

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10 October 2007, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Caborn (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Brickland, Mrs Bunker, Coker, Copping, Crowther, De-Lara-Bond, Ms Dean, Dhillon, Malcolm Doody, Michael Doody, Edwards, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Guest, Hammon, Harris, Hatfield, Illingworth, Kinson, Kirton, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mrs McFarland, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Mrs Sawdon, Mrs Scarrott, Shilton, Mrs Tyrrell, Vincett, Weed, White

482. PRAYER

A prayer was offered by the Chairman's Chaplain.

483. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davies, Heath, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Mellor, and Rhead.

484. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 22 August 2007, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

485. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Melvin Caulker, the Chief Executive of the City of Bo in Sierra Leone, who was visiting as an official guest of the District's One World Link. The Chairman also thanked Councillor Mrs Knight for her valuable support in fostering strong links with Bo.

On behalf of all groups on the Council, Councillor Coker also welcomed Mr Caulker to the meeting.

(B) The Chairman welcomed Mr Archie Pitts, Chairman of the Friends of Royal Leamington Spa Railway Station, together with representatives of the team of supporters. The team had recently been awarded the Best Station Garden in Britain Award 2007 and the Excellence Award presented by the Royal Horticultural Society.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated Mr Pitts and his colleagues for their notable achievements and presented the awards.

(C) The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mrs Judy Hart, Head of Business Development at Midlands Excellence, who was attending the meeting to

present the Investors in Excellence Award which had been gained by the Council as part of the EFQM Business Excellence Assessment.

Mrs Hart was then invited to make a brief presentation to the meeting about the Investors in Excellence Standard as part of the Council's commitment to continuous improvement and building on excellence.

- (D) The Chairman reminded members that his Civic Service would be held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Lapworth on Sunday, 14 October 2007 at 11 am.
- (E) The Chairman reported that a Christmas concert, in aid of his charities, would be held on Saturday 8 December 2007 in the Town Hall. He also reported that performance of the pantomime Aladdin would be held at the Royal Spa Centre on Friday 28 December 2007, also in aid of his charities.

486 **MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS**

The Council received a petition, sponsored by Councillor M Kinson, opposing the proposed closure of Warwick fire station.

RESOLVED that the petition be referred to the Executive.

487 **QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 7 (2)**

- (A) From Councillor R Edwards to Councillor M Kinson, Environment Portfolio Holder:

“How many Parking Attendants/Enforcement Officers are currently employed by Warwick District Council, and what is the target number to be employed to enable Warwick District Council to undertake effective enforcement of on-street parking as required by DPE?”

Councillor Kinson replied:

“The plan is to have an enforcement team of 30 made up of:

1 x Enforcement Team Manager
3 x Enforcement Team Supervisors; and
26 x Parking Attendants

We currently have a total of seventeen employed; we have the Supervisor and Manager posts filled and have five more Parking Attendants starting on 8 October. We are still looking for another seven Parking Attendants and are holding more interviews during week beginning 8 October to reduce this further.”

In a supplementary question, Councillor Edwards asked Councillor Kinson:

“In addition to the two months since the decriminalisation of on street parking came into place, this administration has had three months to prepare for it. So I am asking why the delay and what is going to be done about it?”

In reply, Councillor Kinson said:

“Firstly, the written answer you have was written last week and action has been going on ever since the scheme was instigated by the County Council. Although it says we have currently a total of seventeen employed, we now have a total of twenty two. This is an addition of five with two more coming by the end of October. At the end of this month we shall have a short fall of six. The reason for this shortfall is that we are looking for quality. We could have employed all sorts for this job and a lot of people do not, unfortunately, come up to scratch.

The staff doing this job are doing an excellent job. I seek them out and talk to them all the time as I go round Leamington and Warwick and this scheme has got off to a good start and it is going excellently well as the moment. We are making progress; it is not possible to wave a magic wand and bring all these people in.

I would contrast the scene at the moment with the situation which was being run by the Police service. I think we had a maximum of three traffic wardens and when they were off sick they dropped down to zero at times. The staff are doing an excellent job and we have a huge number of people out now enforcing traffic regulations and rules, when previously there was almost a vacuum. So the improvement is huge and from every quarter, despite the odd comment in the local press, the scheme is working excellently well. It will be reviewed and there may well be changes and the County Council is organising that.”

488. **EXECUTIVE**

It was moved by Councillor Coker, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the meetings of the Executive dated 10 and 18 September 2007, be approved and adopted.

489. **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Falp, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Regulatory Committee dated 15 August and 27 September 2007, be approved and adopted.

490. **AUDIT AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Knight, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Audit and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 4 September 2007, be approved and adopted.

491. **EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Boad, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 4 September 2007, be approved and adopted.

492. **CULTURE AND SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs McFarland, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Culture and Social Policy Committee dated 5 September 2007, be approved and adopted.

493. **ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Gifford, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Environment and Economic Policy Committee, dated 5 September 2007, be approved and adopted.

494. **JOINT AUDIT AND RESOURCES AND EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Knight, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the joint meeting of the Audit and Resources and Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committees, dated 17 September 2007, be approved and adopted.

495. **EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Guest, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Employment Committee, dated 18 September 2007, be approved and adopted subject to, in minute 425, reference to future reports being made on a quarterly basis being amended to on a six monthly basis.

496. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Guest, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Standards Committee dated 26 September 2007, be approved and adopted.

497. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor MacKay, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Planning Committee dated 21 August and 19 September 2007, be approved and adopted, subject to Councillor Shilton being recorded as having declared a personal interest in respect of the issues discussed in minutes 457 and 466.

498. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

(A) It was moved by Councillor Mrs M McFarland and duly seconded:

- “1. This Council views with grave concern the proposal in the County Council’s fire service review plan to close Warwick fire station.
2. We note the high household growth in the area served by the fire station together with an increase in domestic fires over the last four years underlining the folly of cutting the service to the area.
3. We also note with concern the lack of supporting evidence advanced for the proposed closure of the fire station or a clear risk assessment.
4. We, therefore, resolve to:
 - 4.1 Write to Warwickshire County Council calling for the proposal to close Warwick fire station to be dropped.
 - 4.2 Contact the County Councillors representing the Divisions within Warwick District to inform them of this Council’s opposition to the closure proposal and asking for their support.
 - 4.3 Ask the Environment & Economic Policy Committee to consider the potential impact of the proposal on residents’ safety and to keep track of developments in relation to the closure proposal.”

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

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

First amendment: It was moved by Councillor White and duly seconded that paragraph 4.3 in the motion be renumbered 4.4 and that the following additional paragraphs be inserted.

- “4.3 Write to the MP for Warwick and Leamington, to request that he urge the Government, on behalf of the residents of the District, to release the County Council from the financial pressure which requires them to consider the closure of any Fire Station within this District which might reduce the safety of its residents.
- 4.5 Write to Warwick Fire Station and add our support to that of Warwick Town Council and express our grateful thanks for their courage, dedication and commitment to the safety of our local community and to inform the Station of our actions as above.”

On the vote being taken, the amendment was declared carried.

Second amendment: It was moved by Councillor Boad and duly seconded that the motion, as amended, be further amended by the deletion of paragraph 4.1 and replaced with

- “4.1 Write to Warwickshire County Council calling on them to pursue the effective and efficient provision of the fire and rescue service for the residents of Warwickshire without resorting to closure of local fire stations including Warwick.”

Councillor White, as the mover of the amendment to the original motion, agreed to accept the further amendment and, with the agreement of the seconder, it was then put to the meeting and was declared carried.

The motion, as amended by the first and second amendments, was then put to the meeting as the substantive motion and, on a vote being taken, was declared carried.

(Councillors Caborn, Doody, Mrs Goode, Kirton and Shilton, all declared an interest in this item being members of the County Council and, took no part in the discussion or voting on it).

499. **SECTION 92, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In addition to Members who already disclosed their interest in the appropriate Committee Minutes, the following declared their interest in respect of the items set out in columns 1 and 2 below and, when the items 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>
Agenda Item 8	Notices of Motion	Councillors Caborn, Doody, Kirton, and Shilton (Personal: being members of Warwickshire County Council). *Councillor Mrs Goode (Prejudicial: being a member of Warwickshire County Council).

450. **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 7.30 pm)

CHAIRMAN