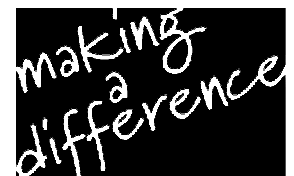


minute book 7

Council

Monday 5th March
2012
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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Council

16th January 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Anita Clayton (Mayor), Councillor Gay Hopkins (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Michael Braley, Rebecca Blake, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Brandon Clayton, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Malcolm Hall, Bill Hartnett, Roger Hill, Alan Mason, Phil Mould, William Norton, Jinny Pearce, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Luke Stephens, Debbie Taylor and Derek Taylor

Also Present:

D Andrews (Chair, Standards Committee) and M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

T Buckley, K Dicks, C Flanagan, S Hanley and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

81. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The Mayor's celebrant, June Saville, led the Council in a moment's reflection.

82. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Robin King and Wanda King. The Mayor advised that Councillor Robin King was very unwell at present and she would be sending a letter to Robin and Wanda on behalf of the Council conveying Members' sincere best wishes.

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

.....
Chair

84. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5th December 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

85. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Mayor

The Mayor's communications and announcements were considered under the following headings:

i) Former Councillor Maurice Clarke

The Mayor informed the Council of the recent sad death of former Councillor Maurice Clarke, an Independent Member for the Crabbs Cross Ward from 1979 until 1983 and a significant local figure in many other respects. A letter of condolence had been sent to the family on the Council's behalf.

ii) Abbey Stadium – Preview

The Mayor advised that an invitation had been sent to all Councillors to visit the new Abbey Stadium and Pool on 30th January, prior to its public and official openings the following month.

iii) Mayoral functions

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council she had attended many events over the Christmas period, a highlight of which had been her attendance at the Salvation Army's Pathways to Recovery Christmas lunch. A second event of note had been the opening of the new British Heart Foundation Home and Electrical Store on Church Green.

iv) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included the Holocaust Memorial Day event which was to be held on Sunday, 29th January 2012 and which would this year feature a talk from a Holocaust survivor, Simon Winston at the Redditch Ecumenical Centre at 1.00pm.

b) Chief Executive

The Chief Executive had no announcements.

c) Leader

The Leader's announcements were considered under the following headings:

i) Council Roadshow, Kingfisher Centre, 14th January

The Leader thanked those Councillors and Officers who had attended the Council Roadshow the preceding weekend and spoken to many members of the public about their perception of the Borough and of the Council. The Leader was happy to report that most people had a very positive attitude to the Borough and the services provided by the Council.

ii) CCTV Team / Procurement Team

The Leader congratulated 17 members of the Council's CCTV team who had successfully passed their Level 2 Award in CCTV Operations. The Leader also congratulated the Council's Procurement Team on receiving national recognition as a part of a partnership of eight local authorities that took second place at the 2011 Society of Purchasing Officers' (SOPO) award for Outstanding Achievement in Procurement.

iii) Halifax Quality of Life Survey

The Leader was delighted to announce that Redditch had done very well in the 2011 Halifax Quality of Life survey, being judged the second best district in Worcestershire and the 4th best in the West Midlands in which to live. The Leader praised the hard work that had been carried out by the Council's Economic Development Unit and Community Safety Team and the County Council's efforts in improving educational attainment.

86. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions had been received.

87. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No motions had been received.

88. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 6th December 2011 and 10th January 2012.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 6th December 2011 be received and all recommendations adopted, subject to:**

in respect of Minute 132 (Hewell Road Pool – Play Area) it being noted that Officers had undertaken to endeavour in the future to consult with Ward Members in good time prior to such circumstances arising; and
- 2) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 10th January 2012 be received and all recommendations adopted, subject to:**

in respect of Minute 143 (Core Strategy Consultation) it being noted that
 - a) **Councillor Hartnett wished his thanks to the Officers who supported the Planning Advisory Panel to be put on record; and**
 - b) **the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism, Councillor Derek Taylor, undertook to address concerns that participation in the arts had not been afforded sufficient weight in the Consultation documents at the present time.**

89. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of recent meetings of the Planning Committee. It was noted that the outstanding recommendation relating to the Planning Committee's Procedure Rules at Minute 60 on pages 17 – 18 in the Minute Book had been considered during the previous item (Executive Committee) and so required no further decision.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 13th December 2011 and 4th January 2012 be received and adopted.

90. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no Urgent Business decisions under the Council's urgency procedures for consideration at this meeting.

91. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL

There were no separate items of Urgent Business for consideration at this meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.35 pm

.....
Chair



Council

20th February 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Anita Clayton (Mayor), Councillor Gay Hopkins (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Michael Braley, Rebecca Blake, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Malcolm Hall, Bill Hartnett, Roger Hill, Robin King, Wanda King, Alan Mason, Phil Mould, William Norton, Jinny Pearce, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Luke Stephens, Debbie Taylor and Derek Taylor

Also Present:

Mr M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

T Beech, K Dicks, R Dunne, C Flanagan, S Hanley, S Morgan, J Pickering, S Skinner and J Smyth

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

92. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present, including representatives of the Redditch Budget Jury.

93. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

.....
Chair

95. ANNOUNCEMENTSa) Mayor

As this was not an ordinary meeting of the Council, the Mayor did not make her customary announcements. However, she did express her sadness at the coach crash over the preceding weekend involving staff and pupils from an Alvechurch school. The Mayor reported that she was sending condolences to the Civic Head of Bromsgrove District Council on behalf of the Council.

b) Chief Executive

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that consideration of the recommendations from the Executive Committee in respect of the Independent Remuneration Panel had been omitted from the current agenda in error. The Mayor had therefore agreed, in accordance with the powers vested in her by virtue of Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, to consider these recommendations as Urgent Business immediately preceding the consideration of the other recommendations from the forthcoming meeting of the Executive Committee.

96. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - REFERRALS

The Council considered a referral from the Executive Committee meeting on 31st January 2012 in respect of the Initial Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the draft 2012/13 Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account, attached to the report at Appendix 1, be approved;**
- 2) **the actual average rent increase for 2012/13 be 7%; and**
- 3) **£2 million be transferred to a reserve as a Revenue Contribution to Capital to fund the future Capital Programme.**

97. ADJOURNMENT**RESOLVED that**

the meeting of the Council be adjourned to permit a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held to consider the setting of the Council Tax 2012/13 and other associated financial matters.

(At this point - 7.04 p.m. - the meeting adjourned and reconvened at 7.28 p.m.)

[MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE]

98. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WORCESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILS - ANNUAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2012/13

The Council received and considered the recommendations of the Executive Committee in respect of the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Worcestershire District Councils. Members agreed both with the sentiments expressed at the meeting of the Executive Committee and with the recommendations made by that body.

RESOLVED that

- 1) in view of the continuing exceptional economic circumstances, the Basic Allowance remains unchanged from the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations from 2011/12 for 2012/13 at £3350 per Councillor;**
- 2) the Special Responsibility Allowances similarly remain unchanged for 2012/13, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report;**
- 3) travel allowances for 2012/13 continue to be paid in accordance with the HMRC mileage allowance (currently 45p per mile) and an additional 5p per mile be paid for each qualifying passenger;**
- 4) subsistence allowances for 2012/13 remain unchanged;**
- 5) the Dependent Carer's Allowance remains unchanged; and**
- 6) for Parish Councils in the Borough, if travel and subsistence is paid, it be paid in accordance with the rates paid by the Borough Council and in accordance with the relevant Regulations.**

99. INITIAL ESTIMATES REPORT 2012/13, 2013/14 AND 2014/15 AND STATEMENT OF PAY POLICY

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive Committee in respect of the Initial Estimates for the coming three years, together with a proposed Statement of Pay Policy document.

The Leader commented that the proposals being put forward were focussed upon investment. She stated that in recent years investment had been made in a number areas, including IT replacement, the maintenance of public buildings, the replacement of Dial A Ride vehicles and economic development. Furthermore, the new Abbey Stadium facility had also been completed.

The Leader of the Opposition Group presented an alternative budget proposal to the Council. The proposals were reported to be aimed at helping the community and improving the lives of both young and old. The additional expenditure proposed was for free swimming for the under 16s and over 60s and for the reintroduction of concessionary bus travel prior to 9.30am. This additional expenditure was to be funded by a number of savings including the withdrawal of capital bids for both the proposed Morton Stanley Park footpath works and the Crossgates Depot security works together with the withdrawal of Redditch Matters, the Pay and Display Car Parks and spending on consultants.

In response to these alternative proposals, the Council Leader noted that these had neither been considered by the Budget Jury nor the Overview and Scrutiny process and so would not be entertained by the controlling Group. The alternative budget proposals put forward by the Leader of the Opposition were the subject of the following named vote in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5:

Members voting FOR the motion:

Councillors Rebecca Blake, Greg Chance, Andy Fry, Bill Hartnett, Robin King, Wanda King, Alan Mason, Phil Mould, Mark Shurmer, Luke Stephens and Debbie Taylor.
(11 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the motion:

Councillors Peter Anderson, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Anita Clayton, Brandon Clayton, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Roger Hill, Gay Hopkins, William Norton, Jinny Pearce, Brenda Quinney and Derek Taylor.
(17 votes)

Members abstaining from voting:

Councillor Malcolm Hall.

Accordingly, the Motion fell, and it was consequently

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the high bids as identified in Appendix A to the report be approved:**

2012/13	£116,000
2013/14	£101,000
2014/15	£101,000;

- 2) **the high capital bids as detailed in Appendix B to the report be approved:**

2012/13	£1,217,000
2013/14	£1,586,000
2014/15	£1,687,000;

- 3) **the use of balances totalling £259,000 be approved;**

- 4) **Pay Policy Statement at Appendix D to the report be approved;**

- 5) **the retention by Redditch Cricket, Hockey and Rugby Club of the sum representing the refund on VAT on the grant funded works undertaken at their grounds in 2005/06 be approved and, in return, the Club agree to relieve the Council of its commitment to provide a sinking fund for the refurbishment/replacement of the all weather pitch which will in future be the exclusive responsibility of the Club; and**

- 6) **the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services be requested to prepare an agreement that brings Resolution 5), above, about.**

100. COUNCIL TAX - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2013

Members were in agreement with the recommendation that the Council Tax be retained at the existing level for a further year and accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that

- 1) **it be noted that at its meeting on the 16th of January 2012 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2012/13 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**
 - a) **27,611.67**

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year;
 - b) **Feckenham Parish – 363.60**

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;
- 2) **the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**
 - a) **£ 71,045,020**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account the precept issued by Feckenham Parish Council.

(2012/13 Gross General Fund Expenditure)
 - b) **£65,260,831**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(2012/13 Gross General Fund Income)

c) **£5,784,189**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.

(2012/13 Council Tax Requirement)d) **£209.48**

being the amount at 2 (c) above divided by the amount at 1 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year (including parish precept).

(The average amount Band D properties pay for Redditch Borough Council services)e) **£8,300**

being the aggregate amount of all special items(Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;

(Feckenham Parish Precept)f) **£209.18**

being the amount at 2(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(e) above by the amount at 1 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special item relates.

(The amount Band D properties pay (except within the Parish of Feckenham) for Borough Council Services)g) **£232.01**

being the amount given by adding to the amount at 2(f) above, the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham, divided by the amount in 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in the Parish of Feckenham;

(The amount Band D properties pay within the Parish of Feckenham for Borough Council Services including the Parish Precept)

h)

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Part of Council's area	
		Parish of Feckenham	All other parts of the Councils area
A	6/9	£154.67	£139.46
B	7/9	£180.45	£162.70
C	8/9	£206.23	£185.94
D	1	£232.01	£209.18
E	11/9	£283.57	£255.67
F	13/9	£335.13	£302.15
G	15/9	£386.68	£348.64
H	18/9	£464.02	£418.37

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(f) and 2(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands;

- 3) **it be noted that, for the year 2012/13, Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police Authority and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:**

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Precepting Authority		
		Worcestershire County Council	West Mercia Police Authority	H & W Fire & Rescue Authority
A	6/9	£692.71	£119.15	£49.10
B	7/9	£808.16	£139.00	£57.28
C	8/9	£923.61	£158.86	£65.46

Council

20th February 2012

D	1	£1,039.06	£178.72	£73.64
E	11/9	£1,269.97	£218.44	£90.01
F	13/9	£1,500.87	£258.15	£106.38
G	15/9	£1,731.77	£297.87	£122.74
H	18/9	£2,078.13	£357.44	£147.28

- 4) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(h) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2012/13 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Part of Council's area	
		Parish of Feckenham	All other parts of the Council's area
A	6/9	£1,015.63	£1,000.42
B	7/9	£1,184.89	£1,167.14
C	8/9	£1,354.16	£1,333.87
D	1	£1,523.43	£1,500.60
E	11/9	£1,861.99	£1,834.09
F	13/9	£2,200.53	£2,167.55
G	15/9	£2,539.06	£2,501.02
H	18/9	£3,046.87	£3,001.22

- 5) the level of General Fund balances to be utilised in 2012/13 be £258,945; and
- 6) the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2012/13 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined for the year by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZB Local Government Act 1992.

101. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

There were no separate items of urgent business for consideration at this meeting, other than the consideration of the recommendations in respect of the Independent Remuneration Panels for Worcestershire District Councils which had been considered previously under Minute Item 98.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.55 pm

.....
Chair



Executive Committee

31st January 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Malcolm Hall, Jinny Pearce and Debbie Taylor

Also Present:

Councillors Andrew Brazier and David Bush and Michael Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

R Bamford, C Flanagan, J Godwin, A Heighway, T Kristunas, S Morgan, J Pickering, G Revans and L Tompkin

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

151. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Derek Taylor.

152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

153. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised that the following items of business, scheduled on the Forward Plan to be dealt with at this meeting, had been re-scheduled to a later meeting of the Committee:

- Housing Revenue Account – Outcome of Review
- Street Naming Policy

.....
Chair

She also advised that she had accepted the following Item as Urgent Business:

- Item 10 – Referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24th January 2012.

(Not meeting the publication deadline)

154. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 10th January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

155. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2013/14 - 2014/15

Members considered a report on the Revenue and Capital bids to be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2012/13 – 2014/15 and whether to propose any revisions or additions.

Officers reported that a number of Revenue and Capital bids had been developed for Members consideration. Only those bids that had been rated as “High” had been included for funding within the Medium Term Financial Plan, as detailed in Appendices A and B of the report.

The Committee received a referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requesting that consideration be given to increasing the rating to “High” for an Energy Advisor to be employed jointly by Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council.

Members agreed to include a further revenue bid, rated as “High” to fund an extension of the Service 61 bus route from the Redditch Bus Station to the Abbey Stadium for one year at a cost of £3,000. Use of the services would be monitored. Officers agreed to investigate whether ‘Choose How You Move’ funding could be accessed.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Revenue and Capital bids, attached to the report at Appendices A and B be noted;**
- 2) the Revenue bid for an Energy Advisor to be employed jointly by Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council, be supported as a “High” priority;**

Executive Committee

31st January 2012

- 3) a Revenue bid to fund an extension to the Service 61 bus route from Redditch Bus Station to the Abbey Stadium at a cost of £3000 for one year, be added as “High” priority; and
- 4) the current position for 2012/13 – 2014/15, as outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the report, be noted.

156. FEES AND CHARGES 2012/13

The Committee received a report seeking approval of the proposed fees and charges for 2012/13 for the Council’s chargeable services.

Members noted amendments to Appendices 1 and 2, previously circulated.

Officers reported a number of minor amendments to Appendix 7 as follows:

(Page 67)

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing Services
Scale of Proposed Charges 1st April 2012

	Current 2011/12 £	Proposed charge from 01/04/12 £
--	----------------------------------	--

(VAT outside scope unless otherwise stated)

Service Charges

Three Storey Flats*	6.25	6.40
Woodrow Estate	3.10	3.20
Evesham Mews	5.15	5.30
St David's House	10.60	10.90
Queen's Cottages	4.20	4.40
Replacement Key Fobs (each)	5.50	5.70

* no increase as this charge covers the cost of the service

(Page 70)

	Current 2011/12 £	Proposed charge from 01/04/12 £
Home Support Service		
Full Charge	12.25	14.20 13.22
Protected Charge	3.50	4.00
Lifeline - full charge (48 weeks)	3.46	3.55
Emergency Response Home Support	3.50	3.60

RESOLVED that

the fees and charges for 2012/13 as amended , attached at Appendices 1 - 8 of the report, be approved; other than in cases where:-

- a) **fees or charges are statutory;**
- b) **fees and charges are set externally; or**
- c) **other Council- approved circumstances apply.**

157. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2012/13

The Committee received a report which sought approval of the Initial Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account for 2012/13 and the proposed dwelling rents for 2012/13.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the draft 2012/13 Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account, attached to the report at Appendix 1, be approved;**
- 2) **the actual average rent increase for 2012/13 be 7%; and**
- 3) **£2 million be transferred to a reserve as a Revenue Contribution to Capital to fund the future Capital Programme.**

158. ANTI-BRIBERY POLICY AND OFFICERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Members considered a report which sought approval of a Corporate Anti-Bribery Policy and amended Officer Code of Conduct.

Officers reported that in accordance with the Bribery Act 2010 the Council must comply with the requirement to have an anti-bribery policy, which will also demonstrate that the Council has "adequate procedures" in place to prevent bribery by both Members and Officers. The Act is also required to be incorporated into the Officer Code of Conduct, which has been amended for this purpose and updated generally.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Corporate Anti-Bribery Policy, attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be adopted and added to the Council's Constitution;**
- 2) **the amended Officer Code of Conduct, attached at Appendix 2 of the report, be adopted; and**
- 3) **the Constitutional pack be updated accordingly.**

159. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10th January 2012.

Members were informed that all recommendations had been considered at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 10th January 2012.

RESOLVED that

the minutes be noted.

160. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.

The Committee received a referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding a Petition that had been considered at their meeting on 24th January 2012 about provision of Short Stay Parking in the town centre.

RESOLVED that

Officers facilitate a meeting with relevant agencies and stakeholders, including the petitioners, to discuss proposals for short stay car parking in the town centre.

161. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the latest Advisory Panels report.

Members noted that there had been further meetings of the Grants Panel since September 2011.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

162. ACTION MONITORING

Members considered the Committee's Action Monitoring report. It was noted that the Write-Off of Debts and Quarterly Monitoring of the Benefits Service Improvement Plan could be removed from the report.

RESOLVED that

subject to the amendments detailed in the preamble above, the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.40 pm

.....
Chair



Executive Committee

20th February 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Malcolm Hall, Jinny Pearce, Debbie Taylor and Derek Taylor

Also Present:

Councillors Juliet Brunner, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Malcolm Hall, Jinny Pearce, Debbie Taylor and Derek Taylor and Mr M Collins (Vice Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

T Beech, K Dicks, C Flanagan, S Hanley, S Morgan, J Pickering, S Skinner and J Smyth

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

163. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

164. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

165. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader.

.....
Chair

166. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WORCESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILS - ANNUAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2012-13

The Committee considered the recommendations for the coming year from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Worcestershire District Councils. The Leader advised the meeting that she considered Members were placed in an invidious position each year in having to determine the level of remuneration applicable to them, most particularly at a time of considerable economic pressure. She suggested that levels of remuneration should be set externally by Central Government, or the Remuneration Panel (IRP) itself.

She recommended that the budget for Members' Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances remain at the same level as proposed by the IRP for 2011/12 and 2012/13. However, individual Members would have the discretion as to whether they accepted the full level of allowances available to them or the lower amount that had been taken by most Members in the previous year.

It was proposed that the Member Support Steering Group should critically consider the present apportionment of Special Responsibility Allowances to determine whether they were set at the appropriate levels and targeted at the appropriate positions. An amendment to the Scheme was also proposed to bring the travel allowances for Members in line with those now set for Officers by incorporating an additional amount for carrying a qualifying passenger.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) in view of the continuing exceptional economic circumstances, the Basic Allowance remains unchanged from the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations from 2011/12 for 2012/13 at £3350 per Councillor;**
- 2) the Special Responsibility Allowances similarly remain unchanged for 2012/13, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report;**
- 3) travel allowances for 2012/13 continue to be paid in accordance with the HMRC mileage allowance (currently 45p per mile) and an additional 5p per mile be paid for each qualifying passenger;**
- 4) subsistence allowances for 2012/13 remain unchanged;**

- 5) **the Dependent Carer's Allowance remains unchanged; and**
- 6) **for Parish Councils in the Borough, if travel and subsistence is paid, it is paid in accordance with the rates paid by the Borough Council and in accordance with the relevant Regulations.**

167. INITIAL ESTIMATES REPORT 2012/13, 2012/14 AND 2014/15 AND STATEMENT OF PAY POLICY

The meeting received a report setting out the estimates for spending for each service and any high priority capital and revenue bids for the coming years, together with a proposed Statement of Pay Policy document.

Officers highlighted the ongoing financial pressures on the authority and the expectation that these would continue for the next two years at least. The Finance Team had undertaken a rigorous examination of service budgets to identify areas for savings and additional scrutiny of the budget bids had been provided by both the Council's Budget Jury and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Savings were being achieved through measures such as the sharing of services, the Single Management Team and Transformation. However, it was proposed that £259,000 be taken from balances in the current year, retaining what was considered a prudent level of reserves of £901,000.

The Localism Act had placed a new requirement on local authorities, the publication of a Pay Policy Statement, and this had been incorporated as an appendix to the current report. It was noted that the levels of pay reflected in the Policy Statement reflected the position prior to Job Evaluation as that was still awaiting final agreement by all parties. It was also noted that the Statement incorrectly asserted that the Head of Housing post was a shared cost, whereas it was a cost borne solely by Redditch.

The Leader stated that the budget proposals were focussed on investment in the Council's equipment, staff and physical resources as well as the environment and local neighbourhoods. Whilst the Council would have liked to have invested more in services, this was not possible in the current financial situation.

It was finally noted that the Taxpayers' Alliance had recently congratulated the Council on the reduction achieved in its management cost by transferring to a shared management team.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the high bids as identified in Appendix A to the report be approved:

2012/13	£116,000
2013/14	£101,000
2014/15	£101,000;

- 2) the high capital bids as detailed in Appendix B to the report be approved:

2012/13	£1,217,000
2013/14	£1,586,000
2014/15	£1,687,000;

- 3) the use of balances totalling £259,000 be approved;
- 4) the Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix D to the report be approved;
- 5) the retention by Redditch Cricket, Hockey and Rugby Club of the sum representing the refund on VAT on the grant funded works undertaken at their grounds in 2005/06 be approved and, in return, the Club agree to relieve the Council's of its commitment to provide a sinking fund for the refurbishment/replacement of the all weather pitch (ATP) which will in future be the exclusive responsibility of the Club; and
- 6) the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services be requested to prepare an agreement that brings Resolution 5), above, about.

168. SETTING OF THE COUNCIL TAX 2012/13

Members considered the report that would enable them to set the level of Council Tax for the Borough for the coming year.

Given the prevailing economic conditions and the effect that this was having on the residents of the Borough it was proposed that the Council Tax level for 2012/13 remain at the same level it had been for the previous two years.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **it be noted that at its meeting on the 16th of January 2012 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2012/13 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**
 - a) **27,611.67**

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year;
 - b) **Feckenham Parish – 363.60**

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;
- 2) **the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**
 - a) **£ 71,045,020**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account the precept issued by Feckenham Parish Council.

(2012/13 Gross General Fund Expenditure)
 - b) **£65,260,831**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(2012/13 Gross General Fund Income)
 - c) **£5,784,189**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.

(2012/13 Council Tax Requirement)

d) **£209.48**

being the amount at 2 (c) above divided by the amount at 1 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year (including parish precept).

(The average amount Band D properties pay for Redditch Borough Council services)

e) **£8,300**

being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;

(Feckenham Parish Precept)

f) **£209.18**

being the amount at 2(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(e) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special item relates.

(The amount Band D properties pay (except within the Parish of Feckenham) for Borough Council Services)

g) **£232.01**

being the amount given by adding to the amount at 2(f) above, the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham, divided by the amount in 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in the Parish of Feckenham;

(The amount Band D properties pay within the Parish of Feckenham for Borough Council Services including the Parish Precept)

h)

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Part of Council's area	
		Parish of Feckenham	All other parts of the Councils area
A	6/9	£154.67	£139.46
B	7/9	£180.45	£162.70
C	8/9	£206.23	£185.94
D	1	£232.01	£209.18
E	11/9	£283.57	£255.67
F	13/9	£335.13	£302.15
G	15/9	£386.68	£348.64
H	18/9	£464.02	£418.37

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(f) and 2(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands;

- 3) **it be noted that, for the year 2012/13, Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police Authority and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:**

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Precepting Authority		
		Worcestershire County Council	West Mercia Police Authority	H & W Fire & Rescue Authority
A	6/9	£692.71	£119.15	£49.10
B	7/9	£808.16	£139.00	£57.28

Executive Committee

20th February 2012

C	8/9	£923.61	£158.86	£65.46
D	1	£1,039.06	£178.72	£73.64
E	11/9	£1,269.97	£218.44	£90.01
F	13/9	£1,500.87	£258.15	£106.38
G	15/9	£1,731.77	£297.87	£122.74
H	18/9	£2,078.13	£357.44	£147.28

- 4) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(h) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2012/13 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Part of Council's area	
		Parish of Feckenham	All other parts of the Council's area
A	6/9	£1,015.63	£1,000.42
B	7/9	£1,184.89	£1,167.14
C	8/9	£1,354.16	£1,333.87
D	1	£1,523.43	£1,500.60
E	11/9	£1,861.99	£1,834.09
F	13/9	£2,200.53	£2,167.55
G	15/9	£2,539.06	£2,501.02
H	18/9	£3,046.87	£3,001.22

- 5) the level of General Fund balances to be utilised in 2012/13 be £258,945; and
- 6) the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2012/13 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined for the year by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZB Local Government Act 1992.

The Meeting commenced at 7.04 pm
and closed at 7.28 pm

.....
Chair



Executive Committee

21st February 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Jinny Pearce, Debbie Taylor and Derek Taylor

Also Present:

Councillors Peter Anderson and Robin King

Officers:

M Bough, E Cartwright, C Flanagan, D Hancox, S Hanley, J Knott, T Kristunas, D Poole and L Tompkin

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

169. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Michael Braley.

170. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

171. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised that the following item of business, scheduled on the Forward Plan to be dealt with at this meeting, had been re-scheduled to a later meeting of the Committee:

- Highway Impact and Accessibility Modelling Report – Worcestershire County Council (Halcrow) - May 2011

.....
Chair

She also advised that she had accepted the following items as Urgent Business:

- Item 5 and Item 7 – Additional information from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14th February 2012

(Not meeting the publication deadline)

- Item 9 – Employment Policy – Review

(Not on the Forward Plan for this meeting)

172. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 31st January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

173. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - OUTCOME OF REVIEW

The Committee received a report on the review of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Members were advised that the Government would be dismantling the current HRA subsidy system and that it would be replaced with a new regime of self financing with effect from April 2012.

Officers advised that the Council would have to take on a share of the national housing debt but would be entitled in future years to keep the subsidy, which is currently paid each year to Central Government.

Members were informed that the Council's share of this debt amounted to £98,929 million, payable to central government on 28th March 2012 with self financing operational from 1st April 2012. The Council would be compensated for the interest paid in respect of the days between 28th March and 1st April 2012, which is expected to be £35,000.

An additional recommendation was proposed from the Chair as follows:

“Officers bring forward a report outlining the proposals for how this Council might build council houses on some of the land owned by the Council and already declared surplus.”

RESOLVED that

subject to the Council's approval of the budgetary implications,

- 1) the 5 year Housing Capital Programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report be approved;**
- 2) the Director of Finance and Resources be authorised to acquire debt from the Public Works Loans Board up to the amount of the actual Debt Cap in line with the profile set out at Appendix 4 to the report;**
- 3) subject to Members' comments, the viability of the 30 Year Business Case for the Housing Revenue Account, and the projected availability of resources within the Business Plan to undertake projects such as regeneration be noted;**
- 4) Officers be authorised to incur expenditure as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, up to the limit approved by the Council and for the purposes detailed in the report;**
- 5) Officers bring forward a report outlining proposals for how this Council might build council houses on some of the land owned by the Council and already declared surplus; and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 6) the Council approve the financial / budgetary implications, as detailed in the report.**

174. PRIVATE SECTOR HOME SUPPORT SERVICE

Members considered a report on extending the Home Support Service to non Council tenants who would not be eligible for funding through the Supporting People programme and who could afford to pay for a service.

Officers reported that provision of a service would have to be on a cost-recovery basis and an hourly rate of £13.22 had been proposed for the service.

Officers confirmed that the current proposal did not anticipate any increase in the number of staff required to provide the service.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Home Support Service be extended to the private sector within current capacity;**
- 2) **an hourly rate of £13.22 be introduced to pay for the Home Support Service; and**
- 3) **any proposal to increase staffing or the capacity of the service be brought back before the Executive Committee with a full Business Case.**

175. STREET NAMING POLICY - REVIEW

The Committee received a report which sought approval for a revised policy on Street Naming and Numbering for the Borough.

Officers outlined changes to the report that had been made following pre-scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 14th February 2012.

Officers were asked to notify Ward Members of any post code changes made by Royal Mail within their Wards.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the revised policy on Street Naming and Numbering, as attached to the report at Appendix 1 and 2, be approved and adopted;**
- 2) **authority be delegated to the Head of Business Transformation or Executive Director, Planning & Regeneration, to carry out all functions relating to the addressing process, as appropriate and as now detailed in the revised Policy;**
- 3) **the Scheme of Delegation to Officers be updated accordingly; and**
- 4) **Mr Norman Neasom, a significant local artist, be added to the list of potential street names.**

176. GRANTS PROGRAMME 2012/13

The Committee received a report which sought approval for the recommendations made by the Grants Assessment Panel in awarding grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2012 – 2013.

The Committee was informed that the Grants Assessment Panel had met on 3 occasions. The total budget available for allocation was £240,000 and that 37 applications had been received totalling £336, 300.

Officers reported that successful schemes would be monitored quarterly.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **grants be awarded to voluntary sector organisations as detailed in Section 3.6 of the report; and**
- 2) **the additions to the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy at paragraphs 5.4 and 6.2 be approved (Appendix 3 of the report) - these additions give clearer guidance to fundees as to the type of projects / services suitable to be submitted to Redditch Borough Council's Voluntary & Community Sector Grants programme.**

177. EMPLOYMENT POLICY - REVIEW

The Committee received a report which sought approval of the revised Special Leave policy.

Members were advised that both Corporate Management Team and Trade Union representatives had been consulted and had agreed the revised policy.

RESOLVED that

the Special Leave policy attached to the report at Appendix 1 be approved and adopted.

178. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14th February 2012.

With reference to Minute 149 regarding the Petition on Short Stay Parking in the Town Centre, Members were informed that a meeting had been arranged with relevant agencies and stakeholders, including the petitioners, on 1st March 2012.

RESOLVED that

the minutes be noted.

Executive Committee

21st February 2012

**179. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC**

There were no Minutes / Referrals to consider.

180. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the latest Advisory Panels report.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

181. ACTION MONITORING

Members considered the Committee's Action Monitoring report.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.15 pm

.....
Chair



Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd January 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Rebecca Blake (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier and William Norton

Also Present:

E Cave (Audit Commission)

Officers:

A Bromage (Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Service), T Kristunas, J Pickering

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Stephens.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th November 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

27. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2010/11

The Committee received and considered the Annual Audit Letter for 2010/11 as prepared by the Council's external auditors.

.....
Chair

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd January 2012

The Letter provided a generally positive assessment of the Council's performance during the past financial year.

An unqualified opinion had been issued on the accounts of the authority in September 2011 and the Value for Money conclusion for the authority was also unqualified as the Council had been determined to have adequate arrangements to secure value for money.

The Letter noted that Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council were part way through an ambitious programme of developing shared services and business transformation and that this was being carried out at a time of significant pressure on finances both because of the economic downturn and reductions in government support for local councils.

It noted that the timetable for completion of the programme for shared services had been brought forward and would be completed by April 2012. In addition the Business Transformation Project, which aims to significantly improve operational efficiency and customer service, would run alongside the implementation of the shared service programme. It was acknowledged that progress to date had been good but the accelerated timetable would be very challenging for both management and staff.

Members noted that the Letter for 2010/11 contained just two recommendations as follows:

- All savings for 2012/13 should be identified before the start of the financial year; and
- Council members should keep focussed on performance to ensure that it does not deteriorate.

The District Auditor updated the Committee on future provision of external audit services including the timetable for their introduction. She reported that all contracts were currently out to tender and that it was expected that the successful bidder would be identified in March for the West Midlands region. A period of consultation would then take place.

RESOLVED that

the recommendations included in the Annual Audit Letter 2010/11 be noted.

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd January 2012

28. INTERNAL AUDIT - PROVISIONAL AUDIT ANNUAL PLAN 2012/13

The Committee received a report which sought approval for the Provisional Internal Audit Operational Plan 2012/13 and also the Internal Audit Shared Service's set of key performance indicators for the same period.

Officers reported that the Internal Audit Operation Plan had been based on a resource allocation of 484 chargeable days.

RESOLVED that

the provisional programme of work, attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

29. BENEFITS FRAUD TEAM - ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered a report on the performance of the Benefit's Service Fraud Investigation Service for the period 1st April to 31st December 2011.

Members were informed that there are approximately 8000 live benefits claims at any one time with, on average, 99 new claims and 557 changes in circumstances decided each week.

Officers reported that between 1st April and 31st December 2011 there had been 882 fraud referrals received by the team. Of these 25% had been referred by the public, 40% through data matching between Housing Benefits and the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the remainder from internal sources.

Results of the investigation of these referrals during the period were as follows:

- a) 256 positive closures during the period and 6 negative closures where fraud / error was not proven;
- b) 12 customers were prosecuted:
- c) Cautions were accepted by customers in 26 cases, with the DWP recording the caution in their records.
- d) Administrative penalties were accepted by customers in 3 cases;

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23rd January 2012

- e) 147 cases were closed as fraud / error proven with a change to entitlement and / or overpayment of benefit established.

Members were advised that the team had identified £170,363.15 in overpaid Housing Benefit and £49,305.18 in excess Council Tax Benefit.

Officers reported that, as part of the Government's Welfare Reform plans, it has been proposed that local authority fraud investigation staff be combined with those of the DWP and Inland Revenue and Customs into a Single Fraud Investigation with local authority investigation staff moving to the DWP between 2015 and 2017.

Additional proposals include:

- i) Abolition of cautions as a penalty for fraud and increased seizure of assets;
- ii) Introduction of a three year loss of benefit for those convicted of serious fraud;
- iii) Imposition of a minimum fraud penalty of £350 and introduction of a Civil Penalty of £50 for customer negligence;
- iv) Work closely with Crimestoppers; and
- v) Name and shame local fraudsters.

A further impact of the Welfare Reform Bill would be that Council Tax Benefit would not form part of the Universal Credit with local schemes being introduced from April 2013. Consultation was ongoing to identify what investigative powers would be required to detect and investigate fraud within local schemes.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **Officers circulate a definition of negligence to members of the Committee.**

30. TREASURY MANAGEMENT, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION 2012/13

The Committee received a report which sought approval of the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2012/13.

Members were informed that the report included a number of significant changes resulting from the Department for Communities

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23rd January 2012

and Local Government (CLG) requirements as part of Housing Revenue Account reforms.

RECOMMENDED that

the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2012/13, be approved.

31. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2012

The Committee received an updated Work Programme for 2012/13.

In response to a Member's query in relation monitoring of corporate risk, and the proposal for a new joint Corporate Risk Register in relation to shared services and business transformation, the Committee agreed that this task should be included on the Work Programme at the meeting of this Committee on 28th June 2012.

RESOLVED that subject to the comments in the preamble above,

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) monitoring of the Corporate Risk Register be added to the agenda for the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee on 28th June 2012.**

32. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that

under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended:

- Internal Audit - Interim Monitoring Report 2011/12 (As detailed in Minute 33 below)**

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd January 2012

33. INTERNAL AUDIT - INTERIM MONITORING REPORT 2011/12

The Committee received an Internal Audit Interim Monitoring Report for the period 1st April to 31st December 2011 together with a Revised Internal Audit Plan for 2011/12.

Officers gave assurances that sufficient resources had been allocated to ensure delivery of the Revised Internal Audit Plan for 2011/12.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

(During consideration of this item Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to the financial affairs (including the authority holding that information) and the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime. However, there is nothing exempt in this record of the proceedings.)

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.45 pm

.....
Chair



Licensing Committee

9th January 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Braley (Chair), Councillor Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Andrew Brazier, Michael Chalk, Anita Clayton, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Alan Mason, Phil Mould, Jinny Pearce and Brenda Quinney

Also Present:

Councillor Juliet Brunner – Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Regulatory Services

Officers:

C Flanagan, S Garratt and M Kay

Committee Services Officer:

Denise Sunman

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Hill and R King.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 11th August 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16. STREET TRADING POLICY - REVIEW

The Committee received a report on a review of the Redditch Borough Council's Street Trading Policy following a consultation exercise that had taken place between 3rd September and 30th November 2011.

.....
Chair

Members agreed that Ravensbank Drive and Mount Pleasant be added to the list of Prohibited Streets in the Street Trading - Policy Statement and that any further omissions be reported to Officers.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the wording of the Street Trading Policy Statement (Appendix 1), Information Pack (Appendix 2) and Street Trading Standard Conditions (Appendix 3) be approved, and that these three documents be adopted to form the Council's Street Trading Policy;**
- 2) **that an amendment be made to the list of Prohibited Streets to include Ravensbank Drive and Mount Pleasant following which a Public Notice be placed in a local newspaper for a period of two weeks to advertise the making of a resolution to designate Consent Streets and Prohibited Streets for the purpose of Street Trading within the district ; and**

to RECOMMEND that

- 3) **the fees and charges as set out at Part 5 and Part 7 of the Information Pack (Appendix 2) be approved by full Council.**

17. TAXI INSPECTIONS - FEES AND ENFORCEMENT

The Committee received a report on the implementation of six monthly taxi inspections, fees and enforcement that had been agreed at the meeting of the Licensing Committee on 11th August 2011.

Officers reported that of 208 tests carried out between September and December 2011, 96 vehicles had failed. Of these 96 failures, 78 had qualified for a free re-test and 18 had been charged for a further test.

Members were informed that the actual income for the first three months of operation versus predicted income had shown a deficit of £1, 102.75. However, Officers anticipated that the original predicted costs would be met over a full year.

Officers reported that a joint enforcement exercise had been carried out on Friday, 2nd December by Officers from Worcestershire Regulatory Services Licensing Team in partnership with Officers from the Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and West Mercia Police. Feedback from partner agencies had indicated that

the event had proved useful and that similar exercises would be carried out in the future.

Members expressed concern about the number of defects identified ranging from minor to very serious ones and confirmed that there could be no compromise on public safety.

The Council would continue to work with the Redditch Taxi Forum to encourage drivers to inspect and maintain their vehicles to the highest standard.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted and the current regime of two vehicle tests per year for the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle fleet be continued; and**
- 2) **the fees agreed for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle tests and retests at the Licensing Committee meeting of the 11th August 2011 be confirmed as constituting cost recovery for the service provided.**

18. LICENSING ACT - ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a report on the work carried out under the Licensing Act 2003 by the Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Enforcement and Licensing Team for Redditch during 2011.

Members were informed that working practices and procedures had been developed, in partnership with responsible authorities, to ensure that licence holders comply with all relevant legislation and the licence trade in Redditch contributes to a safe and successful night time economy.

Officers reported that Central Government are looking to 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act' which will identify changes that may or will need to be implemented. Officers will report to this Committee once more detailed information is available and provide training for members on the impact of the new provisions.

RESOLVED that

the annual report on the Licensing Act 2003 be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.55 pm

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Chair



Planning Committee

4th January 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Chalk (Chair), Councillor Roger Hill (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Andrew Brazier and Bill Hartnett

Also Present:

Jinny Pearce (Portfolio Holder/observer)

Officers:

R Bamford, A Hussain, A Rutt and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth

61. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Robin King, Wanda King and Brenda Quinney.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

63. PLANNING APPLICATION 2011/315/EXT – HOMEBASE LTD, ABBEY RETAIL PARK, REDDITCH

Extension of time application
External alterations to building and internal works
to create one additional unit as approved under
Planning Application 2008/362/FUL

Applicant: Essex County Council Pension Fund

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informative summarised in the report.

.....
Chair

Planning Committee

4th January 2012

**64. APPEAL OUTCOME –
30 HEWELL ROAD, REDDITCH**

The Committee received an item of information in relation to the outcome of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, namely:

Planning Application 2010/275/COU
Change of use of retail / warehouse to a restaurant

The appeal against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission had been dismissed, on the grounds that a lack of car parking to serve the development would likely be detrimental to highway safety and that the proposal would represent inappropriate development in the proposed location.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

**65. APPEAL OUTCOME –
LAND ADJACENT TO 656 EVESHAM ROAD, REDDITCH**

The Committee received an item of information in relation to the outcome of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, taken by Officers under delegated powers, namely:

Planning Application 2011/008/FUL
Erection of a two-bedroomed detached dwelling

The appeal against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission had been dismissed, on the grounds that the proposed dwelling would, by virtue of its siting, design and appearance, represent inappropriate development in the location and would have an adverse impact upon the visual amenities of the area.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.09 pm

.....
CHAIR



Planning Committee

1st February 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Chalk (Chair), Councillor Roger Hill (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Andrew Brazier, Malcolm Hall, Bill Hartnett and Brenda Quinney

Also Present:

M Collins (observer for Standards Committee)

Officers:

S Edden, A Hussain, A Rutt and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth

66. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Robin and Wanda King.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

68. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 13th December 2011 and 4th January 2012 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

**69. PLANNING APPLICATION 2011/258/FUL –
TEARDROP SITE, BORDESLEY LANE, REDDITCH**

Erection of a petrol filling station including forecourt shop, canopy and eight pumps, car wash, car care facilities, car parking, offset fills and associated plant and landscaping.

Applicant: Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd

Mr D Templeton, the Applicant's Agent, addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

RESOLVED that

the Committee's decision stand DEFERRED for Officers to obtain further information about traffic flows.

(In view of concerns that the increased volume of traffic likely to be generated by the Petrol Filling Station onto the junction of Bordesley Lane and Millrace Road, together with additional traffic flow generated by the redeveloped Abbey Stadium and Pool, and recently approved Hotel and Restaurant development adjacent to this site, which Members felt would add to existing congestion problems in the area, Members deferred decision on the Application for Officers to provide more detailed information on the outcomes from the model traffic flow tests that had been conducted by the Highways Authority.

In view of these concerns, and the need for detailed Highways advice, Officers were asked to request the attendance of a Highways Team Officer at the next meeting of the Committee.)

**70. PLANNING APPLICATION 2011/329/S73 –
UNIT 1 MATCHBOROUGH CENTRE, MATCHBOROUGH WAY,
REDDITCH**

Variation of Condition 1 of Planning Application 2009/019/COU (change of use from A1 (Retail) to D2 (Assembly and Leisure) to extend the date of expiry of the permission for an additional five years.

Applicant: Mr S Marshall (Your Ideas)

Mr Marshall, the Applicant, addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, permission be **GRANTED** to vary Condition 1 of Planning Permission 2009/019/COU, subject to the imposition of the revised condition and summarised informatives as detailed below, namely:

Revised Condition

- “1. The permission hereby granted expires on 31st March 2017. The use hereby approved shall cease on or before that date unless agreed otherwise upon application to the Local Planning Authority.**

Reason: In order that the Local Planning Authority retains the right to re-assess the use of the building in the interests of ensuring that the retail and community function of the Matchborough District Centre is not undermined, in accordance with Policy (E(TCR).9 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3.”

Informatives

- “1. Reason for approval
2. Reminder that all other Conditions attached to Planning Permission 2009/019/COU remain applicable.”**

(The Committee considered the report and information provided by the Applicant in respect of the success of Your Ideas and his request to secure use of the building for an additional 5 year permission rather than the 3 years recommended by Officers in their report, in order to be able to demonstrate the viability and sustainability of the organisation for future funding purposes.

Members felt that, given the current low demand for retail space in the area, extending the permission for five rather than three years was a sensible option that would enhance funding opportunities and enable the provision of an important community project, that was not detrimental to other retail functions in the District Centre, to continue.)

**71. PLANNING APPLICATION 2011/334/FUL –
9 DALE ROAD, RIVERSIDE**

Proposed two-storey extension and alterations

Applicant: Mr S Hussain

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informatives summarised in the main report.

**72. PLANNING APPLICATION 2012/011/GDO –
VERGE EAST OF CLAYBROOK DRIVE, REDDITCH**

15m monopole, equipment cabinet and ancillary apparatus

Applicant: Vodafone (UK) Ltd and Telefonica 02 (UK) Ltd

The following people addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules:

Mr M Slevin, Objector
Mrs K Whitehouse – Objector
Councillor A Clayton (Ward Councillor and Objector)
Councillor J Brunner (Ward Councillor and Objector)
Mr D Holmes – the Applicant's Agent.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the application and to all other material considerations, authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to determine that PRIOR APPROVAL of the Local Planning Authority is NOT REQUIRED for the siting and appearance of the proposed monopole, cabinet and ancillary apparatus and that planning permission is not required for the proposed development, subject to the expiry of the consultation period on 6th February 2012 and the informatives summarised in the report.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.31 pm

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CHAIR