

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held of Wednesday 20 August 2008, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Britland, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Crowther, Davies, De-Lara-Bond, Ms Dean, Michael Doody, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Harris, Hatfield, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, Kirton, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mrs McFarland, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Mrs Sawdon, Mrs Scarrott, Shilton, Mrs Tyrell, Vincett, and Weed.

317. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boad, Dhillon, Malcolm Doody, Guest, Heath, Read, and White.

318. **MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS**

Councillor Mrs Scarrott presented a petition regarding the Council's HomeChoice policy.

In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules, Mrs Michelle Cleaver made a presentation regarding the petition.

RESOLVED that the petition be referred to the Executive.

319. **PRESENTATION**

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman welcomed Katie Daniels who was acting as a consultant for Council for the production of the Arts Strategy, who was attending to give a presentation on the production process.

Following the presentation, the Chairman thanked Ms Daniels for her informative and interesting presentation.

320. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 9 July 2008, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman subject to, in minute 207 (Planning Committee) the Declaration of Interest made by Councillor Mrs Higgins being amended to read

"Councillor Mrs Higgins declared a personal interest because she was the owner of a property in Myton Crescent."

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

321. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The Chairman thanked all those who had been able to attend the “Cruise and Dine” event held on 3 August 2008. The event had been very successful and had raised funds in support of her charities.
- (B) The Chairman reminded members that the Annual Civic Service would be held on 28 September 2008 at St Margaret’s Church, Whitnash.
- (C) The Chairman referred to the success of the Great Britain Olympic team in the Men’s Coxless Four event. One of the team members who had won the Gold Medal was Steve Williams who had been born in Leamington Spa. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated him on his outstanding success and expressed appreciation to all other members of the team representing Great Britain who had connections with the district.
- (D) The Chairman reported that Warwick District Council had been selected as one of the top 25 Councils to work for in Britain.

The final placing in the list would not be known until 18 September but over 90 Councils had applied to be included in the list.

Inclusion was based on the results of a confidential staff survey to which 66.6% of the staff had responded. The survey covered eight factors including areas such as Leadership, Personal Growth, My Manager and My Team.

In comparison with other councils who had been included in the list, the highest ranking factor achieved was Leadership and the two highest scoring questions were:

- (a) “I am inspired by the person leading this organisation (the question related to the Chief Executive)” and
- (b) “I am excited about where this organisation is going”.

The reason for entering the competition was to provide staff with the opportunity to express how they felt about working for Warwick District Council and to compare responses with other Councils. This would then provide guidance on how improvements could be achieved.

The Chairman commented that it was an excellent achievement to have been selected for inclusion in the list of the top 25 Councils in the first year of entering.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

- (E) At the request of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Knight reported that she had just returned from an extended visit to Bo, Sierre Leone. The United Nations Development Programme had awarded £150,000 to help finance the provision of equipment for use as part of Bo's waste management programme. In addition, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum had allocated £40,000 to meet the costs of travel and partnerships in connection with this programme over the next three years. Also, a fellowship had been secured for Bo's Chief Environmental Health Officer to visit Britain in September for three months.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs Knight for presenting this information.

322. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PRECEDURES RULES 7(2)

- (A) From Councillor J Barrott to Councillor M Kinson, Environment Portfolio Holder:

"At the end of each academic year large amounts of waste are put out predominately by students when they finish at University or College and have a big clear-out as they vacate their accommodation in Leamington and other parts of the District. As this does not coincide with normal collection days, large piles of waste are dumped on pavements and in alleyways, cause anger and distress to local residents, degrading the environment and attracting adverse publicity to the District and there is a danger of the waste being uncollected for up to a fortnight.

What arrangements are currently in place to deal with this annual problem?"

Councillor Kinson replied:

"This is an annual occurrence which is dealt with separately from the scheduled refuse collection due to the volume of material that is put out, initially by students when vacating their rented properties and then by landlords following refurbishment of those properties.

The location of most of the student properties is historically known and checks are made with private sector housing regarding any additional houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) which may be occupied by students.

Special collections are arranged during the week following the departure of the students, traditionally around the last weekend of June. This year collections took place over two days and some 6 tonnes of rubbish were removed at a cost to the Council of just under £800.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

At the start of the academic year in September 2007, students in Brunswick ward received a 'Welcome' Pack courtesy of Councillor Britland which gave, amongst other notices, information on refuse and recycling collections for the area. This is an idea that Waste Services are developing further in consultation with both Warwick and Coventry Universities, Warwickshire College and local landlords.

Waste Services now have an Education and Awareness Officer who will be talking to bodies such as the Students' Union to ensure that newcomers to the area fully understand the Council's refuse and recycling scheme and participate in it during their time in the District and to student households to introduce them to the need to recycle and minimise their waste and to landlords to ensure that they understand the need to inform their tenants.

However it is unlikely to prevent the large accumulations which may still continue to appear at the end of the academic year since these are usually the result of a clearout of the property in its entirety rather than a weekly accumulation of household waste. With greater knowledge of locations we can mount a publicity campaign prior to the end of term to ensure that the impact on the environment is reduced.

Educating students to leave their waste within the confines of each property rather than on the pavements should reduce the visual impact on the surrounding environment which causes distress and annoyance to local residents."

In a supplementary question, Councillor Barrott asked;

"I would like to thank Councillor Kinson for a very comprehensive reply to the question and I would also like to thank Jackie Webb and the Waste Management Team for the way that they react to this yearly problem. I am pleased that within Councillor Kinson's answer that the initiative that Councillor Britland instigated last year within the Brunswick Ward has been recognised and also the inclusion of other stakeholders within this process. I would urge Councillor Kinson to take the proposal outlined in his answer further so that it will make this Council proactive rather than active every 12 months"

In reply, Councillor Kinson said:

"We are going to be proactive very certainly. Though this is a continuing problem, particularly in Leamington, but also in the other areas in the District in which the students live, we also now have an officer who has time to go out to make contact with students and landlords. New red boxes and recycling bags will be issued. It is a question of education and, as these people are educated, they will take note of the message and co-operate with us and so we will not have this annual problem. It has been drawn my attention that alot of the problems are caused by the landlords when they refurbish the accommodation. We will be monitoring the situation to help to make sure that it does not happen again or at least is under control."

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

323. EXECUTVE

It was moved by Councillor Michael Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Executive dated 23 July 2008 be approved and adopted subject to the calling in procedure applicable to minutes 277 and 280 (d).

324. REGULATORY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Gallagher, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of Regulatory Committee dated 1 and 28 July 2008, be approved and adopted.

325. AUDIT AND RESOURCES SCUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Knight, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee dated 15 July 2008 be approved and adopted.

326. OVERVIEWS SCUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Gifford, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 15 July 2008 be approved and adopted.

327. MEMBERS/TRADES UNIONS JOINT CONSULTATION AND SAFETY PANEL

It was moved by Councillor Kirton, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Members/Trades Unions Joint Consultation and Safety Panel dated 18 July 2008, be approved and adopted.

328. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Gifford, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Standards Committee dated 29 July 2008, be approved and adopted.

329. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor MacKay, duly seconded and

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

RESOLVED that the reports of the Planning Committee dated 8 and 30 July 2008, be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:

Minute 298 – Declarations of interest

Minute 309 – 5 Reigner Place, Heathcote, Warwick: delete the declaration of interest made by Councillor Reed.

Minute 302 - Land rear of 2 Westham Lane, Barford: add

“Councillor Rhead declared a personal and prejudicial interest because the applicant was in dispute with Barford Parish Council of which Councillor Rhead was a member. Councillor Rhead withdrew from the meeting for the duration of this item.”

330. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that

- (1) Miss Judith Ratcliffe and Mr Peter Willers be appointed Independent members of the Standards Committee with Mr Clifford Bennett being appointed a Reserve Independent member of the Committee who would become a full member when the next vacancy for an Independent member arose;
- (2) the above appointments be subject to the acceptance of the appointments and to references being received to the satisfaction of the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee; and
- (3) Councillor Kinson be appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Mrs Scarrott.

331. COMMON SEAL

It was

RESOLVED that the Common Seal of Warwick District Council be affixed to such deeds and documents as maybe required for implementing decisions of the Council at this day.

(The meeting ended at 6.55pm)

CHAIRMAN
8 October 2008