

# WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 June 2016, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.05pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Knight (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Barrott, Boad, Bromley, Mrs Bunker, Mrs Cain, Coker, Cooke, Cross, D'Arcy, Davies, Davison, Day, Edgington, Mrs Evetts, Mrs Falp, Gifford, Gill, Miss Grainger, Grainger, Harrington, Mrs Hill, Howe, Mann, Morris, Naimo, Parkins, Phillips, Quinney, Mrs Redford, Rhead, Shilton, Mrs Stevens, Thompson, Weed and Whiting.

(Prior to the start of the meeting the Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Jo Cox MP)

## 9. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Butler, Cain, Davies, Doody, Mrs Evetts, Mrs Gallagher, Heath, Illingworth, Margrave, Mobbs, and Murphy.

## 10. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 11. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the name of the Chair's Chaplain being amended to Fabian Radcliffe OP and the removal of Warwick CAVA from the list of outside appointments.

## 12. **Communications & Announcements**

The Chairman reminded Councillors that she expected them to make decisions efficiently and thoughtfully for the benefit of all, and that debates on matters should be rational, robust and meaningful but conducted in a tolerant and understanding manner.

The Chairman informed the Council that she was seeking nominations for Inspirational Women of Warwick District, for which there would be an award at the end of her time in office. This was with the aim of promoting those who go unrecognised for excellent work within the community, with a view to inspiring others.

The Chairman informed the Council that following recent incidents after the EU referendum, she had received several emails requesting that a motion be put to Council condemning hate crimes. The Chairman confirmed the Council's position that Warwick District was a diverse and tolerant society of which we were proud. The Chairman condemned racism, xenophobia and hate crimes, which had no place in this District, and declared that as a Council and in the community, Councillors would work towards removing this from society. The statement was endorsed by Councillors Barrott, Coker, Mrs Falp, Gifford and Mann.

At the request of the Chairman Councillor Mrs Falp provided an update on Councillor Heath. The Chairman asked that Councillor Mrs Falp pass on the good wishes of the Council to Councillor Heath for a speedy recovery.

The Chairman informed the Council that there was no business to be considered under Item 5 Petitions or Item 7 Public Submissions.

### 13. **Notice of Motion**

Councillor Mrs Falp proposed and it was duly seconded that;

- (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 online either live or as recordings, and report back their findings to Council in September 2016; 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..

Councillors Coker, Cooke, Barrott, Boad, Gifford, Davison and Thompson all spoke on this matter.

Councillor Coker proposed that the motion be amended so that it was noted, with a full report to be brought to the Executive in September 2016. This was accepted by Councillor Mrs Falp and seconded by Councillor Davison.

**Resolved** that the Notice of Motion from Councillor Mrs Falp be noted and a full report detailing the potential for this be brought to the Executive in September 2016.

### 14. **Leader's and Portfolio Holders' Statements**

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Councillor Cross, informed Council that the Consultation on the revised Local Plan had ended. 2019 individual submissions by 850 people had been made and these were sorted and submitted to the Inspector with the Local Plan for consideration. Some further detailed information had been requested by the Inspector which officers were currently preparing. The Inspector was due to confirm the timetable for the public examination. Preparation was under way for the public hearing on the Local Plan to ensure that the Council's position is robust. Councillor Cross concluded by thanking the Planning Policy Team for their efforts on this work and ensuring that the Council met the timetable set by the Inspector.

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Councillor Cross, informed Council that income for the Building Control joint venture had been £199,000 for the first three months, which was above the predicted income. The order book was full

and the team were in the process of appointing a marketing specialist for this area of work to further increase income.

The Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, Councillor Grainger, informed Council that the CCTV team had received its BS accreditation for the tenth year in a row. In addition to this, during its review, two pieces of their work had been accepted as best practice and recommended for other CCTV providers to use. In addition, following a recent training course on CSE, the team had identified two potential CSE cases and as a result three young people were receiving the support they needed.

The Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, Councillor Grainger, reminded Councillors to be aware of their own personal safety when meeting local residents. They should make sure that somebody knows where they are and when they are due back and check in advance about the potential risks from people they could be visiting.

## 15. **Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders**

Councillor Barrott asked if the Deputy Leader agreed that, in light of all neighbouring authorities decisions to sit at the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) table should the position of this Council be changed; and, following the decision of Council in April 2016, when would Group Leaders receive the report from Councillors Cain, Rhead and Thompson on WMCA?

In response, the Deputy Leader, Councillor Coker, explained that the position was constantly under review. The Leader had met with the WMCA Leader and the relevant Portfolio Holder was monitoring the situation and continually discussing the position with the Leader. Further enquires had not provided the Council with further facts to take a decision, and just because we had pressure from everyone else joining did not mean that this Council should join. The report was promised and was in preparation and he assured Group Leaders that this would be provided to them.

Councillor Parkin asked the Portfolio Holder for Development if he could provide an update on Gypsy and Traveller site identification.

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Development, Councillor Cross, explained that there were no further updates to be provided on any site, and he could only talk about those presented to Council. However, he had attended a training course on such matters and would brief his team about this.

Councillor Gill asked if the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services could explain why the Council was spending £300,000 on Covent Garden Car Park, when the Council would be demolishing it within two years.

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Shilton, explained that there was a need to extend the life of the car park until the Council was in a position to replace it. Failure to do so would see not only a reduced income for the Council, but also impact on the Town Centre economy through reduced parking capacity, thereby reducing the potential number of people shopping in the Town Centre.

Councillor Mann asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services if he agreed that the Council had received expert advice and undertaken detailed

analysis that the repair work to Covent Garden Car Park was the best solution for the car park, and traders were the most viable way forward to protect it for the next two years?

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Shilton, agreed.

#### 16. **Executive Report**

The reports of the Executive meeting on 6 April 2016 excluding minute; 129 (and its appendices) because it was considered by Council on 20 April 2016; 20 April 2016 and the excerpt of the minutes of 2 June 2016 were proposed, duly seconded and:

**Resolved** that the

- (1) 6 April 2016 (excluding minute; 129 (and its appendices) because it was considered by Council on 20 April 2016), be approved;
- (2) 20 April 2016, be approved; and
- (3) excerpt of the minutes on 2 June 2016, be approved.

#### 17. **Councillor Attendance at meetings**

The Council received a report from Democratic Services that provided details of the attendance of Councillors in their roles as members of the Council, Executive, Committees and Sub Committees at Warwick District Council.

Councillor Cooke explained that there had been a discussion regarding attendance at Planning Committee, and following investigation himself and Councillors Ashford, Boad, Mrs Bunker, Cain, Mrs Falp, Hill, Morris, Stevens, Weed should all be marked as attending an extra Planning Committee meeting.

Councillor Mrs Grainger highlighted that some Councillors had experienced serious personal health issues which had restricted their ability to attend meetings. She proposed that this should be recorded in future reports to explain the low attendance with genuine reason for those Councillors.

**Resolved** that

- (1) the report subject to the amendment, detailed above, of Planning Committee attendance be noted; and
- (2) in future reports a long term sickness note should be included where applicable.

#### 18. **Public and 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 relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

19. **Confidential Executive Report**

The confidential reports of the Executive meetings on 6 April and 20 April 2016 were proposed, duly seconded and:

**Resolved** that the Executive reports of 6 and 20 April 2016, be approved.

20. **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 7.07 pm)

CHAIRMAN  
10 August 2016