

Council

Monday, 24 April 2017

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Mayor), Councillor Jennifer Wheeler (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Roger Bennett, Natalie Brookes, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Debbie Chance, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Pattie Hill, Gay Hopkins, Wanda King, Jane Potter, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford, Mark Shurmer, Rachael Smith, Yvonne Smith, Paul Swansborough, David Thain, Pat Witherspoon and Nina Wood-Ford

Officers:

Kevin Dicks and Claire Felton

Committee Services Officer:

Jan Smyth

79. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

80. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Anita Clayton.

81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

82. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 20th February and 2nd March 2017 be agreed as corrects records and signed by the Mayor.

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Chair

83. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

The Mayor advised on the following events which he had attended since the last meeting of the Council:

- his Civic Dinner – a very enjoyable evening for which he thanked everyone who had attended and which had raised £2,200 for his Charities;
- an Older Person's Forum – where had had been made very welcome;
- an organised Raffle at the Town Hall, where he and staff had raised over £100;
- a very enjoyable Patsy Cline Experience at the Palace Theatre which had also included Hank Williams and Jim Reeves tributes;
- the No Barriers Awards with Councillor Anita Clayton – a very enjoyable event with wonderful people who helped their communities;
- an Inner Wheel Fellowship Luncheon at the West Mead Hotel, Hopwood, for which he thanked Councillor Wheeler for accompanying him, which he commented had been interesting with a guest speaker who had participated in a Dragon's Den series;
- the town's St Georges Day Parade and Service at St Stephens Church which had been very well attended and well organised. He was particularly pleased to see the large number of young people who were in attendance and thanked Councillor Chalk for his involvement with his Scout Group;
- on behalf of the Council, the Mayor also wished Councillor Brookes a happy birthday.

Later in the meeting, at the end of the proceedings, and as the meeting was his last Council before the Annual General Meeting in May, the Mayor took the opportunity to thank Group Leaders and other Members, particularly Councillor Wheeler, Deputy Mayor, for their support during his Term of Office which, whilst the year had had its ups and downs, particularly with the news on the terror attack in London, had been a pleasure and a privilege.

The Leader

The Leader advised that the anticipated Bike Race had been confirmed for the 9th May with Redditch having the first / launch race. There would be an all-day event in the Town Centre for the community followed by the elite races taking place around 6pm. The Council had contributed some funding and was likely to get some advertising at the event, which will hopefully be a great day for the Town, with the races being televised.

The Leader advised he'd had a very enjoyable afternoon at the Staff Awards which had taken place in various office locations rather than at the Palace Theatre this year, at which he had presented awards to staff in Planning, the Caretakers Team and the Palace Theatre Team.

The Leader reported on the recognition Laney Walsh (UNISON) had received from National Unison for her excellent work with the Council on the time to talk / mental health work, when Officers and Members had also been filmed when they had visited the town, and hopefully shown the Council as positive, trend setting and forward looking.

The Leader had visited a local business that had relocated into Redditch in and also attended an opening of a new training facility for apprentices in the spring making industry.

The Leader was working on the year's Faith Diversity Walk, which was likely to take place on the 21st May and link into to the 500 years that had passed since the Reformation. The walk was to start at Bordesley Abbey ruins and finish at St Stephens Church with speakers from different faiths talking about their faiths and how they have changed in the 500 years.

The Leader reported that he had met with the local based Officer managing HS2 Project (Birmingham) in relation to the various contracts that will be available in the Region. More work was to be done with a view to looking at what projects might be suitable for Redditch companies.

The Leader highlighted the recent tragic terror attack in London when 4 people had been killed and 40 injured. He advised that the Town Hall's flag had been lowered on the 23rd March with a two minute silence at 9.09am to mark the collar no. of PC Keith Palmer, who had died in the attack.

The Leader had attended the Mayor's Civic Dinner, which had had a 1940's theme. The evening had been very enjoyable and lots of money had been raised for charity.

The Leader had attended the No Barriers Awards, which had been very enjoyable with an inspirational speech by Para Olympian Gold Medalist, Clare Cashmore. Councillor Anita Clayton was thanked for organising the event.

The Leader advised that he had attended the St Georges Day Parade and Service at St Stephens Church and had been amazed at the number of young people and Groups that attended, including the Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Rainbows, who had all looked splendid in their uniforms. He further advised that the St George

Flag had been flown over the Town Hall and the event had been very enjoyable in the sunshine.

84. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of the 20th February and 4th April 2017.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 20th February and 4th April 2017 be received and all recommendations adopted.

85. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of meetings of the Council's Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and Planning Committee meetings.

In relation to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee minutes, it was noted that the recommendation at Minute 32 – Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20) had been resolved by Council at its meeting on the 20th February 2017.

In presenting the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee minutes, Councillor David Thain (Committee Chair), reported that the Council's Auditors would be providing a qualified letter of accounts to the Council. He also wished to thank Finance Officer Sam Morgan, who had recently left the Authority, for her work during her twenty plus years of service.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on 2nd February 2017 be received and adopted, and**
- 2) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 18th January, 15th February and 15th March 2017 be received and adopted.**

86. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

Councillor Potter, in her capacity as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the Committee's Annual Report for the period 2016/17.

Cllr Potter was very pleased to report on a successful year for the Committee, in particularly highlighting:

- the setting up of the Budget Scrutiny and Performance Scrutiny Working Groups, which had allowed Members to have a more in-depth look at budgets and performance and a better understanding of the finances and workings of the Council;
- the setting up of the first joint scrutiny working group with Bromsgrove - the Staff Survey Joint Scrutiny Task Group – to consider the responses to the latest staff survey. It was noted that a report on findings would be submitted later in the year;
- a number of presentations and reports had been received during the year, including the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainability and Transformation Plan, Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities and Housing Growth;
- a Joint Increasing Physical Activity Task Group, hosted by Worcestershire County Council, which had been completed at the start of the year;
- The Committee's Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group, a really important piece of scrutiny that had produced a number of recommendations that would hopefully be acted up on by the various agencies;
- the monitoring of the progress of the Committee's recommendations through its tracker system;
- consideration of an invitation for the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel to participate in joint scrutiny with other districts which the Panel had decided against;
- the establishment and setting up of the newly formed West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to which Councillor Jenny Wheeler had been appointed to on behalf of the Council;
- Councillor Wood-Ford's regular updates which had kept the Committee informed on the work of the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- the success of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Task Group (LGBT) and which had result in a number of awards for the Council, Task Group and the lead Democratic Services Officer.

In recommending the report to Council, Councillor Potter thanked her fellow Committee Members for their hard work and support during the year as well as the Officers who support the Committee, in particular the Committee's Lead Officers, Jess Bayley and Amanda Scarce.

Following the presentation, the Leader thanked Councillor Potter for her report and all Members who had been involved in the various reviews that had been undertaken. Further congratulations were received from Members, with comments that Councillor Potter's chairmanship had taken the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from strength to strength.

RESOLVED that

the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017 be received and noted.

87. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no urgent decisions to note.

88. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

There were no separate items of urgent business to consider at this meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.28 pm

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Mayor