs McFarland, Weed, White and Wilkinson.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Doody (Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership) Councillor Kirton (Portfolio Holder for Community Protection) and Andrew Mobbs (Portfolio Holder for Finance)

(Councillor Dhillon substituted for Councillor Mrs Mellor)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gill and Mrs Sawdon.

55. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 60 – (Confidential Items and Reports) – Wednesday 11 November 2009 – Management of Oakley Wood

Councillors Coker and White declared a personal interest because they were members of the Executive when Oakley Wood was purchased.

Minute number 62 – (Confidential Items and Reports) – Wednesday 11 November 2009 – Expenditure on Tourism Report

Councillor Mrs Blacklock declared a personal and prejudicial interest because she was a Director of South Warwickshire Tourism and left the room whilst the item was discussed.

56. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2009, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

57. **CCTV TASK AND FINISH GROUP – UPDATE ON THE PROGRESSIONS OF RECOMMENDATIONS.**

At a previous meeting, 20 October 2009, the Committee considered a report from Members' Services which informed the members of the progress which had been made with regard to the recommendations from the Scrutiny of CCTV Task and Finish Group. During that meeting the Committee agreed that they needed further information from the Portfolio holder for Community Protection, Councillor Kirton.

Councillor Kirton along with Councillor Doody answered questions from the Committee with regard to the implementation of the recommendations. The main discussion point was the proposed withdrawal of funding by Warwickshire Police Authority. Given the vital importance of the evidence obtained from CCTV the Committee were shocked that the Police Authority was considering

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withdrawing even the very small contribution made at the moment. The committee felt that the police who operate in our town centres do realise the importance of CCTV but sadly the Police Authority appeared less aware of the value of the evidence obtained by CCTV. There was general agreement that this was unacceptable and members indicated that they would support the Executive in any discussions to secure the funding from Warwickshire Police Authority.

(Councillors Mrs Blacklock and Mobbs arrived at the meeting during this item)

RESOLVED that the report be noted and Councillor Kirton be thanked him for attending the meeting.

(Councillors Doody and Kirton left the meeting at the conclusion of this item)

58. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the response the Executive gave to the Committees' comments on the reports submitted to the Executive on 21 October 2009.

The report was produced to create a dialogue between the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it ensured that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were formally made aware of the Executive's responses.

As part of the new scrutiny process, the Committee were no longer considering the whole of the Executive agenda.

On the publication day of the agendas for the previous meetings of the Executive and Overview & Scrutiny Committee, all Councillors were emailed asking them to contact Committee Services, by 9.00am on the day of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Tuesday 20 October 2009, to advise which Executive items they would like the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to pass comment on.

As a result the Committee considered the items as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, and the response the Executive gave was also shown.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

59. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the Committees' work programme for 2009/2010.

At the Committees' meeting on 20 October 2009, it was agreed that the reports as listed in appendix 1 to the report, would be submitted to the meeting in November 2009.

Progress with Task and Finish Groups was as follows:

- (i) Maintenance of WDC Trees Task and Finish Group – The Group will be

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Submitting their report to the December meeting of the Committee and the February meeting of the Executive.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Maintenance of WDC Trees Task and Finish Group report be submitted in December 2009.

60. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON- CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2009

Agenda Item Number 5 – Management of Oakley Wood

The Committee had major concerns that the original business case for the purchase of Oakley wood was deeply flawed. The Committee would like to see closer monitoring of the expenditure and felt the business plan should be reviewed regularly given the nature of the original report. These reviews should also consider how Oakley Wood could be used in the future.

The Committee also had concerns about the capacity of existing specialist staff who would have to take on the additional responsibilities in managing the wood in future.

61. 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

62. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2009

Agenda Item Number 10 – Expenditure on Tourism

The Committee had many concerns about the report; the main issues being that there was not a Council policy to address tourism, the benefits of tourism to the Council and who should be paying for it needed to be analysed, and was South Warwickshire Tourism the best vehicle for delivering this service?

(The meeting ended at 8.30pm)