

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 23 April 2003 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Gill (Chair); Councillors Aujla, Mrs Begg, Boad, Mrs Boad, Caborn, Cockburn, Coker, Mrs Compton, Copping, Crowther, Darmody, Davis, Doody, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Evans, Evans, Ms Flanagan, Gifford, Golby, Mrs Goode, Guest, Hammon, Harris, Holland, Kent, Kirton, Kohler, Mrs Leddy, MacKay, Mrs McFarland, Shilton, Short, Talbot, Tamlin and Windybank.

991. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Butler, Byrd, Cleaver, Dove, Dray, Mrs Hodgetts, Mrs Pavier, Roberts and Thomas.

992. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2003, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair.

993. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(A) The Chair welcomed Ms Mary Hawkins who was attending her first meeting of the Council having been appointed to the position of Strategic Director.

(B) This being the final meeting of the Council before the elections on 1 May 2003, the Chair thanked the Council for the support and help that they had given to him during the past year.

(C) On behalf of the Council, the Chair thanked Councillors Aujla, Mrs Boad, Byrd, Cleaver, Darmody, Dove, Dray, Mrs Evans, Kent, Kohler, Mrs Leddy, Mrs Pavier, Roberts, Talbot and Thomas who were not seeking re-election on 1 May 2003, for their services to the Council.

Councillors Crowther, Mrs Begg, Hammon and Kirton then spoke in turn paying tribute to the dedication and service given by the retiring Councillors and expressed their best wishes to them for the future.

In response, Councillor Mrs Boad thanked members for their best wishes.

994. **QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 7(2)**

(A) From Councillor G Darmody to the Leader of the Executive:-

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

“What cost has the Council, and therefore the Council tax payers, been put to because of the judicial review sought on behalf of CLARA into the planning decision on the Regent Hotel? What were the Council’s legal costs? What was the cost of officers time devoted to this?”

Councillor R Crowther, Leader of the Executive, replied:-

“The Council’s London agents, Sharpe Pritchard, advise that the legal costs of the case amount to approximately £30,000. This covers case preparation, a half-day preliminary hearing in the High Court and a further two full days hearing on 14 and 17 February 2003. As well as Sharpe’s fees, there are the fees of Senior and Junior Counsel, John Steel Q.C. and Robert White respectively. There is also an element to cover the Legal Services Manager’s time. Not include in this sum is the cost of time spent by John Archer, Head of Planning and Engineering. This is estimated at approximately £2,400. A grant total in the region of £32,400.”

In a supplementary question, Councillor Darmody asked the Leader:-

“As an elected member for Central Leamington could I ask the Leader what plans are in hand to recover this money”.

In reply, Councillor Crowther said:-

“The Council has put in an application to seek legal costs in the case”.

995. THE EXECUTIVE

It was moved by Councillor Crowther, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Executive meetings held on 10 March and 7 April 2003, be approved and adopted.

996. REGULATORY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Shilton, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Regulatory Committee dated 20 February, 5 and 18 March and 8 April 2003, be approved and adopted.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

997. AUDIT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Caborn, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Audit and Resources Committee dated 4 March and 1 April 2003, be approved and adopted, with particular thanks to Councillor Mrs Evans for her contribution to the work of the Committee.

998. COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Community Scrutiny Committee dated 4 March and 1 April 2003, be approved and adopted with particular thanks to Councillor Byrd for his contribution to the work of the Committee with regard to housing matters.

999. ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Compton, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Environment Scrutiny Committee dated 4 March and 1 April 2003, be approved and adopted.

1000. MEMBERS/TRADE UNIONS JOINT CONSULTATION AND SAFETY PANEL

It was moved by Councillor Crowther, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Members/Trade Unions Joint Consultation and Safety Panel, dated 19 March 2003, be approved and adopted.

1001. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Boad, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report of the Standards Committee dated 19 March 2003, be approved and adopted; and
- (2) the appointment of Mrs Elizabeth Burrige as a member of the Committee, and Mrs Gloria Douglas as the substitute member, be approved with immediate effect with the initial term of office to expire on 1 May 2005.

1002. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Crowther, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Employment Committee dated 9 April 2003, be approved and adopted.

1003. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor MacKay, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Planning Committee dated 17 February, 12 March and 2 April 2003, be approved and adopted.

1004. SECTION 92, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In addition to members who had already disclosed their interest in the appropriate 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 with * indicate members who left the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion).

<u>Minute</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Person Declaring Interest</u>
975(A)	Grants to Voluntary Organisations	Councillor Mrs Compton* (Personal and Prejudicial) Councillor Doody* (Personal and Prejudicial)
979	Lease Agreement - Marlborough House for South Warwickshire Tourism	Councillor Boad* (Personal and Prejudicial)

1005. 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 7.00 pm)

CHAIR