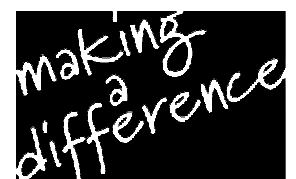


minute book 2

Council

Monday 11th June
2012
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

INDEX

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page No's.</u>
----------------	-------------	-------------------

SECTION

Council	21st May 2012	1 – 42
---------	---------------	--------

SECTION

Executive Committee	24th April 2012	43 – 50
---------------------	-----------------	---------

SECTION III

Audit & Governance Committee	23rd April 2012	51 - 60
Regulatory Committee	28th March 2012	61 – 64
	25th April 2012	65 – 70



Annual Meeting of the Council

21st May 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Mrs Anita Clayton (Mayor), Councillor Gay Hopkins (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Joe Baker, Roger Bennett, Michael Braley, Rebecca Blake, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Bill Hartnett, Pattie Hill, Roger Hill, Wanda King, Alan Mason, Phil Mould, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith, Luke Stephens, Debbie Taylor, Derek Taylor and Pat Witherspoon

Also Present:

Mr Michael Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee), Petty Officer Cadet David Cullum, Mrs Kay Hadley (Primrose Hospice Choir), Mrs June Saville (Mayor's celebrant), Leading Cadet Cameron Stewart and Mr Simon Winston.

Officers:

J Bayley, R Brown, J Carradine, A M Darroch, K Dicks, C Felton, C Flanagan, S Hanley, D Parker-Jones, J Pickering, S Skinner, J Smyth, J Staniland, S Tasker and D Sunman

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

1. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

.....
MAYOR, in the Chair

Annual Meeting of the Council

21st May 2012

4. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

a) General Remarks

The Mayor commented that the past year had been a very special and memorable one for her, attending, as she had, 140 functions in a Civic capacity, each of which had been special in its own way.

The Mayor thanked her Celebrant, June Saville, for her support, thoughtful words prior to meetings of the Council and presiding at the Civic Service and the local Air Cadet Force for supporting her during her year in office. The Mayor also thanked her husband, Councillor Brandon Clayton for his support, as consort, throughout the year and her Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gay Hopkins, for representing the Borough at various engagements over the past year. The Mayor also thanked the outgoing Leader of the Council, Councillor Carole Gandy for her hard work for the town and its community.

Finally, the Mayor thanked the three Independent members of the Standards Committee whose terms of office had now also come to an end with a change in the law regarding Standards arrangements, Mrs Deborah Andrews, Mr Michael Collins and Mr Brian Warwick.

b) Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire

The Mayor formally notified the Council of the death the previous month of the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Mr Michael Brinton. It was reported that a letter of condolence had been sent to his widow and family on behalf of the Council.

c) Award for Outstanding Service to the Community

The Mayor's Annual Award for outstanding contribution to the community which had been instituted in 2010 was awarded to Mrs Kay Hadley in recognition of the work she had undertaken in support of the Primrose Hospice over a number of years.

d) Mayoral Charities

The Mayor informed the Council that a sum of £3,664 had been raised throughout the year for her charities, the Primrose Hospice and the Air Cadet Force and cheques were presented to both organisations.

Annual Meeting of the Council

21st May 2012

e) Mr Steve Skinner

Finally, the Mayor paid tribute to the Democratic Services Manager, Mr Steve Skinner, who had served the Council for over 25 years and would be greatly missed by elected Members following his retirement from the authority at the end of the month.

5. ELECTION OF MAYOR

RESOLVED that

Councillor Alan Mason be, and hereby is, elected Mayor of the Borough of Redditch to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

6. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE - NEW MAYOR

Councillor Alan Mason made the statutory declaration of Acceptance of Office. He was then invested with the Chain of Office by the outgoing Mayor, former Councillor Anita Clayton.

(The new Mayor, Councillor Alan Mason now in the Chair)

7. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor Mason thanked the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor and, on behalf of the Council, expressed gratitude for the work they had carried out as ambassadors for the town.

RESOLVED that

the Council formally express, and record, its gratitude to former Councillor Anita Clayton and to Councillor Gay Hopkins for their excellent service to the town over the last 12 months as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively.

8. DEPUTY MAYOR

RESOLVED that

Councillor Wanda King be, and hereby is, appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Redditch to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Annual Meeting of the Council

21st May 2012

9. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE - NEW DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Wanda King, made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Mayor, Councillor Alan Mason, then invested Councillor King with the Deputy Mayor's Badge of Office.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a) Mayor

The Mayor's communications and announcements were as follows:

i) Announcements

The Mayor informed the Council that he was privileged to be taking on the role of Mayor of the Borough of Redditch and undertook to do his best to serve the community throughout the coming year

The Mayor advised that he wished to show that the Borough was a community which embraced and respected all religions and so each Council meeting would be preceded with brief thoughts and reflections on life from the leaders of different religions. The Mayor announced that his charities for the year would be the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Child Alert, a charity which helps locate children that are missing.

ii) Forthcoming engagements

The Mayor announced that the Sea Cadets would be supporting him during his Mayoral year and presented cadet badges to Petty Officer Cadet David Cullum and Leading Cadet Cameron Stewart . The Mayor advised that his Civic Dinner would be taking place in September and would be a Caribbean themed event. The Council was advised of further forthcoming engagements including the unveiling of new Gateway signs at the entrance to the town and welcoming the visiting party from Auxerre to Redditch at the start of June.

b) Chief Executive

The Chief Executive had no announcements.

Annual Meeting of the Council

21st May 2012

c) Leader

In light of the recent election results and the loss of her Group's majority, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Carole Gandy, announced her immediate resignation from this position. She thanked her colleagues and Officers for their support during the previous four years and summarised some of the major achievements during the period of her leadership.

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

12. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of a recent meeting of the Council's Standards Committee. The Leader of the Majority Group wished to place on record his thanks to the former Independent members of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 26th March 2012 be received and noted.

13. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Council received the Returning Officer's report in respect of the Borough Council elections held on 3rd May 2012.

RESOLVED that

the Returning Officer's report be noted.

14. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Council appointed Councillor Bill Hartnett to the position of Leader for the coming four year period. The Leader announced his appointments as set out in the detailed Order of Business.

Annual Meeting of the Council

21st May 2012

The Leader announced that his Group would be seeking to enact the measures set out by them in their shadow budget at the Budget-setting meeting in February 2012, including the provision of free swimming for under 16s and over 60s and pre 9.30 concessionary bus travel. The measures would be encapsulated in a report, Revisions of the Medium Term Financial Plan which would be added to the Forward Plan and presented to the Executive Committee at the earliest opportunity.

The Leader was delighted to present to the Council his guest of honour, Mr Simon Winston, Holocaust survivor and a special guest at this year's Redditch Holocaust Memorial event. The Leader and the Leader of the Minority Group presented Mr Winston with commemorative prints of the event in January following which Mr Winston made a short address to the Council.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **Councillor Bill Hartnett be, and hereby is, appointed Leader of the Council for the ensuing four years; and**
- 2) **the appointment by the Leader of the Deputy Leader, of Members to the Executive Committee and to the individual Portfolios as detailed in Appendix A attached to these Minutes be noted.**

15. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, SUB-COMMITTEES, PANELS ETC. - CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS - APPOINTMENT

RESOLVED that

- 1) **in accordance with the Council's Constitution and relevant Procedure Rules, the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees, etc. be appointed as indicated in Appendix B attached to the minutes;**
- 2) **the various specific appointments of Members to Committees, Sub-Committees, etc. be noted; and**
- 3) **it be agreed, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, that the seats on the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel not be allocated proportionally.**

Annual Meeting of the Council

21st May 2012

16. OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council considered the nomination, and/or appointment, of Council representatives to serve on outside bodies on behalf of the Council.

It was noted that revisions might be needed to the appointments / nominations to the Town Centre Partnership (to reduce the Council membership by two places), Where Next? Association (to include Councillor Roger Hill, should the Association be amenable to the proposal) and the Redditch Trade Justice Network which had ceased meeting.

RESOLVED that

subject to further consideration of the matters raised by Members, as detailed in the preamble above, the appointments / nominations to outside bodies be made as detailed in Appendix C to the minutes, and notified to the outside bodies as soon as possible after the meeting.

17. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL - ESTABLISHMENT

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the establishment of a West Mercia Police and Crime Panel as a joint committee of the ten principal local authorities in the West Mercia police force area, to be administered by Worcestershire County Council as lead authority, be approved;**
- 2) **the proposed membership of the Police and Crime Panel, the Panel arrangements and any consequential actions required under the Act be approved;**
- 3) **authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services to finalise the details of the proposals, including nominating Council representatives, in consultation with the Leader; and**
- 4) **Councillor Rebecca Blake be appointed to the Panel for a term of office expiring May 2013.**

18. CONSTITUTION - ANNUAL REVIEW

The Council considered its updated Constitutional arrangements for the coming year.

Annual Meeting of the Council

21st May 2012

Further to appointments noted at Minute 15 above, the proposal that the Leader of the Council also be allowed to be a member of the Planning Committee was discussed as it was suggested that this did might conform to best practice. Officers confirmed that there was no legal prohibition but, in noting that the proposition did present potential difficulties, stated that they would work with the Leader to ensure that the holding of both positions was managed effectively.

RESOLVED that

the Council's Constitutional arrangements be re-affirmed, as appended to the Council Agenda under separate cover.

19. LOCALISM ACT 2011 - NEW STANDARDS REGIME

The Council considered a report which described the changes to the system of regulation of the standards of conduct for elected and co-opted Councillors introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Council approve the creation of a Committee to enable the Council to discharge its duty to promote high standards of behaviour in public life with a composition as set out at Appendix 3 to the report;**
- 2) the Draft Code of Conduct attached at Appendix 1 to this report be approved and authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make any consequential changes that may be necessary once the Regulations are published, recognising that this will include the definitions in relation to Interests;**
- 3) the process for managing Standards complaints at Appendix 2 to this report be approved and authority delegated to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Party Group Leaders, to determine the process for managing an investigation and hearing;**
- 4) one Parish representative be co-opted onto the Committee as a non-voting co-optee, together with, as a transitional measure, a non-statutory, non-voting, Independent Observer;**

Annual Meeting of the Council

21st May 2012

- 5) the proposals for discharging the requirement under the Localism Act for an Independent Person(s) be approved and authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to carry out the recruitment and selection process, in consultation with Group Leaders;
- 6) the proposals for managing dispensations, as detailed in the report at paragraphs 3.31 to 3.35, be approved; and
- 7) the Members' Allowances Scheme be updated to include the new allowances detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report below, to be funded from within existing Allowances budgets.

20. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Council received notification of the need to nominate a Member to a Joint Committee that would consider the appointment of a replacement member to the Independent Remuneration Panel to fill a vacancy that had arisen.

RESOLVED that

Councillor Phil Mould be appointed to the Joint Committee that will consider the appointment of a member to the Worcestershire Districts Joint Independent Remuneration Panel to fill the vacancy that has arisen on that Panel.

21. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Council considered a report on expenses and allowances paid to Members during the financial year 2011/12 under the Local Authorities' (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.05 pm
and closed at 8.32 pm

.....
MAYOR, in the Chair

**Annual Meeting
of the Council**

APPENDIX A

21st May 2012

LEADER NOMINATIONS
(and Opposition places *)

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: ***Leader of the Council* ex-officio (per Constitution)***

Vice-Chair: ***Deputy Leader# ex-officio ("***

Councillors: *(9 = 7+2 – not required to be proportional)*

*(LAB) Blake, Chance #, Hartnett *, Mould, Shurmer,
Stephens, Debbie Taylor*

*(CON) Gandy *, Braley **

(Cannot be members of O&S Committees)

Named

Substitutes: Not permitted.

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX A

21st May 2012

Portfolio Holders (x 7)

(Numbers of Portfolios and range of services covered are reviewable annually)

Community Leadership & Partnership inc. Vol. Sector – Cllr HARTNETT

(normally the Leader of the Council)

Community Safety & Regulatory Services – Cllr BLAKE

*(Crime & Disorder, Safer Communities, Licensing impacts *, planning against Emergencies)*

Corporate Management – Cllr MOULD

*(Internal systems / support services: Admin. / Audit / Finance / Human Resources / IT/ Conduct of Council /Committee business/ Licensing process *)*

Housing - Cllr SHURMER

(Housing Services)

Local Environment & Health – Cllr Debbie TAYLOR

(Health-related Services, Better Environment, Cleansing & Waste Management, Climate Change, Landscape / Open Space)

Leisure & Tourism – Cllr STEPHENS

(Culture & Recreation, Community Training, Education, Learning & Skills, Children, Corporate Parenting, Youth, Surestart)

Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development & Transport – Cllr CHANCE

(Planning & Land use, Economic Development, Public Transport)

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX A

21st May 2012

Member “Champions” *(List subject to critical review)*

(Duties generally fall to the relevant Portfolio Holder.
 In other cases can be an Executive or non-Executive Member.)

1.	<u>Asset Management /</u> <u>Customer Access /</u> <u>E.government / IT</u> (Corporate Management Portfolio)	Cllr MOULD (Portfolio Holder)
2.	<u>Children & Young People /</u> <u>Play</u> (Leisure & Tourism / Community Leadership & Partnership Portfolios)	Cllr STEPHENS (Portfolio Holder)
3.	<u>Equalities</u> (Community Leadership / Corporate Management Portfolios)	Cllr HARTNETT (Portfolio Holder)
4.	<u>Health</u> (Housing & Health Portfolio)	Cllr Debbie TAYLOR (Portfolio Holder)
5.	<u>Heritage</u> (Local Environment Planning & Transport and Leisure & Tourism Portfolios)	Cllr CHANCE (Portfolio Holder)
6.	<u>Local Democracy Events</u> <i>(subject to review of current event)</i> (Corporate Management Portfolio)	Cllr Pattie HILL (assisted by Cllr BRUNNER *)
7.	<u>Member Development</u> <i>(1 per Party Group)</i> (Corporate Management Portfolio)	(Lab) Cllr MOULD (Con) Cllr BRALEY *
8.	<u>Risk Management</u> (Corporate Management Portfolio)	Cllr MOULD (Portfolio Holder)
9.	<u>Third Sector Liaison</u> (Community Leadership & Partnership Portfolio)	Cllr HARTNETT (Portfolio Holder)

**Annual Meeting
of the Council**

APPENDIX A

21st May 2012

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Overview & Scrutiny “Parent” Committee may undertake policy reviews itself or, more routinely, commission Task & Finish Groups to undertake targeted, time-limited pieces of work on the Committee’s behalf.

The Committee will meet every three weeks to echo the meeting pattern of the Executive Committee and to provide the opportunity for a responsive call-in mechanism.

A decision was taken by Council in 2008, with no members voting against, that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should not be Party proportional.

The role of Crime and Disorder O&S Committee under the Police and Justice Act 2006 is undertaken by the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair: **Councillor Brunner**

Vice-Chair: **Councillor S Chalk**

(The Constitution requires that members of political groups not forming part of the ruling administration shall be appointed Chair and Vice-Chair of the O&S Committee)

Councillors *(Notional Proportions 9 = 5+4, plus TU co-optees –
Actual places 9 = 4 + 5, plus TU co-optees –
- Not currently proportional by formal resolution of the Council,
decision to be renewed each year)*

(LAB) Fry, Fisher, Pattie Hill, Witherspoon

(CON) Brazier, Bush, Hopkins

(Not members of the Executive Committee)

Co-opted members: 2 Trade Union (UNISON) representatives
(for employee-related items only)

Named Substitutes: All other members of the Council – non-Exec
(For reasons of continuity, substitution is not permitted during Task and Finish reviews.)

Substitute Co-optees 1 nominated TU representative per Union.

“OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEMBERS” POOL

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

Available for allocation for Task & Finish Reviews
(= all remaining “non-Executive” Members)

Councillors: (LAB) *To be added*
(CON) *Bennett, Clayton, M Chalk, Griffin, R Hill, Quinney, Derek Taylor*

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL

Chair: ***Councillor Brazier***

Councillors: (5 = 3 + 2)
(LAB) Baker, Pattie Hill
(CON) Clayton

(The Terms of Reference of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel state that the Chair must be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

TASK & FINISH GROUPS:

(To be re-appointed at the Annual Meeting. Please note that, for the purposes of continuity it is desirable that the Memberships of existing Groups be continued into the following municipal year. Furthermore, there is currently an expectation that Chairs of Task and Finish Groups would be Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.)

ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Chair: Councillor Fry
Councillors: (5 = 3 + 2)
(Lab) Mason, Smith
(Con) M Chalk, Quinney

REDDITCH MARKET

Chair: O&S Committee to determine Chair / Membership later
Councillors: (5 = 3 + 2)
(Lab)
(Con) Quinney, Derek Taylor.

REGULATORY COMMITTEES

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

Chair: ***Councillor Derek Taylor***

Vice-Chair: ***Councillor Roger Hill***

Councillors: (7 = 4 +3)
 (LAB) Baker, Fisher, Shurmer and Smith
 (CON) Bennett

(The Panel to comprise elected Members representing all interests of the Authority, preferably with 'relevant areas of expertise', where possible (such areas as accountancy, audit, business and commerce). Can be members of the Executive Committee. For the sake of independence, the Chair to be an "Opposition" Member.)

Named

Substitutes: Not permitted.

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS COMMITTEE

Chair: ***Councillor Witherspoon***

Vice-Chair: ***Councillor Mould***

Councillors (5 = 3+2 - not required to be proportional, though helpful for balance)
 (The Committee to be selected as and when necessary, in consultation with the Chair, from all disinterested members of the Council – training in Quasi-Judicial meetings required.)

Named

Substitutes: (Substitution rules therefore not relevant).

(Can be members of the Executive Committee: to be selected from all disinterested members of the Council – training required – normally evening meetings, but may occasionally need to meet in the daytime for longer hearings.)

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

(Required, via its Sub-Committees, to deal with applications lodged under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005; and also, via other Sub-Committee(s) to act as Taxi and 'other' Licensing Regulatory Committee.)

Chair: **Councillor Fry**
Vice-Chair: **Councillor Stephens**

Councillors: (*11 = 6 +5 - must be no less than 10 / no more than 15*)
 (LAB) Baker, Pattie Hill, King and Mason
 (CON) Brunner, M Chalk, Gandy, R Hill, Hopkins

(Can be members of the Executive Committee – there may be:

- daytime and evening meetings of 3-Member Sub-Committees (Premises / Personal Licences) plus 1 reserve Member, to hear applications; and/or
- daytime meetings of 5-Member Taxi / other Licensing Sub-Committee.)

Named Subject to appropriate training,
Substitutes: all other members of the Council.

[N.B. Trained Members – Licensing Act, Gambling Act and Quasi-Judicial meetings – currently available (*other than as indicated*) are:

(List to be updated) (*not Quasi-Judicial meetings*).

New Training will be offered as soon as possible in the Municipal Year to Members who require it – dates are already set - Member Development Programme 2012/13 refers) .]

Licensing Sub-Committees – A. Personal / Premises / Gambling Act

(3-Member "Panels" – general membership to be agreed by Officers, in consultation with the relevant Chair, as required per application and currently to include a 4th Reserve Member – (arrangement under review).)

- A. Chair: **Councillor Fry**
B. Alternate Chair 1: **Councillor Pattie Hill**
C. Alternate Chair 2: **Councillor Roger Hill**
D. Alternate Chair 3: **Councillor Hopkins**

Sub-Committee 'core' membership - 3 Members to normally hear Licensing Act / Gambling Act applications, plus one 'Reserve':

Councillors: Fry, Pattie Hill, Roger Hill, Hopkins

(Notes:

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

- 1) Daytime and evening meetings may be required.
- 2) The 'core' membership above would change in the case of any prejudicial or Ward interests, or other conflict, or exceptional absence. However, a constant membership would help Members to develop expertise in the area, given the very few Hearings currently required in the Borough.
- 3) Substitute Members to be drawn, as required, from list of trained and available Members. (Training will be provided as soon as possible to cover any deficit.)
- 4) Chairing of Licensing Sub-Committee / Quasi-Judicial meetings involves particular skills and therefore only trained Members with relevant knowledge and experience should be nominated.
- 5) Compulsory Training to be renewed / updated in accordance with Constitutional requirements, or when significant legal, policy or procedural change occurs.)

Licensing Sub-Committees – B. Taxis / Sex Establishments / Other.

(This Sub- Committee covers all "other Licensing" and similar regulatory matters - other than those covered under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005, examples: Taxis, Incinerators and "Sex Establishments". Mostly daytime meetings.)

Chair: **Councillor Fry**
 (Ex officio Chair of the Licensing Committee /
 Special Responsibility Allowance refers.)

Vice-Chair: **Councillor Pattie Hill**

Councillors: (5 = 3 + 2)
 (LAB) Baker
 (CON) Brunner, R Hill

(Can be members of the Executive Committee – must receive training in Quasi-Judicial meetings before they can sit or substitute.)

Named
Substitutes: All other members of the Council.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: **Councillor Fry**

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

Vice-Chair: ***Councillor Baker***

Councillors: (9 = 5 +4)
 (LAB) Hartnett, King, Smith
 (CON) M Chalk, Clayton, R Hill, Quinney

(Can be members of the Executive Committee, ~~but not Council Leader~~ * -
Must receive relevant formal training before they can sit or substitute.
Training to be renewed / updated annually, and/or when significant legal, policy or
procedural change occurs.)

Chairing of the Planning Committee meetings involves particular skills and therefore
only trained Members with relevant knowledge and experience should be nominated.)

Named All other trained members of the Council.
Substitutes: (NB. substitution at Planning Committee is not generally advised, as
occasional attendees will not have received all update briefings. Party
balance, although a requirement of the composition of the Committee,
should not be a material consideration at Planning Committee
meetings.)

(Mandatory Training will be provided as soon as reasonably possible in
the new municipal year - Member Development Programme refers.)

Note: * The barrier to Leader membership of the Planning Committee
will be removed, subject to Council's decision at the Constitution review
item later in the Agenda,.

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Revised arrangements – separate report refers)

Chair: **Councillor Witherspoon**
Vice –Chair: **Councillor Braley**

RBC Councillors: (5 = 3 +2)
(plus - 2 non-voting Parish Council co-optees; and
2012/13 transitional arrangement -
1 non-voting Independent Observer co-optee.)

(LAB) Mould, Debbie Taylor
(CON) Derek Taylor

(New arrangements, subject to final decisions of the Council Annual Meeting - separate report refers - Continuity of membership is recommended, so far as practical, for training / expertise purposes. Quasi-judicial training is required for the conduct of any Hearings.)

Mandatory Training to be renewed / updated at least every 4 years, or when significant legal, policy or procedural change occurs.)

Named (Not encouraged.
Substitutes: Must have received required training.)

[Hearings Sub-Committee arrangements are subject to further report:

Chairing of Sub-Committees will vary according to the circumstances of the Hearing:

Labour Chair for Hearing about Conservative member /
Conservative Chair for Hearing about Labour member.)

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

(not within main structure. None of these meetings have Executive authority, other than as exercised already by relevant Officers with delegated powers.)

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANELS

Advisory Panels are less formal meetings and share memberships from both Executive and Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) members (potential conflicts of interest should therefore be taken into account for O&S members of Advisory Panels in future scrutiny of resultant Executive decisions). They often meet early evening.

They exist to work up firm proposals on behalf of, and as specified by, the Executive and/or Majority Group(s), as appropriate. They are therefore led by the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).

Reporting should normally therefore be to the Executive. But exceptionally, if deadlines require, reporting may, with the agreement of the Leader, be direct to the full Council in relation to proposals with implications for policy or budget change. More open reviews should be considered by O&S.

They are not required to be Party proportional, but have been established on those terms to date – the figures in brackets are therefore a guide only).

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY PANEL

(Terms of Reference – to advise the Executive Committee on Climate Change)

Chair: **Councillor Debbie Taylor** (relevant Portfolio Holder ex officio)
Vice-Chair: **Councillor Fry**

Councillors: (5 = 3+2)
(LAB) Mason
(CON) Brazier, Hopkins
(Membership to include relevant Portfolio Holder as Chair.)

ECONOMIC ADVISORY PANEL ('ECAP')

(Terms of Reference – as above in relation to Economic Development related matters.)

Chair: **Councillor Chance** (relevant Portfolio Holder ex officio)
Vice-Chair: **Councillor Fisher**

Councillors: (5 = 3+2)
(LAB) Baker
(CON) Bennett, Bush
(Membership to include relevant Portfolio Holder as Chair.)

HOUSING ADVISORY PANEL

(Terms of Reference – as above in relation to Housing-related matters.)

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

Chair: **Councillor Shurmer** (*relevant Portfolio Holder ex officio*)

Vice-Chair: **Councillor Witherspoon**

Councillors: (5 = 3+2)
(LAB) Mason
(CON) Clayton, Quinney
(Membership to include relevant Portfolio Holder as Chair.)

PLANNING ADVISORY PANEL ("PAP")

(To monitor progression of the Regional Spatial Strategy Review and consider material to be provided to the Regional Assembly.

To consider all matters associated with the preparation of Development Plan documents or other documents in the local Development Framework.)

Chair: **Councillor Chance** (*relevant Portfolio Holder ex officio*)

Vice-Chair: **Councillor Blake**

Councillors: (5 = 3+2)
(LAB) Hartnett
(CON) Bush, M Chalk
(Membership to include relevant Portfolio Holder as Chair.)

(Because of the link to Core Strategy Review, administered by Democratic Services)

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

MISCELLANEOUS OTHER MEETINGS:

BOROUGH TENANTS' FORUM

Chair: (Not RBC position - election at first meeting)

Vice-Chair: (ditto)

Councillors: (3 = 2 + 1 + Officers)
(LAB) Chance, Shurmer
(CON) Quinney

(Can be any member of the Council)

Named

Substitutes: (All members of the Council)

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY

(To provide a pool of senior Executive Committee and O&S Members to assist the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer with the rolling development of the Constitution and its associated documents; also to consider the development of the Localisation agenda.)

Chair: ***Councillor Hartnett***

Vice-Chair: ***Councillor Chance***

Councillors: (5 = 3+2)
(LAB) Pattie Hill
(CON) Braley, Gandy

(Should ideally include Group Leaders / Portfolio Holder / Senior members of both Exec and O&S Committees.)

Named

Substitutes: Any member of the Council.

GRANTS PANEL

(To recommend to the Executive Committee grant awards for 20012/13)

Chair: ***Councillor Bush***

Vice-Chair: ***Councillor Chance***

Councillors: (5 = 3+2 but not required to be proportional)
(LAB) Shurmer and Smith
(CON) Clayton

(Members should not have interests which would disbar their membership / close involvement with bodies applying for grant.

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

Prejudicial involvement with any one body would disbar Members from the entire Grants allocation process.)

Named

Substitutes: Substitutions do not apply.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL STEERING GROUP

(To organise an annual Holocaust Memorial Event -

Chair: **Councillor Hartnett**

Vice-Chair: **Councillor Blake**

Councillors: (5 = 3 +2 – number / proportions not fixed)
(LAB) King
(CON) Hopkins, Quinney

Named

Substitutes: For the sake of continuity, substitutions are not required or relevant.

MEMBER SUPPORT STEERING GROUP

*(To develop and implement a Member Development Programme;
to review Members' Support arrangements: administrative, financial and IT.)*

Chair: **Councillor Fisher**

Vice-Chair: **Councillor Mould ***

Councillors: (5 = 3+2)
(LAB) King
(CON) Braley *, Gandy

(Can be any member of the Council – should include both
* Party Group Member Development Champions .)

Named

Substitutes: All other members of the Council.

PROCUREMENT STEERING GROUP

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

(To oversee shared services joint working and other alternative working arrangements of the Council)

Chair: ***Councillor Hartnett***

Vice-Chair: ***Councillor Chance***

Councillors: (5 = 3+2)
 (LAB) Debbie Taylor
 (CON) Braley, Derek Taylor

(Fixed membership only)

Named (for continuity, none appointed /
Substitutes: but exceptionally permitted with Chair's agreement.)

REDDITCH MATTERS EDITORIAL PANEL

(To act as a consultative body for Officers in respect of the content of the Council magazine.)

Chair: ***Councillor Hartnett***

Vice-Chair: ***Councillor Debbie Taylor***

Councillors: (3 = 2+1)
 (LAB) (As above)
 (CON) Clayton

Named
Substitutes: Any member of the Council.

General Notes (All meetings):-

- 1) Any unfilled Chair or Vice-Chair positions will be the subject of decision at the first meetings of the Committees concerned.
- 2) Amendments to the above appointments can be made, if Council decision is necessary, at subsequent full Council meetings.

**Annual Meeting
of the Council**

APPENDIX B

21st May 2012

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

BOROUGH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The various Bodies listed in Sections 1, 2 and 3 below have requested the Council to appoint persons to represent the Borough Council on the said bodies.

Notes: The Council resolved on the 21st of April 2008 that, so far as is practical:

- 1) more senior Members should be appointed to represent the Council on significant bodies, such as the Council Leader on Regional bodies, and relevant Portfolio Holders as relevant to their Portfolios;
- 2) other relevant Members should be appointed as befits their position / interests / Ward responsibilities, etc., for example an Astwood Bank and Feckenham Ward Member on bodies with a rural interest.

SECTION 1: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATED APPOINTMENTS

Body	2011/12 Representative(s)	Notes / Terms	Nominees
Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE)	Cllr B Clayton	1 representative (must be a Councillor) Term : 1 year No liability issues identified.	Cllr Mould
Local Government Association General Assembly	Cllr Gandy	1 Representative for 20012/13 (must be a Councillor) Term : 1 year No liability issues identified.	Cllr Hartnett
Local Government Association – Rural Commission	Cllr M Chalk (and John Staniland, Director)	1 Representative (must be a Councillor – normally an Astwood Bank and Feckenham Ward Member) (plus 1 Council Officer) Term : 1 year No liability issues identified.	Cllr M Chalk
Local Government Association – Urban Commission	Cllr Braley (and John Staniland, Director)	1 Representative (must be a Councillor) (plus 1 Council Officer) Term : 1 year No liability issues identified.	Cllr Chance

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

<p>West Midlands Councils</p> <p>(Replaced the WMLGA Leaders' Board)</p>	<p>Cllr Gandy (alternate – Cllr Braley)</p>	<p>1 Nomination</p> <p>(Must be the Leader of the Council, by virtue of his/her position.)</p> <p>A formal "Alternate" is also to be <u>nominated by the Leader</u> to attend meetings in absence of the principal representative.</p> <p>Term : to each RBC AGM</p> <p>No liability issues identified.</p>	<p>Cllr Hartnett (alternate – Cllr Chance)</p>
<p>West Midlands Councils Member Development Steering Group</p>	<p>Cllr Brunner</p>	<p>1 Nomination</p> <p>To act on behalf of the Council in relation to West Midlands Councils - supported Member Development-related positions.</p> <p>Term : 1 year</p> <p>Terms as per WMLGA Steering Group</p> <p>No liability issues identified.</p>	<p>Cllr Mould</p>
<p>Assembly of the District Councils' Network</p>	<p>Cllr Gandy (as Leader of the Council)</p>	<p>1 Nomination</p> <p>To represent the Council on the Assembly of this body which is a voice for District Councils within the Local Government Association.</p> <p>The Assembly of the DCN comprises the Leaders of the Member Authorities or equivalent. New in 2011/12.</p> <p>Term : 1 year</p> <p>No liability issues identified.</p>	<p>Cllr Hartnett (as Leader of the Council)</p>

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

SECTION 2: PARTNERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

a) County Council Bodies

Body	2011/12 Representative(s)	Notes / Terms	APPOINTEES
Corporate Parenting Steering Group (Worcestershire County Council)	Cllr Quinney	1 RBC Representative (elected) <u>Must be relevant Portfolio Holder (new criterion this year)</u> Until next RBC Annual Meeting. (Monthly meetings – approx. 2 hrs each time – generally Friday mornings – 9.30 start) Next Mtg – 9.30am – Friday 1st June at County Hall. No liability issues identified.	Cllr Stephens
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Worcestershire County Council)	Cllr Quinney	1 representative Term : 1 year. Comprises 8 County Councillors and 6 District Councillors who take on the role of scrutinising the local NHS and be consulted with by the NHS on any proposed substantial changes to local health services. <u>Must be a member of Redditch Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</u> Liability issues to be determined but <u>unlikely to be an issue.</u>	Cllr Witherspoon
Highways Forum (Worcestershire County Council)	Cllrs Roger Hill and Mason	Up to 2 Representatives (Must be Councillors) Term: To RBC AGM Role is that of non-voting observers only. No liability issues identified.	Cllrs Mason and Roger Hill
Worcestershire	Cllr Braley	<u>1 Nomination only</u>	Cllr Mould (as

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

<p>Customer Strategic Board</p> <p>(Previously Worcestershire Hub Board)</p> <p>(RBC Lead Officer – Amanda de Warr)</p>	<p>(as relevant Portfolio Holder)</p>	<p>(must be a Councillor – relevant Portfolio Holder with remit for Customer Services)</p> <p>Term: 1 year to AGM 2013</p> <p>Normally <u>Daytime</u> meetings at County Hall.</p> <p>Remit for new board now wider – customer services, Worcestershire Hub, self services & customer payments</p> <p>No information on issues of liability available but unlikely to be any)</p>	<p>relevant Portfolio Holder)</p>
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Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

b) Other / Local Bodies

Body	20011/12 Representative(s)	Notes / Terms	APPOINTEES
Worcestershire Care & Repair Performance Board (Previously North Worcestershire C & R Agency Advisory Board)	Cllr B Clayton	1 RBC Representative (elected) Until next RBC Annual Meeting. (Normally to be Housing Portfolio Holder) Liability issues to be determined. No information to hand at present time. <u>Unlikely to be an issue.</u>	Cllr Shurmer
Redditch Children's Centres Advisory Board (Contact Officer: Judith Willis)	Cllr S Chalk	1 Representative (must be a Councillor) Term : 1 year Informally advised that there are unlikely to be any liability issues for members of the Advisory Board.	Cllr Pattie Hill
Redditch Community Safety Partnership (Lead Officer – S Hanley)	Cllrs Brunner and Blake'	2 Representatives (must be Councillors – normally including the relevant Portfolio Holder) Term : 1 year No liability issues identified. <u>Will cease to operate and be replaced by the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership from the 3rd July 2012.</u>	Cllrs Blake and Brunner
North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership	NEW From first meeting on 3rd July	1 representative Term: 1 year Terms of Reference indicate representative need not be an Elected Member. No liability issues identified. <u>Replacing the Redditch Community Safety Partnership</u>	Cllr Blake

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

<p>Town Centre Partnership (Lead Officer – Lyndsey Hadley)</p>	<p>Cllrs A Clayton, M Hall and R King</p>	<p>4 Representatives (must be Councillors) Term : 1 year No liability issues identified.</p>	<p>Cllrs Blake, Mason, Debbie Taylor and Derek Taylor</p>
<p>Waste Management Board (Lead Officer – Guy Revans)</p>	<p>Cllr B Clayton (as relevant Portfolio Holder) (substitute Cllr Fry)</p>	<p>1 representative + 1 substitute (Representative must be a Councillor and relevant Portfolio Holder. Term : 1 year <u>Note</u>: Meets Friday <u>mornings</u> - 4 times per year No liability issues identified.</p>	<p>Cllr Debbie Taylor (as relevant Portfolio Holder) (substitute Cllr Fry)</p>
<p>Local Strategic Partnership</p>	<p>Leader, Deputy Leader and Leader of the Opposition) Cllrs Gandy and Braley Cllr Hartnett (or his substitute Cllr Blake) (Papers to be also sent to substitute)</p>	<p>3 Member Representatives Leader, Deputy Leader and Leader of the Opposition (ex officio) Term : 1 year No liability issues identified.</p>	<p>Leader, Deputy Leader and Leader of the Opposition) Cllr Hartnett (or his substitute Cllr Blake) Cllrs Chance and Gandy (Papers to be also sent to substitute)</p>

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

SECTION 3 : OUTSIDE BODIES – GENERAL

Body	2010/11 Representative(s)	Notes / Terms	APPOINTEES
Age Concern Redditch and District Board	Cllr Quinney *Chief Executive is authorised to appoint Officer representatives.	1 Councillor (plus 1 Officer *) Term : 1 year Liability still to be determined. Advised in 2008 that Age Concern is a Ltd company and an official rep. from the Council cannot be a full Trustee / Director. Representation is therefore that of a co-opted non-voting Board Member.	Cllr Witherspoon
Court of the University of Birmingham	Cllr M Chalk (to AGM 2016)	1 Representative (Need not be a Councillor) Term: 5 years Role of Court is largely consultative in nature only with no direct decision making authority. No liabilities have been identified.	Cllr M Chalk (to AGM 2016)
Feckenham Education Endowment (Blue Coat School)	Mr A Price (to AGM 2013)	1 Representative (Need not be a Councillor) Term: 4 years to AGM 2013 No specific information on nature of representation or liabilities but letter confirming limited annual funds available for donation and capital invested with the Charities Commission. Regular financial advice taken and auditing of accounts.	Mr A Price (to AGM 2013)
Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA) – Executive Committee	Cllr B Clayton (to AGM 2013)	1 nomination (must be a Councillor) (Potential appointment for relevant Portfolio Holder but not a requirement) (Nominations have to be put to their AGM in September for	1 Vacancy following resignation of former Portfolio Holder

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

		consideration.) Term : 3 years No liability issues identified.	
Health and Safety Committee	Cllr A Clayton	1 Member representative (To reflect new corporate Health and Safety Requirements.) Term: 1 year to AGM An internal RBC Officer meeting with Member representation / <u>daytime</u> meetings. No liability issues.	Cllr Smith
Redditch Access for Disabled Group	Cllrs A Clayton and Mason	2 Representatives (Must be Councillors) Term : 1 year Advised advisory and representative only, no decision-making role. No liability issues identified.	Cllrs Mason and Quinney
Redditch Arts Council	Cllr Brazier, Quinney and Stephens	3 Representatives (Must be Councillors) Term : 1 year No liabilities identified / unlikely to be any liabilities.	Cllrs Brazier, Fisher and Stephens
Redditch One World Link Executive Committee	Cllr Quinney Mr Neal Stote	4 Representatives (2 Councillors, 1 Council Officer and 1 non-elected representative) Nominations should not include the Mayor who is a Member ex-officio*. Term : 1 year Liability appears to be limited, provided there are no breaches of duty or trust.	Cllr Quinney and 1 (Councillor) vacancy Mr Stephen Smith and Mr Yasser Mahood (subject to ROWL agreement re variation)

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

Redditch Play Council	Cllr Quinney	6 Representatives (4 elected and 2 non-elected Representatives) Term : 1 year To represent the Borough Council.	Cllr Stephens
Redditch Trade Justice Network (has links with Redditch One World Link (ROWL))	Cllrs Quinney and Debbie Taylor	1 representative / group of Members (no limit imposed). Term: 1 year. (Nominee(s) should have an interest in Fair Trade and be willing to work to further the aims and objectives of a Fair Trade Town.) Details of the Goals for a Fair Trade Town available on request. Details on nature of representation and liability issues still to be determined.	Cllrs Quinney and Debbie Taylor
Relate (Worcestershire)	Cllr A Clayton	1 Representative Term: 1 year to AGM Role of representation / any issues of liability still to be identified.	Cllr Baker
Reserve Forces and Cadet Association (RFCA) (formerly known as TAVR)	Cllr Hall	1 representative (Must be a Councillor) Term: 1 year No known liabilities – all matters of finance and liability dealt with via other RFCA Committees on which Council representative would play no part.	Cllr Fisher
St Stephen's Church, Redditch Project Group	Cllr Brazier	1 Member Representative (Must be a Councillor) Term: not specified by Group but suggest AGM to AGM Day time meetings. Full nature of role and issues of	Cllr Hopkins

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

(Lead Officer – Lyndsey Hadley)		liability to be determined. Advised in 2010 the Group was seeking legal advice regarding measures to indemnify Project Group members. No update received to date.	
Eadie Mews Trust (Formerly known as the Smallwood Almshouses Trust)	Cllr Fry (to AGM 2013)	1 Nomination (must be a Councillor). Term: 4 years (or to each AGM if preferred) Nature of representation: to represent the Borough Council but note Trustee status. No indemnity referred to. Liabilities of Trustees therefore presumed to be governed by Charities legislation.	Cllr Fry (to AGM 2013)
Tardebigge Relief in Need and Sickness Charity	Cllr M Chalk (to AGM 2015) Cllr Norton (to AGM 2013)	(2 Representatives - (Must be Councillors) Term : 4 years. (or to each AGM if preferred) The Charity is governed in accordance with the Charity Commission Scheme and strict rules apply.	Cllrs Fry and M Chalk (to AGM 2015)
Traffic Penalty Tribunal (Civil Parking Enforcement)	Cllr Braley (Deputy - Cllr Fry)	1 Representative plus 1 Deputy (must be Councillors) Term: AGM to AGM No liabilities identified / unlikely to be any liabilities.	Cllr Fry (Deputy – Cllr Braley)
'Where Next' Association	Cllr Roger Hill	1 Representative (must be a Councillor – <i>2 places variation previously agreed</i>) Term : 1 year to Council's AGM Nature of representation: to represent the Borough Council. Liability appears to be limited.	Cllrs Pattie Hill & King
Worcestershire Racial Equality	Cllrs Griffin and Shurmer	2 Representatives (need not be Councillors)	Messrs Stephen Smith and

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

Council		Term : 1 year. Nomination to be put forward to Annual Meeting of the WREC. Nature of representation: to represent the Borough Council. Liability appears limited to £1.	Yasser Mahood
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Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

SECTION 4: REQUESTS FOR NOMINATIONS TO OTHER OUTSIDE BODIES

The organisations listed below have requested Council nominations * primarily to represent, and act on behalf of, the organisation concerned, rather than the Council.

* The "Appointment" is made by the organisation itself, not by the Council.

Body	2010/11 Representative(s)	Notes / Terms	NOMINEES
Redditch CAB (Citizens' Advice Bureau) Management Committee	No nominations 2011/12.	3 Nominations (2 elected and 1 non-elected Representative) Term : 1 year Nature of representation: to primarily represent the Organisation and not the Borough Council. Issues of liability. There is a financial liability if the Trustee Board is shown to have acted negligently.	No nominations 2012/13.
Redditch Co-operative Homes	Cllrs Chance, Griffin, Hartnett and Hill [The Council has previously agreed that ideally representation will be proportional: 5= 3+2]	5 Nominations (must be Councillors) Term : 1 year Nature of representation: to primarily represent the Organisation and not the Borough Council. Liability appears appear to be limited providing there are no breaches of duty or trust.	Cllrs Griffin, Hartnett, R Hill & Witherspoon

Annual Meeting of the Council

APPENDIX C

21st May 2012

NOTES:

- 1) This list does not include all Council appointments to outside bodies, since some are made at other times during the year, or less frequently than once per year.
- 2) Nominations marked “Not required” because current memberships are mid-term, may still be reviewed if the Council wishes, and may clearly need to be reviewed where Council membership has changed.
- 3) The Council has delegated authority to the Chief Executive to make Officer appointments as appropriate; and to fill Member vacancies, in consultation with Party Group Leaders, where the full Council has agreed which party(ies) is/are due which places.
- 5) This list does not contain reference to places on those bodies which are occupied by the Mayor by virtue of his/her official capacity, namely:-

Twinning Bodies:

Friends of Auxerre (FoA) – President

Friends of Gruchet-le-Valasse (FroG) – President.

Redditch One World Link (ROWL - Mtwara Twinning) – President



Executive Committee

24th April 2012

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

Councillors David Bush, Simon Chalk and Gay Hopkins

Officers:

J, Bayley, K Dicks, C Flanagan and A Heighway

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

212. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

213. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

214. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised that the following item of business, scheduled on the agenda to be dealt with at this meeting, had been rescheduled to a later meeting of the Committee as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered that additional work was required prior to submission of the final report to the Executive:

- Access for Disabled People Review – Final Report

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

- Youth Service Provision Review – Final Report

(Not meeting the publication deadline.)

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Chair

215. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 3rd April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

216. ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TASK AND FINISH GROUP - FINAL REPORT

As mentioned above in the Leader's Announcements, this item had been deferred.

217. YOUTH SERVICES PROVISION TASK AND FINISH GROUP - FINAL REPORT

Councillor Simon Chalk, Chair of the Youth Service Provision Task and Finish Group, presented the final report prepared on behalf of the Group to the Executive Committee.

The Group had set out to examine the provision of activities and services to young people in the Borough in the context of a changing model of provision, with the establishment of a local Commissioning Group which was tasked with commissioning positive activities for young people. The Group recognised that much of the importance of its review lay in its ability to influence the commissioning process.

Councillor Chalk outlined the key findings of the Group, noting that most young people simply wanted a warm, secure place in which to meet their friends, socialise, listen to and create music and the means by which they could participate in sporting activities. The barriers preventing young people from participating in activities were also touched upon with transport, cost, access to information, the location of activities and a lack of self-confidence amongst some young people being identified as key factors.

Members of the Executive Committee congratulated Councillor Chalk and his Group for the report which was considered to have much to commend it.

Promotion and communication was seen as a key area to be addressed. Despite the recognition that the Council's website was now much improved and that the Council did now make use of Facebook and Twitter, there was still considered to be a significant gap between the Council's means of communicating and the expectations and reality for young people today. The Committee

was receptive to the idea of making greater use of the Frog Intranet system which was available to high school students across the Borough.

The problem of young people accessing activities was discussed at some length. It was acknowledged that public transport provision was not adequate to fulfil the needs of young people to the extent that they or the Council might wish. The means by which the Council could assist were considered and it was proposed that a further report be prepared exploring the feasibility of using the Council's Dial-a-Ride service to make certain events more accessible for young people. The proposal within the report to make use of the WRVS Community Transport Scheme, which was currently being piloted, was not seen as an appropriate or effective solution on a number of levels, including the fact that the pilot may not continue beyond June.

It was recognised that much good work was already being carried out by the Borough Council, County Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector in providing positive activities for young people. It was hoped that this could be continued and built upon where possible and the expertise of experienced youth workers, both paid and voluntary, be retained.

It was proposed that the Commissioning Group receive a presentation from the Task and Finish Group in order that it might outline the findings of the review and thereby positively influence the commissioning of services.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **youth activities in Redditch should be promoted using the following communication tools:**
social networking platforms;
- 2) **Redditch Borough Council should submit bids for positive activities funding in the new commissioning framework in partnership with Voluntary and Community Sector organisations that have experience delivering youth activities and should offer to host these activities at Council owned *community centres* where appropriate;**
- 3) **Officers be requested to explore the option of Dial a Ride vehicles being used to transport young people to local events and festivities and a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and**

RECOMMENDED to Worcestershire County Council and the Redditch Commissioning Group that

- 4) **youth activities in Redditch should be promoted using the following communication tools:**
 - a) **a new dedicated Redditch youth website;**
 - b) **Worcestershire Plug and Play website;**
 - c) **local high schools' Frog Intranet systems;**
- 5) **there should be a youth work co-ordinator for Redditch financed by funding held by Worcestershire County Council to help maximise the number of youth activities in the town;**
(The Redditch Commissioning Group to be advised of this recommendation, rather than this being a recommendation to the Group itself);
- 6) **the Redditch Commissioning Group should ensure that there is a seamless transition from the old system for delivering youth services to the new commissioning framework to make sure that gaps in service provision to young people in Redditch do not occur;**
- 7) **the Redditch Commissioning Group should seriously consider the following types of bids for funding:**
 - a) **bids for youth work to be delivered using a social enterprise model; and**
 - b) **bids requesting that the funding cover the costs of employing a trained youth worker as part of delivering a positive activity to young people;**
- 8) **when the Redditch Commissioning Group is consulting with young people, the following groups should be consulted as part of this process:**
 - a) **Redditch Student Council; and**
 - b) **a focus group of young offenders and young people at risk of offending;**
- 9) **the Redditch Community Safety Partnership / North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership should be invited to present information to the Redditch Commissioning Group about youth related crime and anti-social behaviour in Redditch as part of the new commissioning framework;**

- 10) **links should be provided directly from the Frog intranet system used by local high schools to bus companies' websites to provide young people with access to up to date information about bus timetables and routes in Redditch; and**
- 11) **the Youth Services Provision Task Group's findings and the content of the group's final report should be considered by the Redditch Commissioning Group prior to commissioning youth activities for the Borough.**

218. **WORCESTERSHIRE EXTRA CARE HOUSING STRATEGY 2011 - 2026**

The Committee considered adoption of a County-wide strategy for Extra Care Housing for older people and those with disabilities covering the period 2011-2026.

Members considered that a very good report had been produced which would assist in the Core Strategy process and which contained an excellent level of detail.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Worcestershire Extra Care Housing Strategy, as attached to the report at Appendix 1, be endorsed and adopted; and**
- 2) **it be added to the Council's Constitutional Policy Framework.**

219. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on 2nd April 2012. Members considered the one outstanding recommendation requesting that the Council issue a letter to the Government expressing its concern with the recent changes to Housing Benefits, particularly the direct payments of benefits to applicants rather than landlords.

The Leader explained that she had met with Worcestershire MPs recently and had highlighted this as a matter to be raised with the Government. The Leader also commented on the request from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the letter be an open letter. It was noted that the matter had been extensively covered in the local media, and the Leader stressed that the Council was considering providing details of local case studies to support the views expressed in the letter, case studies which would not be

appropriate for inclusion in an open letter. It was suggested that a Press Release be prepared to accompany the issuing of the letter.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Council issue a letter to the Government expressing its concern with the recent changes to housing benefits, especially concerning its direct payment to the applicant and not the landlord; and**
- 2) **the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd April be received and noted.**

220. SHARED SERVICES BOARD

The Committee considered the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Shared Services Board.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 8th March 2012 be noted.

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

There were no minutes or referrals to consider under this item.

222. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Members considered and noted the latest version of the report on the Council's Advisory Panels and similar bodies.

223. ACTION MONITORING

Members considered and noted the most recent version of the Committee's Action Monitoring report.

224. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

The Executive Committee considered an Urgent Business decision which had been approved in accordance with the Council's urgency procedures, namely:

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – Street Closure Fund
(Urgent Business Reference 496)

The decision involved the approval of the use of the unallocated balance from the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme.

RESOLVED that

the decision be noted.

225. REVIEW OF OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE

Given that this was the last scheduled meeting of the municipal year, Members considered the operation of the Committee and any amendments they might wish to have incorporated in the Committee's Terms of reference and Procedure Rules during the process of updating the Council's Constitution at the Annual Meeting.

Officers noted a discrepancy between the current Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules in respect of the quorum of the Committee, a matter which would be resolved during the updating of the Constitution.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.07 pm

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Chair



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MINUTES

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd April 2012

Present:

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

Also Present:

Zoe Thomas (Audit Commission)

Officers:

A Bromage, T Kristunas, D Parker-Jones and J Pickering

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

34. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Luke Stephens and Elizabeth Cave (Audit Commission).

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

36. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23rd January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

37. AUDIT COMMISSION - PROGRESS REPORT 2011/12

The Committee received a report from the Council's external auditors, namely the Audit Commission, which gave a progress update in relation to the 2011/12 Audit.

Members were informed that the fee associated with the External Audit Opinion, audit of accounting statements and consideration of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, effectiveness

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Chair

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd April 2012

and efficiency was £127,000, which reflected an 11% reduction on the previous year's fee.

The District Auditor highlighted three questions from her briefing paper in which Members might have a particular interest.

- Has the Council completed the Audit Commission's annual fraud and corruption survey?

Officers confirmed that this would be completed by 15th May 2012.

- Has the Council considered the implications of the amendments to the capital financing arrangements?

Officers confirmed that the implications had been considered.

- Has the Council considered the guidance from CIPFA regarding the settlement payment to the Secretary of State in preparation for the commencement of self-financing of the HRA?

Officers confirmed that the HRA Business Plan would be available to the District Audit once completed.

The Committee received an update on the future arrangements for auditing the Council's accounts and were informed that Grant Thornton had been awarded the contract for the West Midlands area from the 2012/13 financial year. The scale of fees had been set nationally and for Redditch would be £76,000.

The Chair reported that he had received a copy of the Local Government Fraud Strategy, which he thought Officers and Members might find informative.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

38. AUDIT COMMISSION - OPINION AUDIT PLAN 2011-12

Members considered the 2011/12 Audit Opinion Plan, which set out the work that the Audit Commission proposed to undertake in 2011/12 in relation to the Audit and any significant and specific risks that would require additional review and consideration.

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd April 2012

The District Auditor had identified one significant and three specific risks to be reviewed during the Audit as follows:

Significant

- HRA Reform and the financial transactions relating to the funding of the new arrangements.

Specific

- Abbey Stadium development and the capital costs relating to the project
- Allocation of the cost of shared services between Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils.
- Disclosure of Heritage Assets.

Members were informed that the Annual Governance Report would be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 27th September 2012. The Auditor's opinion and value for money conclusion would be issued by 30th September 2012 and the Annual Audit Letter summarising the overall message from the Audit would be available in October 2012.

RESOLVED that

the 2011/12 Audit Opinion Plan be noted and approved.

39. AUDIT COMMISSION - ANNUAL GRANTS REPORT 2010/11

Consideration was given to the Audit Commission's annual report regarding the Certification of Claims and Returns 2010/11.

Members were informed that a review had been carried out on all grant related claims submitted by the Council at an associated cost of £34,252, a reduction on the previous year. In particular, five claims had been subject to full reviews owing to their value. These were:

- Housing Benefit Claim;
- Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts;
- HRA Subsidy;
- National Non Domestic Rates Claim;
- Disabled Facilities Grant Claim.

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd April 2012

The District Auditor reported that a qualification letter had been issued in respect of three of the above as follows:

1) Housing Benefits Claim

The claim was subject to a full review as it had been valued at £29 million. An estimated error of £68,000 had been identified, which represented 0.3% of the value and was within the parameters of error for claims of this size.

2) HRA Subsidy

A qualification letter had been received relating to the lack of supporting evidence in relation to housing numbers, which did not allow the Audit Commission to complete testing.

Members were informed that Officers had been investigating the issue with the aim of responding to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Audit Commission.

3) National Non Domestic Rates Claim

A qualification letter had been received in relation to the additional level of assurance that had been sought by the Audit Commission.

Members were informed that in previous years a spreadsheet showing the Gross Rateable Value of all properties had been submitted. This information had not been submitted for the 2010/11 Audit. However, Officers confirmed that it would be available for future audits.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Certification of Claims and Returns be considered; and**
- 2) **Officers be requested to respond to the recommendations contained therein.**

40. INTERNAL AUDIT - MONITORING REPORT 2011/12

Members considered the Internal Audit Monitoring Report for the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 together with the Internal Audit Operational Programme for 2012/13.

Officers reported that the following audit reports had been issued since January 2012.

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd April 2012

Levels of assurance were as follows:

<u>Audit</u>	<u>Assurance Level</u>
Council Tax	Moderate
Non Domestic Rates	Moderate
Benefits	Moderate
Payroll	Moderate
Housing – Rent Arrears, Payments and Collection	Moderate
Vehicles and Plant	Moderate
Housing Capital Contracts – Interim Valuation and Post Contract Appraisal	Moderate
Housing – Rent Control and Rent Debit	Full
Treasury Management	Full

Members were given a verbal update on audits in progress, since publication of the Agenda for this meeting, as follows:

<u>Audit</u>	<u>Assurance Level / Current Status</u>
Creditors	Final report issued 20/04/12 – significant assurance
Sundry Debtors	Final report issued 20/04/12 – significant assurance
Bank Reconciliations	Final report issued 20/04/12 – significant assurance
Procurement	Final report issued 20/04/12 – moderate assurance
Renovation Grants	Awaiting Management Response – Significant anticipated
Budgetary Control	Draft report issued 20/04/12 – significant assurance
Market Service (follow up)	Clearance meeting arranged for 24/04/12 – moderate assurance
Maintenance Contracts	Clearance meeting to be arranged
Section 106 Agreements	Ongoing fieldwork
Value Added Tax	Anticipated that fieldwork will be completed w/c 23/04/12

Officers reported that a new auditor had been appointed and that two posts, one a fixed term contract, would be advertised soon.

Officers clarified that the number of audits delivered against the amended Internal Audit Plan 2011/12 was 22 and was on target.

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd April 2012

Members expressed their concerns about the possibility that low risk issues were not being addressed in the Internal Audit Operation Plan for 2012/13.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted;**
- 2) **the Annual Audit Operational Plan for 2012/13 be approved; and**
- 3) **Officers prepare a report for the next meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee comparing current levels of assurance to those previously.**

(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 Appendix 3 to the report on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime. However, there is nothing exempt in this record of the proceedings.)

41. **NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE (NFI) - UPDATE**

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the work undertaken in response to the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) data matching exercise carried out in 2011/12.

Members were informed that the NFI exercise compared data from the following sources:

- Payroll;
- Creditors;
- Concessionary Travel Passes;
- Council Tax;
- Electoral Register;
- Licences;
- Tenancy details;
- Pensions;
- Housing Benefits; and
- Insurance Claimants.

In total 1,954 matches were investigated with 1,943 of these cleared. In Housing Benefits 8 cases of fraud were identified amounting to £26,806.88. 23 single person discounts in Council Tax were cancelled totalling £10,564.

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd April 2012

The Chair referred Members to statistics on fraud loss published in the Local Government Fraud Strategy as follows:

- United Kingdom total - £73 billion
- Public Sector - £20.3 billion; of which
 - Local Government - £2.2 billion.

He highlighted savings in the region of £10 million that had been made by Birmingham City Council.

Officers reported that the South Worcestershire Councils had worked together on a similar initiative that had realised £700,000 savings.

Members were informed that discussion would be taking place to identify whether a similar initiative could be beneficial to the North Worcestershire Councils.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **Officers prepare a report for a future meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee as to the feasibility of a similar initiative in the North of the County as that operating across South Worcestershire Councils.**

42. RISK MANAGEMENT - UPDATE

Members considered a report on the Corporate Risk Register and the current arrangements for risk management within the Council.

Officers reported that a number of risks previously included in the Corporate Risk Register had been downgraded and removed completely or transferred to service based registers.

Members were concerned that they should retain an oversight of both the Corporate and Departmental Risk Registers.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **Officers prepare quarterly reports to this Committee on a sample of high risks identified in the Departmental Risk Registers.**

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd April 2012

43. REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - CHAIR'S REPORT

The Committee considered a review of the effectiveness of the Audit and Governance Committee including whether any changes were required to the Terms of Reference.

Members considered that the Committee had operated effectively and that no radical changes were required. However, Officers were requested to report on the feasibility of co-opting non-elected members onto the Committee.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be received; and**
- 2) **Officers prepare a feasibility report, as outlined in the preamble above, for the next meeting of the Committee.**

44. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Members considered the Committee's work programme for 2012/13 and whether any amendments were necessary.

The list of reports for the meeting on 28th June was amended as follows:

- Scrutiny of the Annual Governance Statement;
- ~~Risk Reporting~~
- ~~Annual Audit Plan~~
- ~~Annual Statement of Accounts~~
- Annual Audit Report, including outturn
- Annual report of the Risk Reporting Group
- Quarterly Report – High Risk Departmentals
- Feasibility Report – Non-Elected Members

RESOLVED that

the report be noted and the amendments agreed.

45. COUNCILLOR PETER ANDERSON

The Chair formally thanked Councillor Peter Anderson for his contribution to the Committee, the Council and the Borough during his time as a Member of the Council.

Audit & Governance

Committee

23rd April 2012

46. 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 paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended:

- **Internal Audit - Monitoring Report 2011/12 (As detailed in Minute 40 above)**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.00 pm

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Chair



Planning Committee

28th March 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Chalk (Chair), Councillor Roger Hill (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Andrew Brazier, Bill Hartnett and Alan Mason.

Officers:

S Edden, A Hussain, A Rutt and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth

84. APOLOGIES

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

The Committee noted that Councillor Alan Mason had been appointed a permanent member of the Planning Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year, as a replacement for former Councillor Robin King.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

86. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th February 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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Chair

87. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Prior to consideration of the one application on the agenda, the Committee considered a Supplementary Note, tabled by Planning Officers at the meeting, informing them that, as of the 27th March 2012, following the Government's release of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), all National Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Planning Policy Statements had ceased to exist, including other relevant circulations and guidance, and that all Planning Applications for Planning Permission must now be determined in accordance with the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicated otherwise.

It was noted that, whilst the NPPF was a significant material consideration in planning decisions, the Development Plan would continue to include the saved Policies of Local Plan No.3, which could be given full weight as they were prepared and adopted after 2004. Members also noted that the new arrangements would continue for a year, during which time further information would be provided to Members regarding future decision making and that, weight could be given to emerging policies in some circumstances.

(This update was accepted as a matter of Urgent Business – not having met the publication deadline - and was considered at the meeting as such, with the approval of the Chair, in accordance with the Council's constitutional rules and powers vested in the Chair by virtue of Section 100 (B) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to agree to matters of urgency being discussed by reason of special circumstances.

In this case the urgency was warranted by the Government's announcement, only the previous day of the release of the National Planning Policy Framework and the need to clarify the policy position before consideration of the following application.)

88. PLANNING APPLICATION 2012/025/FUL – MACLELLAN HOUSE, CLEWS ROAD, OAKENSHAW

Demolition of existing office building and
erection of drive-thru restaurant (Use Class A3/A5)
with associated parking

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

Councillor C Gandy – Ward Member and objector
Mr R Wells – Applicant's Agent
Mr Peach – Applicant.

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 report.

(Further to Minute 87 above, the Committee was informed that the Planning Application should be considered with the published NPPF in mind. It was noted, however, that the Officer's report had included references to the draft NPPF, published in 2011, and that the policy objectives detailed in the draft had remained the same in the recently published edition. In view of this, Members were advised that, the considerations detailed in the main report, with the addition of the items noted on the Update report, relating to three further letters of objection having been received, remained unchanged.)

**89. APPEAL OUTCOME –
CRUMPFIELDS FARM, CRUMPFIELDS LANE, WEBHEATH**

The Committee received an item of information in relation to an appeal against an Enforcement Notice for an unauthorised change of use, namely:

Enforcement Notice 2010/024/ENF
Change of use of Agricultural land to
Riding School and associated
operational development

Members noted that, the appeal against the Council's decision to issue an Enforcement Notice had been dismissed by the Inspector, who had considered the development on site and confirmed that a material change of use had occurred and that unauthorised structures were also in place. The Inspector had also considered the notice had been correctly served.

Members further noted that the Enforcement Team investigating the change of use had invited the owner of the land to submit a Planning Application for a change of use, which had not been forthcoming.

RESOLVED that

the item of information be noted.

**90. APPEAL OUTCOME –
WOODSILL COTTAGE, WEAVERS HILL, HUNT END**

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 2011/277/FUL
Extensions to dwelling

Members noted that, the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission had been dismissed on the grounds that having already been significantly extended in the past, the proposed new extensions, when taken together, would amount to a disproportionate addition to the original property, which the Inspector considered would constitute inappropriate development; be visually conspicuous due to the property's elevated position; and would have an adverse effect on the openness of the Green Belt.

The Inspector had further considered that the very special circumstances required to justify the development under the terms of current policies had not existed in this case.

RESOLVED that

the item of information be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.48 pm

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CHAIR



Planning Committee

25th April 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Chalk (Chair), Councillor Roger Hill (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Andrew Brazier, Bill Hartnett, Wanda King, Alan Mason and Brenda Quinney

Also Present:

Councillor Jinny Pearce (relevant Portfolio Holder) and M Collins (observer for Standards Committee)

Officers:

S Edden, A Hussain and A Rutt

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth

91. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

93. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th March 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

**94. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK –
CHANGES TO PLANNING POLICY**

The Committee received a report which provided further information on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) document, published on 27th March 2012, which had replaced the Government's previous national planning policy documents and guidance, in relation to the procedures for its use and how it differed from the previous system.

Members noted that the NPPF had been taken into account for determining the two applications to be considered that evening. It was also noted that further clarification would be provided on the document and its significance for determining planning applications, at the planned Member training for Planning Committee in May.

Further to two individual requests, Officers agreed to forward Members a copy of the NPPF document.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the National Planning Policy Framework be taken into account, in place of the documents it has superseded, as a material consideration when determining all future Planning Applications; and**

RECOMMEND that

- 2) **the Council's Constitutional Policy Framework be updated accordingly.**

**95. PLANNING APPLICATION 2012/032/FUL –
FORMER HEPWORTH SITE, BROOK STREET, REDDITCH**

Erection of 7 no. Class B.1 units

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 and the following additional condition and informative, as detailed in the Update report:

Condition

- "8. Site operatives' car parking to be provided during the development."**

Informative

“3) A Phase 1 geo-environmental desk study be undertaken.”

96. **PLANNING APPLICATION 2012/057/COU –
BUILDING F, ASTWOOD BUSINESS PARK,
ASTWOOD FARM, ASTWOOD LANE, ASTWOOD BANK**

This matter had been withdrawn at the request of the Applicant and was not discussed.

97. **PLANNING APPLICATION 2012/071/EXT –
HOMEBASE LTD, ABBEY RETAIL PARK,
ALVECHURCH HIGHWAY, REDDITCH**

Extension of time application
Installation of 1,777 sq.m of floorspace
at mezzanine level as approved under
Planning Application 2009/082/FUL

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, planning permission to allow an extension of time for a further three years to implement the consent given under Planning Application 2009/082/FUL be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informatives detailed in the main report and restated in the update report.

98. **APPEAL OUTCOME –
HIGHWAY VERGE AT MILLRACE ROAD, REDDITCH**

The Committee received an item of information in relation to the outcome of an appeal against a refusal of prior approval for the siting and design of a telecommunications installation, made by Officers under delegated powers, namely:

Application 2011/133/GDO
15m Monopole, equipment cabinets
and ancillary apparatus

Members noted that, the appeal against the Council’s decision to refuse prior approval had been allowed by the Inspector on the grounds that he considered, on balance, that the proposal would generally respect the context and character of the area and that the monopole would not be visually dominant and have an adversely harmful effect on the outlook of nearby properties.

RESOLVED that

the item of information be noted.

**99. APPEAL OUTCOME –
HIGHWAY VERGE AT BIRCHFIELD ROAD, REDDITCH**

The Committee received an item of information in relation to the outcome of an appeal against a refusal of prior approval for the siting and design of a telecommunications installation, taken by Officers under delegated powers, namely:

Application 2011/222/GDO
15m Monopole, equipment cabinets
and ancillary apparatus

Members noted that, the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse prior approval had been allowed by the Inspector on the grounds that he had not considered the development to be so conspicuous in appearance that it would be harmful to the street scene nor result in undue visual clutter. He had further considered that the separation distances between the mast and dwellings to the south would be such that the development would not be overbearing nor would it adversely harm the outlook of occupiers of those properties.

RESOLVED that

the item of information be noted.

**100. REVIEW OF OPERATION OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
AND PUBLIC SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS –
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/12**

The Committee gave consideration to the operation of, and procedures undertaken, during its meetings held during the 2011/12 municipal year, including its public speaking arrangements.

Members were reminded that the Committee had recently considered and agreed a number of amendments to the Committee's procedure rules.

A Councillor's previous concerns were reiterated and noted in respect of the Leader of the Council not being able to sit on the Planning Committee as a member or substitute and also that, neither the Chair nor the Vice-Chair, if a member of the Controlling Party Group, will be a member of the Executive Committee, in that such restrictions might restrict Members interested in serving on the Planning Committee from doing so.

Planning Committee

25th April 2012

RESOLVED that

the Committee's current agreed Procedure Rules remain unchanged for the forthcoming municipal year 2012/13.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.16 pm

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CHAIR

