

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 June 2018, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Cross (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Boad, , Mrs Bunker, Cain, Mrs Cain, Coker, Cooke, Davison, Day, Edgington, Mrs Evetts, Gifford, Gill, H Grainger, Mrs Grainger, Mrs Hill, Howe, Illingworth, Mrs Knight, Morris, Murphy, Naimo, Noone, Parkins, Phillips, Quinney, Mrs Redford, Shilton, Mrs Stevens, Thompson, Weed, Whiting and Wright.

9. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrott, Bromley, D'Arcy, Davies, Doody, Gallagher, Heath, Margrave, Mobbs and Rhead.

10. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

12. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 May 2018 were taken as read and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13. **Communications & Announcements**

The Chairman informed Council that:

- he would be expecting Councillors to stand to address the meeting in line with Council Procedure Rules;
- former Councillor Margaret Walker, Joyce Watson from the Crematorium and Marianne Sharpe from the Visitor Information Centre had all passed away since the last Council meeting;
- former Councillor Gerry Guest had been awarded an MBE in the Birthday Honours list and Councillor Coker had now collected his MBE from the Palace;
- he had attended the Kenilworth show, Women's tour, Aethelfled lady of Mercian 1100 anniversary celebration at Tamworth and a wreath laying ceremony at the Czech memorial fountain in Jephson Gardens;
- there was no business to be conducted under Item 5 Petitions and Item 7 Public Submissions.

The Vice-Chairman informed Council that he had attended a few events on behalf of the Chairman since May.

14. **Personal Statement – Councillor Boad**

The Chairman informed Council that he had agreed for Councillor Boad to make a personal statement to Council.

Councillor Boad informed Council that:

"It was brought to my attention that the Warwick and Leamington Constituency Labour Party had posted a tweet that I was named in yesterday afternoon from an un-attributable source.

I quote "it is essential that we hold Warwick District Council to account for their plans to build themselves new offices. Labour Councillors were the only ones to vote against the plans in January. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrat Alan Boad voted for the new offices." The meaning is clear implying that the vote at the Planning Committee was predetermined and taken on Party political lines, and not, as it is required to be by regulation, on the weighing up of all of the evidence presented to committee members, both in advance, and at the actual Planning Committee meeting.

By actually naming me they have cast doubts in the public mind about me which is personally damaging to both my reputation and my integrity and to raise doubts about my ability to act with impartiality and with competence.

I wish to put on the public record that there is absolutely no truth that I have ever acted in any such political way that may be implied by the tweet from the Warwick and Leamington Labour Party"

15. **Notice of Motion**

(a) Councillor Mrs Falp proposed and it was duly seconded that:

That Warwick District Council approves:

- (1) with immediate effect all meetings of Council, the Executive, Committees and sub-committees be recorded (either audio or audio and visual wherever possible), with the exceptions of (2) below;
- (2) any matter where the press and public are excluded should be recorded but not broadcast and any private deliberation by a Committee/or Sub Committee (for example the deliberations of a Licensing & Regulatory Panel) should not be recorded;
- (3) officers investigate the potential for making these meetings available on line either live or as recordings and report back their findings to Council in September 2018; and
- (4) as a minimum this Council commits to all meetings of Council, Executive, Committees and sub-committees being broadcast live (either audio or audio and visual) and recorded as soon as it relocates to its new headquarters and the associated costs of this are built into the budget for the relocation of the Council.

Councillor Coker proposed, it was duly seconded, that the motion be amended to read:

That Warwick District Council instructs officers to bring a report Executive by no later than November 2018 that details the feasibility and impact of:

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- (3) officers investigate the potential for making these meetings available on line either live or as recordings; and

- (4) all meetings of Council, Executive, Committees and sub-committees being broadcast live (either audio or audio and visual) and recorded as soon as it relocates to its new headquarters and the associated costs of this are built into the budget for the relocation of the Council.

On being put to the vote it was

Resolved officers to bring a report Executive by no later than November 2018 that details the feasibility and impact of:

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- (3) officers investigate the potential for making these meetings available on line either live or as recordings; and
- (4) all meetings of Council, Executive, Committees and sub-committees being broadcast live (either audio or audio and visual) and recorded as soon as it relocates to its new headquarters and the associated costs of this are built into the budget for the relocation of the Council.

- (b) Councillor Naimo proposed and it was duly seconded that:

Warwick District Council has always championed the fact that they are fully open and transparent with all the business it conducts. Recent events around making Planning Viability Assessments available to all Councillors and members of the public has highlighted that this is not always the case. Taking these recent events into account, the following Notice of Motion seeks members agreement that:

That Warwick District Council asks the Executive to:

- set out clear viability criteria based on market value compared with land value and construction costs;
- require viability assessments for developments of more than 10 units where less than 40% of the development is affordable housing as part of the planning process and for these to be made public; and
- require all information submitted for the viability assessment (including any which the Council agrees is commercially sensitive) to be made available to members of the planning committee and other Councillors on request, well in advance of determination of the planning decision.

and a report is brought to the Executive for them to consider on this matter.

Councillor Coker proposed an amendment, that was accepted by the proposer of the original motion and their seconder and it was

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- require all information submitted for the viability assessment (including any which the Council agrees is commercially sensitive) to be made available to members of the planning committee and other Councillors on request, well in advance of determination of the planning decision.

subject to a report brought to the Executive for them to consider on this matter so that Members are fully informed in respect of the Government's latest National Planning Policy Framework and the Planning Practice Guidance and the implications of this for Warwick District Council and the delivery of the Local Plan.

(c) The motion set out on the agenda was withdrawn.

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

Councillor Coker informed Council, on behalf of the Leader that:

- the exhibition on the plans in Royal Priors had been a useful exercise which had enabled an informed discussion and allowed for clarification of misunderstandings on the project. There had been support as well as challenge to the project with 60 written response received which would be published on the Council's website in due course;
- there had been a meeting with businesses in Covent Garden area to work on how the Council could help promote the area of Leamington;
- while the bid for a Channel 4 hub had not been successful they had recognised it was a strong bid that they would take into consideration as part of their review of their regional operations. There would also be an opportunity with ITN moving to the region with a view to the leading area of work within Leamington; and
- The District had successfully hosted the stage end of the Women's Cycle Tour.

Councillor Grainger, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, informed Council that work had now started on the removal of the bandstand in the Pump Room Gardens, with a view to the refurbishment being completed and it being reinstalled by early October. This was part of the wider £1.2 million scheme which would see the ground works starting in July 2018, which would take place around events within the Gardens. In addition, the Community Engagement Officer for this project was now in post.

Councillor Thompson, Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, informed Council that:

- the 21 June 2018 was Clean Air Day
- Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be receiving an update on sustainability;

- there were a number of projects being operated with Warwick University to students in July regarding fuel poverty and air quality;
- there was work with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to procure a community bike hire scheme across the District;
- work was underway with WCC to help promote active travel in reducing and removing green travel barriers;
- proposals were being developed to submit a bid to the Government for an electric bus scheme within the District;
- the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to identify future health and wellbeing needs through data analysis which would inform the commissioning of services;
- he was grateful for the question from Councillor Quinney regarding the resources in the Community Safety Team, it was possible to confirm that the number of full time staff had increased but they undertook other work including the Major Emergency Plan and CCTV; and
- he continued to receive regular reports on the Council's CCTV team and the work they undertook in identifying and resolving issues within the community; and he expressed his gratitude for the continued excellent work.

Councillor Coker, as the Portfolio Holder for Culture, informed Council that:

- the Project Officers for the Commonwealth Games and Community Stadium had been appointed;
- the leisure centre phase 2 design management team had been appointed and the all party member working group would be arranged shortly to be briefed on the project;
- St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre was now fully operational;
- Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre was due to be fully open mid-August 2018;
- In the first quarter, there had been 16,000 hours of gym usage compared with 29,000 hours in the previous full year administered by the Council;
- the review of the future of Newbold Comyn Golf Course had been started and would be led by the team who put together the bid for Channel4;
- his Service Area made a number of small grant awards to enable people to be engaged in sports as well as supported events like Art in the Park and Kenilworth Arts Festival; and
- discussions had started with the proposed new contractors in the Pump Rooms and Restaurant in the Park.

Councillor Coker, informed Council, on behalf of Councillor Butler as Portfolio Holder for Business, that it was recognised Town Centres were under pressure but the Council would be doing everything it could to support its Town Centres. As an example of this, information showed that one concern from traders was bills not being paid on time but evidence confirmed that this Council nearly always paid its invoices by the due date.

Councillor Phillips, as Portfolio Holder for Housing, informed Council that it had received the full grant of £271,000 from the Minister for Homes, Communities and Local Government for the tackling homelessness within the District.

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

Councillor Boad asked the Deputy Leader if, in the spirit of openness and transparency, he would look into a register for Planning Committee so that each vote was recorded at each meeting?

In response, Councillor Coker explained that he appreciated the question and reason for this and he was equally annoyed on behalf of his colleagues on Planning Committee because it implied a whip had been placed which would never be the case, and therefore hoped it didn't imply planning applications would be safe in Labour hands because they had a whip to vote against applications. He confirmed he would take advice on the recording of votes.

Councillor Boad asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, when the proposed electric buses would be introduced?

In response, Councillor Thompson explained that the application would be made on 16 July and Council would be updated on progress.

Councillor Boad asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, if there were any steps that could be taken to reduce the number of buses and those with idling engines at the top of the Parade in Leamington?

In response, Councillor Thompson explained that this had been raised with officers but he was aware that due to age of the bus some were better left on than starting and stopping them. The fleet overall had improved by cascading the quality of bus down the routes and therefore the new electric bus would have a benefit overall.

Councillor Boad asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, why the play equipment at the Holt had still not been completed and the redundant equipment removed?

In response, Councillor Grainger explained that she was not aware of this and would investigate and report back to Councillors. She was, however, aware that the additional play equipment in lieu of the delays had been delivered to the site.

Councillor Weed asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, if she could thank officers for the work they had undertaken with students and in response to fly tipping where enforcement action had been taken as this was beginning to make a difference.

In response, Councillor Grainger thanked Councillor Weed and agreed to pass on her thanks.

Councillor Parkins asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection if the Council had talked with Warwick University about potential investment in the electric bus scheme?

In response, Councillor Thompson explained that discussions had taken place about either funding or research involvement.

Councillor Parkins asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, if the Council could invest in signage in its car parks directing people to Samaritans?

In response, Councillor Thompson asked for contact details for the signage so he could pass these on to officers to investigate.

Councillor Gifford asked the Deputy Leader on the progress in appointing consultants for the Leamington car park displacement strategy?

In response, Councillor Coker explained that the contract was currently out to tender.

Councillor Davison asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services if they were aware that some recyclable waste from flats were not being checked by contractors and simply put in grey waste collection, without officers being informed?

In response, Councillor Grainger explained that she would appreciate the details in writing so that she could discuss this with officers and it could be raised with contractors.

Councillor Davison asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection if the proposed community cycle scheme would include electric bikes and would it include a safe access way through Europa Way?

In response, Councillor Thompson explained that eleven routes were being considered and he would enquire about the potential for electric bikes.

Councillor Gill asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services if they could investigate the overgrown trees on the Sydenham estate and get them maintained?

In response, Councillor Grainger explained that she would appreciate details in writing of this matter because this Council was only responsible for maintaining the trees on its land.

Councillor Shilton asked the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection if he welcomed the news that West Midlands Trains had applied for increased services from Kenilworth Railway Station including Sundays and direct trains to Nuneaton?

Councillor Thompson confirmed he did welcome the application.

Councillor Davison asked the Deputy Leader if this Council could write to the relevant Minister with our support for Alfie Dingley to enable him to receive the medication he needed?

In response, Councillor Coker, noted those affected by this case and those similar too and welcomed the recent progress that had been made.

18. **Executive Report**

The reports of the Executive meetings held on 7 March 2018 and 5 April 2018, excluding the Part 1 items which had been determined by Council in April 2018, were proposed duly seconded and

Resolved that the reports be approved.

The report Excerpt of 31 May 2018 was proposed and duly seconded with a minor amendment to minute 4, Minor Amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme for Warwick District, so that this back dated 1 April 2018.

Councillor Naimo proposed the following amendment Minute 3 in the Housing Strategy aims (additions in **bold**):

Amendment to second bullet point -

'.....sustainable locations **close to the Universities & College**, thereby encouraging students to move from HMO style accommodation **and minimising travel times, congestion and pollution**'

Add fourth bullet point -

To avoid over-concentration of student housing to ensure mixed and balanced communities, in accordance with the Council's Article 4 policy.

This was duly seconded.

Councillors Phillips, Davison, Quinney and Naimo spoke on this item.

On being put to the vote the amendment from Councillor Naimo was lost.

The substantive motion from Councillor Coker was then put to the vote and

Resolved that the report be approved.

19. **Standards Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Coker, duly seconded and

Resolved that Mr R Meacham and Mr R Tomkinson be appointed as Independent Persons to the Council for a further five years, in line with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

20. **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 |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| 21 | 1 | Information relating to an Individual |
| 21 | 2 | Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual |
| 21 | 3 | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) |

21. **Confidential Executive Report**

The confidential reports of the Executive meetings held on 4 January 2018, 7 February 2018, 7 March 2018, 5 April 2018 and 31 May 2018 were proposed duly seconded and

Resolved that the reports be approved.

22. **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 7.58 pm)

Chairman
8 August 2018