

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2011, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Bunker (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Brookes, Caborn, Coker, Dagg, Davies, Doody, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gill, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Heath, Illingworth, Kinson, Pittarello, Pratt, Mrs Sawdon, Shilton, Tyrrell, Vincett, Weber, Weed, Wilkinson, Williams and Wreford-Bush.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Copping, Cross, Ms Dean, Dhillon, Edwards, Gifford, Mrs Goode, Guest, Mrs Higgins, Kirton, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mobbs and Rhead.

27. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements.

- (A) The Chairman, announced the sad news that the Lady Mayoress of Coventry City Council, Mrs Norma Mulhall, had died and that she had offered the condolences of this Council to the Lord Mayor and her family; and
- (B) The Chairman, announced the sad news that Bob Finn, the partner of former Councillor Pauline Edwards had died early this morning and offered the condolences of this Council to Pauline and his family.

28. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2011 were approved subject to an amendment to include a minute recording the decision of the Council to record the meeting.

29. **HIGH SPEED TWO (HS2) CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

The Council considered a report that provided a proposed response to the Government's consultation on High Speed Rail. The report also sought endorsement of the 51m group (of which the Council was a member).

Councillor Doody explained that the 51m Group had yet to submit its response to the consultation and therefore it would not be possible for the Council to consider or endorse this. In addition there was a need for an additional paragraph in the consultation response (local geographic context) as 1.0 of Appendix A to the report, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting. For this reason Councillor Doody proposed, this proposal was duly seconded, the recommendations of the report subject to the following amendments to the recommendations of the report:

- (1) Recommendation 2.2 of the report be amended to "the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Head of Development Services, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Development Services, be authorised to endorse the 51m Group response to the HS2 consultation on behalf of the Council";
- (2) Recommendation 2.1 be approved as set out subject to the additional paragraph, as circulated at the meeting, being included in Appendix A; and

- (3) The Council commends all the officers involved in the preparation of the response and thanks all the Local Area Action Groups for their efforts and coordination.

RESOLVED that the

- (1) the consultation response as set out at Appendix A to the report, subject to the addition of the paragraph set out below, be submitted as the Council's formal position with regard to the HS2 proposal;

"1.0 Warwick District Council lies within the heart of Warwickshire and due south of the city of Coventry. It covers 28,226 hectares, including the four towns of Royal Leamington Spa, Warwick, Kenilworth and Whitnash. The District also has a considerable area of attractive countryside (much of which is designated Green Belt) as well as a large number of picturesque villages. Its population is 138,000 (Office of National Statistics mid-year estimate 2010). There are grave concerns that the HS2 proposal and associated impacts would have a considerable and irreversible negative impact on both the geography and economy of the area given that 10.4 miles of the intended route will cross the district."

- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Head of Development Services, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Development Services, be authorised to endorse the 51m Group response to the HS2 consultation on behalf of the Council;
- (3) officers continue to monitor the HS2 programme and process and continue to work in partnership with the 51m Group and other external agencies (as necessary) to oppose the HS2 proposal; and depending on the Ministerial decision, expected in December, a further report be brought to the Executive setting out options for future engagement/resistance to the HS2 delivery process; and
- (4) The Council commends all the officers involved in the preparation of the response and thanks all the Local Area Action Groups for their efforts and coordination.

(The meeting ended at 7.03 pm)

CHAIRMAN
31 August 2011