

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at the Slate, off Scarman Road, University of Warwick, on Monday 13 December 2021, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Murphy (Chairman); Councillors Bartlett, Barton, Boad, Cooke, Cullinan, Davison, Day, A Dearing, J Dearing, K Dickson, R Dickson, Evans, B Gifford, C Gifford, Grainger, Grey, Hales, Illingworth, Jacques, Kennedy, Kohler, Leigh-Hunt, Luckhurst, Mangat, Margrave, Matecki, Milton, Nicholls, Noone, Norris, Quinney, Redford, Rhead, Roberts, Russell, Syson and Tracey.

54. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashford, Morris, Tangri and Wright.

55. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Davison declared an interest because he was living in Stratford-on-Avon District, but this was not considered a conflict of interest.

56. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held 17 November had not been presented for consideration and would now be presented to the meeting of Council in February 2022.

57. Communications and Announcements

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Adrian Barton on his election to the Council, representing Whitnash Ward, on 2 December 2021.

The Chairman offered the best wishes of the Council to Councillors Ashford, Morris, Tangri and Wright.

The Chairman informed Council that he had accepted an urgent item as detailed in the addendum in respect of the potential for remote meetings, if legislation was brought in before the next Council meeting in February.

The Chairman informed Council that there would be no statements from the Leader or Portfolio Holders for Item 7 on the agenda and there was no business under Item 5 petitions or Item 6 Notices of Motion.

The Chairman took the opportunity to remind all present and those watching on the livestream that the current restrictions were in place to protect us, the communities we lived in and those we cared for. For the same reasons, he encouraged everyone who was entitled to, and was yet to do so, to go and get their booster jab.

(Councillor Leigh-Hunt arrived during this item)

58. Proposal to create a South Warwickshire District Council

The Council considered the recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet of 9 December 2021, which provided evidence to Members and recommended to them

to formally request the Secretary of State at the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to create a South Warwickshire District Council.

An addendum to the papers had been published on Friday 10 December 2021 which included further information requested by the Council's Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet to help inform the decision on this item.

At the start of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Murphy, duly seconded by Councillors Day and Grainger and on being put to the vote carried that any votes on this item would be a recorded vote.

Councillor Day proposed the recommendations as set out in the report from Cabinet and this was duly seconded by Councillor Boad.

Councillors Day, Boad, Jacques, Milton, Cooke, Quinney, A Dearing, Roberts, Illingworth, Davison, Grainger, Matecki, Syson, K Dickson, Kohler, Rhead, Bartlett, Nicholls, Grey, R Dickson, Barton, B Gifford, Redford, Norris and Hales addressed the Council on this item.

In addition, the Chairman read out a written submission on behalf of Councillor Wright.

On being put to the vote it was

Resolved that:

- (1) a formal submission should be made to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to create a South Warwickshire District Council;
- (2) the formal submission document to create a South Warwickshire District Council attached at Appendix 5 to the report, be approved and authority be delegated to the Chief Executives in consultation with the respective Leaders of both Councils to make any minor and typographical changes identified and to agree the covering letter;
- (3) a joint member working group be established to review the issues raised in Section 4 and in addition to agree that the working group works with WALC and other key parish and town councils to undertake a community governance and function review for South Warwickshire;
- (4) a consultation with staff and Trades Unions on options for addressing harmonisation of staff terms and conditions including pay, be agreed; and
- (5) should recommendation (4) above be not agreed, or that either Council does not agree to make a submission in relation to recommendation (4), an emergency Council meeting be arranged in early January so that a revised strategic approach can be discussed and agreed prior to the setting of the annual budget for 2022/23 and beyond.

The record of the vote was as follows:
Abstain - Cullinan, Mangat, Murphy, Nicholls and Skinner.

Against - Davison, A Dearing, J Dearing, Evans, Grey, Leigh-Hunt, Luckhurst, Kennedy, Norris, Quinney, Redford and Roberts.

In favour - Bartlett, Barton, Boad, Cooke, Day, K Dickson, R Dickson, Falp, B Gifford, C Gifford, Grainger, Hales, Illingworth Jacques, Kohler, margrave, Matecki, Milton, Noone, Rhead, Russell, Syson and Tracey.

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

There were no questions to the Leader or Portfolio Holders.

60. **Cabinet Reports**

Councillor Day proposed and Councillor Hales seconded the recommendations within the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 December 2021 in respect of the Quarter 2 Budget Report.

Resolved that the recommendations of the Cabinet of 9 December 2021, be adopted.

61. **Appointments**

Councillor Falp proposed, it was seconded by Councillor Day and

Resolved that

- (1) Councillor Barton be appointed as a member of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee and as a substitute to both the Licensing & Regulatory and Planning Committees; and
- (2) Councillor Barton be appointed as a member of the Cultural, Leisure and Tourism PAB.

62. **Minor Amendments to Council Procedure Rules**

An urgent report was brought to Council that sought approval for a change within the Constitution to enable remote Council meetings to take place, if legislation or regulation was introduced by the Government.

This report had been circulated after the agenda had been published and was included in an addendum to the agenda, which was available online.

It was proposed by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Hales and

Resolved that Council procedure rules be amended to enable the Council or its Committees, Cabinet, or any Sub Committees to meet remotely if legislation or regulations are passed by Parliament.

The Chairman of the Council had agreed to take this as an urgent item because the Council was not due to meet until late February and wanted to provide the

opportunity for Members to debate this item.

63. **Common Seal**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Day and

Resolved that the Common Seal of Warwick District Council be affixed to such documents as it may be required for implementing decisions of the Council arrived at this day.

(The meeting ended at 8.06pm)

CHAIRMAN

22 February 2021