

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 October 2010, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor MacKay (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Copping, Crowther, De-Lara-Bond, Ms Dean, Dhillon, Malcolm Doody, Michael Doody, Edwards, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Guest, Hammon, Hatfield, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, Kirton, Mrs Knight, Mrs McFarland, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Rhead, Mrs Sawdon, Mrs Scarrott, Shilton, Mrs Tyrrell, Vincett, Ms Weed, and Wilkinson.

43. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coker, Davies, Mrs Falp, Harris, Heath and Mrs Mellor.

44. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 1 September and 8 September 2010, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

45. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no communications or announcements.

46. **PUBLIC INTEREST DEBATE: FREE SWIMMING**

The Chairman welcomed Lily Bennell, Charlie Foran, Charlotte Gurden, Elin Peacock, Jonathan Peake and Dan Coles who were students of North Leamington Community School and Arts College.

The Executive had recently decided to cease the provision of free swimming for under 16's after 1 April 2011 following the removal of funding by the Government. This decision had been called in and would be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 26 October 2010. The views of the Council would be considered by this Committee and the Executive when it reconsidered the matter.

The students, in teams of three presented the case both for and against the retention of free swimming for under 16's by the Council. The Council then debated the merits of the scheme including the views expressed and the written representation received from Older People in Action.

The motion was put to the vote that free swimming should be retained and was lost.

At the conclusion of the representations, and following discussion, the Chairman thanked the students for attending the meeting.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

47. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) It was moved by Councillor Illingworth and duly seconded that

“That despite the recent changes to the proposed route of HS2 through the Warwick District, which were intended to mitigate the damage to our community, the preferred route will still cause devastating damage to the homes of many of our electors, the Royal Show Ground and many other farms and recreational facilities, together with extreme harm to the environment and the Green Belt which will be destroyed in the area of Kenilworth That in these circumstances the Council call for an urgent if preliminary report to the next Executive with a view to commencing the preparation of a case and strategy for the defence of our District against the incursion of this line including exploring cooperation with our neighbouring Councils along the route.”

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

The motion was discussed by Council and in the absence of any proposed amendments was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, was declared carried.

(B) It was moved by Councillor Gifford and duly seconded that

“This Council requests that the Portfolio Holder for Development Services and the Development Plans Working Party, as part of looking into a new Local Plan or Core Strategy, consider the merits of seeking an Article 4 direction to ensure that there is a level of control on the continued growth of Houses in Multiple Occupation within Royal Leamington Spa. This Council has particular concern at the increasing loss of houses in Royal Leamington Spa that are ideal for family use.”

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

The motion was discussed by Council and in the absence of any proposed amendments was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, was declared carried.

48. UNAUTHORISED RESIDENTIAL CARAVAN SITE, KITES NEST LANE, BEAUSALE: REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER WORKS

The Council considered a report from the Head of Development Services that sought approval for works at the unauthorised residential Caravan Site, Kites Nest Lane, Beausale on the grounds of common humanity.

It was proposed by Councillor Hammon and duly seconded that the recommendations of the report be approved.

It was moved by Councillor Boad, and duly seconded that recommendation (2.2) in the report be amended to read “The levelling of that part of the access track, identified on the plan included at appendix 2, of the report, be

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

permitted by means of importing five lorry loads of loose material, such as hardcore, for the installation of a temporary road way system”

The Council debated this matter and during this the Chairman asked the Chief Executive to explain how the recommendations had been formulated and the reasons for them.

On the amendment being put to the meeting, it was declared lost.

The original motion was then put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, was declared carried and therefore:

RESOLVED that on the grounds of common humanity in order to facilitate improved vehicular access into and through the site to enable the continued removal of refuse; sewerage and access for emergency vehicles, the following works be permitted:

The levelling of that part of the access track identified on the plan included at Appendix 2 by means of using materials already present within the site and the installation of a temporary portable roadway system within that area.

49. LEADERS AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS STATEMENTS

- (A) The Strategic Leadership Portfolio Holder (Councillor Michael Doody) announced that he had been informed of a rumour that senior officers at the Council would be receiving a pay rise next year. He explained that this was not true and that there would be no increase in salaries, no increase in allowances for Councillors and no increase in Council Tax by this authority next year. He went on to explain that unlike other authorities this Council would not be making mass redundancies because that was not required due to the work being undertaken to reduce costs through systems thinking.
- (B) The Housing & Property Services Portfolio Holder (Councillor Mrs Grainger) explained her surprise that the Audit Commission report on Landlord Services had been placed on the Council agenda for discussion when a report would be brought to the Executive in November. The report would include a complete service plan to achieve the targets set by the Audit Commission and will include a management plan of weekly and monthly targets to achieve this. She accepted that there were problems that needed to be addressed but was confident because of what has already been addressed by the new Head of Service, and of their plans for resolving the issues. She concluded by explaining it was recognised that the Council had one of the best Housing Revenue Account Plans in the country and took the opportunity to thank all the members of staff in Housing & Property Services for their work during the audit and work towards resolving the issues after the audit.
- (C) The Customer and Information Services Portfolio Holder (Councillor Caborn) made two announcements

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

- (1) the draft plans for the One Stop Shop in the Pump Rooms, in Royal Leamington Spa, had been received and it would be possible to accommodate all services in the available space; and
 - (2) the Grant Review Group were aiming to report to the Executive in November 2010 and members should pass any comments they have to their group representative.
- (D) The Portfolio Holder for Finance (Councillor Mobbs) explained that the Council currently received a £10.4million revenue support grant and it had been anticipated that this would be reduced, on average, by 6.4% in each of the next four years and this assumption was near enough correct based on the 7.1% government announcement. The Council would be required to save in the region of £314,000 but it was hoped that this would be found through the work being undertaken on Lean Systems and improved budget management. Significant savings had already been found through improved procurement practices and better use of our assets and in the region of £500,000 savings have been found for this year.
- (E) The Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services (Councillor Mrs Gallagher) provided an update on the Pump Room Gardens, Victorian Arches appeal. Two significant donations had been received and she encouraged members to contribute to the scheme.
- (F) The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services (Councillor Shilton) informed the Council of the proposed plans to close the Kenilworth Waste Transfer Site (Cherry Orchard) at Pipers Lane. He encouraged all to support the campaign to keep the site open because of the number of users of this site from across the District, the significant additional pressures this would place on the Princes Drive Waste Transfer Site in Leamington and the possibility for increased fly tipping. He explained he had written to the Portfolio Holder at Warwickshire County Council explaining the Service.
- (G) The Portfolio Holder for Community Protection (Councillor Kirton) announced that yet again crime figures had fallen in the District and complimented all officers involved in this work. He also reported that he attended a meeting at Warwickshire Police Headquarters where our CCTV control room team had been complimented for their excellent work in assisting the Police in tackling crime. It was also highlighted that the team were the best in Warwickshire.

50. QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- (A) Councillor McFarland asked the Leader:

“If you will be supporting the Warwick Town Council Bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to renovate the Court House, by logging on to the Big Lottery website and registering your support?”

In reply, the Leader said, that he would be giving his full support for this and expressed his belief that the other members of the Council would also support the application.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

(B) Councillor Boad asked the Leader:

“What progress has been made with regard to the register that Council was required to publish of all expenditure over £500 and when would the register be available?”

In response, the Leader said that progress was being made and they would be available when they were ready.

(C) Councillor Barrott asked the Leader:

“Have you informed the Unions that there will not be mass redundancies?”

The Leader replied that the Unions had been informed and he hoped that the members of the press present had also taken note of the comments.

51. **EXECUTIVE**

(A) It was moved by Councillor Michael Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive held on 25 August 2010, excluding minutes 50, 52 and 53 as they had previously been considered by Council, be approved and adopted.

(B) It was moved by Councillor Michael Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the recommendations and report of the Executive held on 29 September 2010, be approved and adopted.

52. **EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Bunker, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the meeting of the Employment Committee held on 31 August 2010, be approved and adopted.

53. **AUDIT COMMISSION REPORT ON LANDLORD SERVICES**

The Council considered, at the request of Councillor Boad, the Audit Commission report on Landlord Services because Councillor Boad believed that the findings of the report were of significant importance, given the size of the service, that all members should be allowed the time to comment on the report in advance of the November Executive discussion and presentation of the proposed improvement plans.

Councillors Boad, Pittarello, Michael Doody, Barrott and Dhillon all spoke on the matter expressing their views about the report and what should now be

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

happening. Councillor Mrs Grainger spoke and confirmed what would now be happening, as explained in her Portfolio Statement earlier in the meeting.

54. COUNCILLOR HARRIS

It was moved by Councillor Michael Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that

- (1) dispensation for Councillor Harris not to attend Council meetings between now and the Council elections on 5 May 2011, be agreed, due to his ill health; and
- (2) the best wishes of the Council be passed to Councillor Harris.

55. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that

- (a) Licensing Committee Councillor Mrs Knight to replace Councillor Edwards on the Committee and Councillor Edwards to be added as a substitute.
- (b) Regulatory Committee Councillor Weed to replace Councillor Mrs Knight on the Committee and Councillor Mrs Knight be added as a substitute.

56. SECTION 92, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - DECLARATIONS

In addition to Members who had disclosed their interest in the minutes of the Executive and committees, the following declared their interest in respect of the items as shown. Where an interest is shown with an *, the Member involved left the meeting during the discussion and voting on the item.

Subject

Minute 46 Public Interest Debate Free Swimming

Person Declaring Interest

Councillors Caborn, Mrs Goode, Mrs Knight and Mrs Bromley all declared personal interests because they held free swimming passes and Councillor Copping declared a personal interest because he was a member of Older People in Action who had submitted comments on the matter.

Notice of Motion Minute 47(A)

Councillor Malcolm Doody declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room for this item. (Due to family connections with the Royal Show Ground)

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

57. 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 9.28pm)

CHAIRMAN
1 December 2010