

# WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 17 January 2007, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Evans (Chair); Councillors Ashford, Mrs Begg, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bunker, Butler, Caborn, Cockburn, Coker, Mrs Compton, Crowther, Davis, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Mrs Falp, Ms Flanagan, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Goode, Guest, Hammon, Hatfield, Ms Hirsch, Mrs Hodgetts, Holland, Kinson, Kirton, Mrs Knight, Kundi, MacKay, Mrs Mellor, Pratt, Sandhar, Mrs Sawdon, Shilton, Short, Smith, Tamlin and Vincett.

## 723. PRAYER

A period of reflection was presented by the Chair's Chaplains.

## 724. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Copping, Davies, Doody, Mrs Edwards, Harris and Mrs McFarland.

## 725. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 November 2006, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair.

## 726. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The Chairman expressed congratulations on behalf of the Council to Mr Ioan Morgan, Principal of Warwickshire College, on being awarded the CBE in the New Year's honours.
- (B) The Chair paid tribute to former Councillor Chanan Singh Aujla following his recent death. Mr Aujla had been a representative on the Council for the Willes Ward between May 1995 and May 2003.
- (C) The Chair reported that the proposed event to be held on 3 February 2007 regarding climate change would now be held on another date to be announced.
- (D) The Chair reminded members of the performance of "Relative Values" by Noel Coward which would be held at the Loft Theatre, Royal Leamington Spa on Thursday, 29 March 2007. The performance was being held in aid of his charities.

The Chair also referred to an Antiques Roadshow event which was being held on Friday, 9 March 2007 in the Town Hall, with expert

advice being provided by Mr David Barby of the BBC's "Bargain Hunt" and "Flog It" programmes.

## 727. PRESENTATIONS

- (A) On behalf of the Council, the Chair welcomed Dr Vic Tuck, Development Officer, Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Ward, and Linda Village, who were attending the meeting to make a presentation on Safeguarding Children.
- (B) Following this presentation, the Chief Executive then made a presentation regarding proposals for enhancing two-tier working in Warwickshire involving the five District Councils and the County Council.

## 728. EXECUTIVE

It was moved by Councillor Crowther and duly seconded that the report of the Executive dated 11 December 2006, be approved and adopted.

- (A) Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities (683)

First amendment      It was moved by Councillor Crowther and duly seconded that the recommendations in Minute 683 be deleted and replaced by the following:-

- “ (1) The Council make no bid for unitary or enhanced two-tier pathfinder working status;
- (2) The Council supports, in principle, the joint statement of intent, circulated separately setting out a commitment to work with other local authorities to enhance two-tier working in Warwickshire;
- (3) Further work is undertaken as is necessary on the development of the joint statement; minor amendments to be negotiated and agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders; more substantial amendments to be subject to further approval from the Executive and Council;
- (4) A further report be submitted to the Executive on the proposals for local government in the Bill.”

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

(B) Adoption of report.

The original motion, as amended by the first amendment, was then put to the meeting and declared carried.

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

It was moved by Councillor Caborn, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report of the meeting of the Audit and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 5 December 2006, be approved and adopted.

730. **EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Kinson, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 5 December 2006, be approved and adopted.

731. **CULTURE AND SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Kirton, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Culture and Social Policy Committee dated 6 December 2006 be approved and adopted.

732. **ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Compton, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Environment and Economic Policy Committee dated 6 December 2006, be approved and adopted.

733. **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Goode, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Regulatory Committee dated 11 December 2006, be approved and adopted.

734. **EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Crowther, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Employment Committee dated 18 December 2006, be approved and adopted.

735. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Tamlin, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** that the reports of the Planning Committee dated 22 November and 13 December 2006, be approved and adopted.

736. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

(A) It was moved by Councillor J Holland and duly seconded:-

“That this Council views with deep concern a Royal Mail proposal to close the Coventry Mail Centre and move the operations to Northampton.

We believe that such a move would:

Threaten the standard of the postal service in our area;  
lead to increased road movement of mail, with the consequent harmful effects on carbon emissions and road congestion; and  
potentially have an adverse effect on the economic strength of the sub-region.

The Council resolves to a) write to Royal Mail, Postwatch and to our two MPs expressing concern, and b) seek further information from Royal Mail about the proposals, any other options considered and what consultation has been undertaken with users of the service.”

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

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

First amendment: It was moved by Councillor A Boad and duly seconded that the following be inserted at the end of the motion proposed by Councillor Holland:-

“This Council also regrets the loss of 12 Post Offices between 1999 and 2006 in the Warwick and Leamington Constituency and notes with concern the announcement by the Government on 14 December 2006 of Ministers’ plans to close a further 2,500 Post Office branches across the UK.

This Council believes that the recently announced closure programme is unnecessary and calls on the Government to:

- (1) end the branch closure programme;
- (2) remove the Royal Mail restrictions on the Post Office to open up further business opportunities for the network;
- (3) stop removing Government business from Post Offices;
- (4) carry out a review of which additional Government functions could be carried out through Post Offices;
- (5) invest in the Post Office network.

This Council welcomes the decision of the Government to withdraw its previous proposals to scrap completely the Post Office Card Account but calls on Ministers to ensure that any replacement Card Account should be open freely to all pensioners and benefit recipients who want one.

This Council calls on the two MPs for Warwick District to lobby Ministers to save Royal Mail and the Post Office from the gradual decline under the Government.

This Council further calls on the local MPs to report back to this Council on their actions.”

During debate on the amendment it was proposed and seconded that the Council do now adjourn.

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

Following a short adjournment, it was then proposed by Councillor MacKay and duly seconded that the question be now put.

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

The proposer of the amendment, Councillor Boad, and seconder then indicated their agreement to accept the amendment.

The original motion, together with the amendment, were then put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, were declared carried unanimously.

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

In addition to members who already disclose their interests in the appropriate Committee 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 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>  |
|---------------|--|---|
| 683           | Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities | Councillors Mrs Goode, Kirton and Shilton<br>(Personal: being members of Warwickshire County Council) |
|               | Agenda Item no. 9 – Notices of Motion                            | Councillor Ashford<br>(Personal: being an employee of Royal Mail)                                     |

738. **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 9.20 pm)

CHAIR