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Council
Committee

Monday 27 July
2009
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



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Council

22 June 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Malcolm Hall (Mayor), Councillor Kath Banks (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors P Anderson, M Braley, J Brunner, M Chalk, G Chance, B Clayton, J Cookson, D Enderby, J Field, A Fry, C Gandy, W Hartnett, G Hopkins, D Hunt, R King, W King, C MacMillan, P Mould, W Norton, J Pearce, B Quinney, M Shurmer, D Smith, D Taylor and D Thomas

Also Present:

D Andrews (Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

S Skinner, T Kristunas, K Dicks, S Hanley, Jackie Smith, S Mullins, J Staniland and H Halls

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

22. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

23. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors A Clayton and Hicks.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Cookson, Hall and Pearce declared a personal and prejudicial interest and Councillors Anderson, Chance, Field, Hartnett, Hopkins, Taylor and Thomas declared a personal interest in Item 6 (Executive Committee) as detailed separately at Minute 27 below.

25. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 18 May 2009 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

.....
Chair

26. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

a) Mercian Regiment

It was with regret that the Mayor announced the sad death of a member of the Mercian Regiment, Lance Corporal Kieron Hill, killed in action at the end of May.

b) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council he had attended various functions, including: the inaugural meeting of the BNI local group, Civic Services at Wychavon, Droitwich Spa, Evesham and Worcester City, Redditch Choral Society's performance of the St John Passion, the judging of a Fathers' Day drawing competition at Debenhams and the Armed Forces Day flag raising ceremony at the Town Hall that morning.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Banks for stepping in to take on engagements he was unable to attend.

c) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included the Redditch Railway Exhibition in the Kingfisher Centre, the North Worcestershire Partnership Games presentation at the Abbey Stadium, the opening of Tenacres First School summer fete, the opening of a new Council Park at Overdale Close, Astwood Bank, an Arts & Craft Fair for the Salvation Army at St Stephens, the Alexandra Hospital League of Friends Annual Summer Fete and a celebration of young people's achievements at the Palace Theatre.

d) Urgent business

The Mayor advised that he had accepted one additional item of "Urgent Business":

Item 11 – Urgent Business – Notice of Motion – Bus Stop – Arrow Valley Park.

The Mayor had also accepted two late reports:

Item 6 – Executive Committee Decision Notice, 10 June 2009; and

Item 8 – Constitution – Annual Review.

27. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 1 April 2009 be received and adopted;
- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 22 April 2009 be received and adopted and all recommendations approved;
- 3) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 20 May 2009 be received and adopted and all recommendations approved, subject to:

in respect of Minute 6 (erroneously numbered 300) (Home Energy Conservation and Affordable Warmth) it being NOTED that

Resolution 1 should have read "...cavity wall insulation installed in their homes free of charge." as had been previously noted at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 10 June 2009; and

- 4) the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 10 June 2009 be received and all recommendations approved subject to:

in respect of Minute 19 (Funding of Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations – Policy) it being further RESOLVED that

a policy for the award of contracts to voluntary and community sector organisations, based upon the ideas set out in the document tabled at the meeting by the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism, be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to submission to the Executive Committee and Council.

(The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Local Environment and Health undertook to provide a written response to Councillor Shurmer in respect of slippage in delivery of the Housing Capital Programme (Minute 21 – Capital Programme Outturn 2008/09).

In respect of Minute 11 (*erroneously numbered 305*) (Member Development Steering Group, 6 May 2009) the Leader requested that any Member who had not managed to resolve the shortfall in their IT requirements by late July should contact her.)

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillors Cookson (Age Concern), Hall (Redditch Arts Council) and Pearce (Redditch Arts Council) declared a personal and prejudicial interest and Councillors Anderson (Redditch Play Council), Field (SSAFA) and Thomas (Carer's Careline) declared a personal interest in view of the fact that they were variously employed by, were Chairs or board members of or had been appointed to voluntary and community sector organisations within the Borough and Councillors Chance, Hartnett, Hopkins and Taylor declared a personal interest in view of their personal connection to (Taylor) or as Board Members of (Chance, Hartnett and Hopkins) Redditch Co-operative Homes.

In the absence of the Mayor, Councillor Hall, Councillor Banks, the Deputy Mayor took the Chair)

28. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of recent meetings of the Audit and Governance and Planning Committees.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 26 May 2009 be received and adopted and all recommendations approved; and**
- 2) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 31 March, 21 April and 19 May be received and adopted.**

29. CONSTITUTION - ANNUAL REVIEW

Members undertook an annual review of the Council's Constitution and associated documents. Officers highlighted the fact that the overwhelming majority of revisions included since the Constitution was last agreed in August 2008 comprised those measures approved at intervening meetings of the Council.

RESOLVED that

the Council's current Constitution and associated documents (Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Scheme of Delegation to Officers, Scheme of Members' Allowances, etc.) as now issued be approved.

30. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Council considered a number of minor administrative matters, including several outstanding appointments following the Annual Meeting in May.

RESOLVED that

the following appointments be noted:

Highways Forum – Councillors D Hunt and D Smith;

Grants Panel – Councillor M Shurmer; and

Church Hill District Centre Members' Panel – Councillor G Hopkins (to replace Councillor D Smith)

31. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no Urgent Business decisions under Standing Order 36 for consideration at this meeting.

32. URGENT BUSINESS - URGENT NOTICE OF MOTION - BUS STOP - ARROW VALLEY PARK

An urgent Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Mould too late to meet Standing Order deadlines but had been accepted by the Mayor for consideration at the meeting on the basis of its broad public interest and in view of a requirement for comments to be returned to the County Council by the end of the week commencing 22 June. The Motion was in respect of the provision of a bus stop at Arrow Valley park. This was seconded by Councillor Thomas.

It was accepted that the proposal as envisaged was not a complete or ideal solution to the lack of public transport provision at the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre and Park, but Members considered that this represented a positive development. There was also an understanding that the Council may need, in due course, to provide evidence that an enhanced bus service was justified by user numbers. There was general support for the motion and it was duly

RESOLVED that

the Motion be approved in the following terms:

“The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has investigated the possibility of installing a bus stop to enable public transport access to the Arrow Valley Park at several recent meetings. It has come to our attention that there is a possibility that a bus stop could be installed which would facilitate access to the number 60 circular route.

Worcestershire County Council could apply for Kickstart Bus Funding to finance the installation of this bus stop. We feel that Redditch Borough Council should support Worcestershire County Council in this endeavour.

We understand that applications for Kickstart Bus Funding have to be submitted by the end of June. Unfortunately under these circumstances the normal process for reporting Overview and Scrutiny recommendations would not enable us to meet this deadline. For this reason we are bringing forward this proposal as an Urgent Notice of Motion.

On behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, we urge the Council to support efforts by Worcestershire County Council to secure Kickstart Bus Funding to install a bus stop that will enable better public transport access to the Arrow Valley Park.”

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.12pm

.....
Chair



Executive

Committee

1 July 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors J Brunner, B Clayton, W Hartnett and M Shurmer

Also Present:

Scarlet Ashwin and Kelly Louise Johnson (Students, Trinity High School) and Ms J Neale (Teacher, Trinity High School)

Officers:

S Hanley, Jackie Smith, E Storer, R Kindon, L Bellaby, R Bamford, D Wheeler, P Stirling, A Baldwin, J Staniland, T Kristunas, T Beech and S Mullins

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

31. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anderson, Gandy, Hicks and MacMillan.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

33. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following item of business, scheduled on the Forward Plan to be dealt with at this meeting, had been rescheduled to a later meeting:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Chair also advised that he had accepted the following matters as Urgent Business:

Item 9 – Appendix B to the Redditch Economic Strategy; and

Item 12 – Appendix 1 to the Local Validation Checklist Review.

.....
Chair

The Chair further advised that a Redevelopment Update on the Church Hill District Centre would be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 12 August 2009.

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

35. PROPOSALS FOR RE-INVESTMENT - ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

The Committee considered a range of proposals to assist and support individuals and the communities of Redditch affected by the economic downturn using the funds received from the Department of Work and Pensions as a retrospective benefits subsidy. In response to questions the Committee was informed by Officers that all bids received and considered by senior management had been included within the report before it. In part this was due to an additional £36,000 Administration Grant received over and above the initial subsidy which provided a small surplus once the cost of all competing proposals had been taken into account.

Officers undertook to respond to Councillor Hartnett following the meeting in respect of a proposal to establish a Service Level Agreement with Registered Social Landlords to enable them to act as verification agencies on behalf of the Council. However, Officers identified that this action had been included in the Benefits Service Improvement Plan at a later point in the meeting.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the proposals and projects contained within Appendix 1 be funded for the relevant periods;**
- 2) the funding for the projects/posts be met from the £255,000 currently set aside; and**
- 3) the £32,500 remaining balance be held for any future bids.**

36. INSURANCE PREMIUM SAVINGS - CONSORTIUM TENDER

Members were advised of the outcome of a consortium tendering exercise in respect of the Council's insurance contracts. Considerable savings had been achieved and it was recommended that a proportion of this be set aside for risk management purposes.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the success of the tendering exercise be noted;**
- 2) **a sum of £15,000 per year for the duration of the Insurance contract be set aside for risk management purposes; and**
- 3) **authority be delegated to the Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services, in consultation with the Risk Monitoring Group and the relevant Portfolio Holder, to utilise these monies.**

37. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Members considered a report which outlined the proposed new Performance Management Framework for the Council.

The move was generally welcomed although assurances were sought that the appraisal of staff would not prove a burden to the efficient running of the Council or to the detriment of service delivery.

RECOMMENDED that

the Performance Management Framework document attached to the report at Appendix 1 be approved.

38. BOROUGH OF REDDITCH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME NO 3

The Committee considered the Local Development Scheme (LDS) No. 3 for the Borough. Officers highlighted the work that had been undertaken through the Planning Advisory Panel and the reasons behind the need to revise the LDS at this point in time.

RECOMMENDED that

the timescales within the Local Development Scheme No.3 for a range of Development Plan Documents be agreed and Local Development Scheme No.3 be submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) for approval.

39. REDDITCH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Committee welcomed representatives from Trinity High School, part of the Team that had triumphed in the competition to develop an Executive Summary for the Council's Economic Development Strategy. The students presented a video-clip that had been devised and created to support the Summary and introduced the recommendation to the Committee pertaining to the video-clip and Summary.

Members were very keen to hear the views put forward by the school-age generation and congratulated the students on their work. The importance of gaining an insight into the needs and aspirations of the future workforce within the Borough was stressed and there was discussion on perceptions of the town. In this context a Member posed a series of questions, as set out below, for consideration at some later date by the students who had attended the meeting to present the Executive Summary and video clip:

- i) what is good about Redditch;
- ii) what is not so good about Redditch; and
- iii) in which direction ought the Council go in respect of further economic development in the Borough.)

The teacher accompanying the students outlined the further steps that were to be undertaken in respect of the Economic Development Strategy and the effect that it might have on young people in the town.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) subject to the outcome of a separate budget bid, the Redditch Economic Development Strategy as detailed in Appendix A be endorsed;**
- 2) the video clip for the Redditch Economic Development Strategy as prepared by students of Trinity High School, and as presented at the meeting, be endorsed for inclusion on the Council's website and other related forums; and**
- 3) authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to produce final versions of the Executive Summary and Action Plan based on the ideas in the documents prepared by the students of Trinity High School.**

40. SCHEDULE OF BUILDINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST

The Committee received an update on the Schedule of Buildings of Local Interest as developed by the Council as a supporting document to the Local Development Framework and Core Strategy Development Plan Document for the Borough.

It was made quite clear that inclusion on the list did not afford any statutory protection to the buildings in question, but it was anticipated that the local listing would have some significance in the development control process.

It was noted that there were two buildings that had been removed from the previous version of the list, one through demolition and the other through a re-appraisal of the age and history of the building in question.

RECOMMENDED that

the Schedule of Buildings of Local Interest as updated in 2009 be endorsed as a background document to the Borough of Redditch Local Development Framework.

41. PRE-APPLICATION PLANNING DISCUSSION PROTOCOLS

A report was received that recommended the adoption of a protocol for the engagement of Members in pre-application planning discussions whilst providing a clarity and fairness to the process.

Officers stated that good practice guidance now indicated that this was a positive move for the Borough. Members would receive initial training to highlight the major danger points and further issues would be picked up through ongoing member development.

Officers highlighted two minor amendments to be made to the Protocol:

Page 48 – Criteria for Member Involvement in Pre-Application Planning Discussions – deletion of Point 4 as this factor was replicated elsewhere (Point 8) ; and

Page 49 – Replacement of the words “Appendix Two” with “Section One” in the first sentence headed “**Either**”.

It was noted that, once the scheme got underway, the timescales of the development control process would be the major determining factor in terms of establishing these pre-application discussions rather than them being organised around the availability of Members.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the protocol and information at Appendix 1 be adopted for use and added to the Constitution's associated documents subject to the minor amendments noted in the preamble above;**
- 2) **the implementation of the protocol be reviewed jointly by Officers and Members after 12 months;**
- 3) **training for all Members and Officers involved be provided; and**
- 4) **the resultant amendments to the Constitution, proposed at Appendix 2, be adopted.**

42. LOCAL VALIDATION CHECKLIST REVIEW

An updated and revised local validation checklist was considered by the Committee. As part of the process for improving the checklist additional and improved guidance had been developed to assist in the provision of information provided in support of planning applications to the authority.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the revised checklist at Appendix 1 be adopted for use from 1 September 2009 in replacement of that currently in circulation; and**
- 2) **authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Building Control in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to make minor alterations to the document as set out in the proposed framework at Appendix 2.**

43. DELEGATION TO OFFICERS - ENFORCEMENT POWERS

A series of minor changes to the Scheme of Delegation to Planning Officers was proposed in order to assist Officers in carrying out their role.

Members were broadly supportive of the proposals but were keen to ensure that they were still made aware of significant planning issues, particularly within their wards, of which they may no longer be made aware. It was proposed that the Delegations be altered to take these concerns into account.

Officers undertook to propose arrangements, prior to Council, so as to take account of Members' ward interests and matters of potential wider interest in respect of the additions to the Scheme of Delegation.

RECOMMENDED that

the proposed additions to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, as detailed at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be adopted, subject to the comments in the preamble above.

44. LEISURE AND ARTS SERVICE - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S POLICY UPDATE

Officers presented a new, enhanced Safeguarding Children's Policy for the Leisure and Arts Service which built upon the existing policy in that Service.

Members were very supportive of the proposal and noted that the Policy was intended to provide protection not only to Children but also to Council staff and that the obligations on staff and children were complementary. Officers confirmed that there no provisions within the Policy that were particularly dictated by local to the Borough

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the attached Safeguarding Children's Policy be adopted for the Leisure and Arts Service; and**

RESOLVED that

- 2) a working group of Officers be set up to progress a corporate safeguarding policy for Redditch Borough Council.**

45. ABBEY STADIUM SPORTS CENTRE - FITNESS SUITE

Members considered a proposal to extend the current contract for fitness suite provision at the Abbey Stadium Sports Centre for a period of two and a half years.

Officers highlighted that this was not the first occasion on which this Contract had been extended but took the Committee through the special circumstances in existence at the Abbey Stadium that made the possibility of obtaining a comparable or better service from an alternative provider extremely unlikely. The Committee was complimentary about the current service provision at the Abbey

Stadium and were content, under the present circumstances, to extend the contract.

RESOLVED that

the current contract for fitness suite provision, in partnership with Competition Line (UK) Ltd, at the Abbey Stadium Sports Centre be extended for a period of two and a half years to the end of 2011 in accordance with Standing Order 46 E.5. (c) (i) (ii).

46. HEWELL ROAD SWIMMING POOL - REALLOCATION OF CAPITAL FUNDING

The Committee received a request that a sum of money which had been committed to the refurbishment of filters at the Hewell Road Swimming Pool within the Capital Programme be reallocated to a more urgent priority, that of an electrical upgrade at the same facility.

Members acknowledged that there was little alternative to the recommended course of action in order to keep the facility in operation and were pleased to note that disruption to the users of the facility would be kept to a minimum during the course of the works.

RECOMMENDED that

approval be given for the reallocation of the previously approved sum of £44,000 for filter refurbishment to the more urgent priority of electrical upgrade at Hewell Road Swimming Pool within the Capital Programme; and

RESOLVED that

approval be given to incur up to the expenditure detailed above, in accordance with Standing Order 41.

47. ASSET MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

Members received an update on progress with asset disposals to date and considered declaring a number of further assets surplus. A related change being proposed was that of incorporating the Minor Land Disposal Programme into the overall Asset Disposal Programme. In response to a question on the Minor Land Disposal Programme, it was confirmed that there was currently a waiting list of those attempting to acquire interests that came under the "Minor Land" category.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **progress on asset disposals to date be noted;**
- 2) **the assets scheduled in Appendix 2 to the report be declared surplus, in accordance with current policy; and**
- 3) **the Council's Minor Land Disposal programme be incorporated into the Asset Disposal Programme; and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 4) **the definition of Minor Land under the Policy be amended to the definition set out in paragraph 5.6 of this report and that the Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended accordingly; and**
- 5) **the Scheme of Delegation in relation to forfeiting of business leases be amended as set out in paragraph 5.7.**

(During the consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any further debate on the grounds that information would be revealed which could reveal provisional terms of land disposal subject to negotiation which may affect the Council's bargaining position with individual owners, tenants and third parties.

There is nothing exempt, however, in this record of the proceedings.)

48. CORPORATE SICKNESS STATISTICS

The Committee considered the corporate sickness statistics for the period April 2008 – March 2009. Officers explained the measures that were being undertaken to assist in the reduction of the number of days of sickness absence. A number of measures such as health promotions for staff and Councillors and the Wellness Works programme were having a positive impact. However, it was anticipated that there would be a significant increase in sickness absence as a result of the swine flu pandemic.

Members suggested minor amendments to the recording method for sickness absence, proposing that the "No Reason" category might be termed "Other" and that there be a more explicit breakdown of the work-related and non-work related absences due to "Bones, Joints and Fractures".

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the statistics be noted; and**
- 2) **the programme outlined in the report to reduce sickness absence be approved.**

49. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of a recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Head of Legal Democratic and Property Services undertook to respond to Councillor B Clayton in respect of the exact budget allocation of the cost of training courses attended by two Overview and Scrutiny Members.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 May 2009 be received and noted.

50. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS, NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS ETC.

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

51. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received the latest update report on the activities of the Council's Advisory Panels, Working Groups and similar bodies. Councillor Brunner noted that she was not proposing to convene meetings of the Community Safety Advisory panel whilst the current Shared Service arrangements were being put in place for the Community Safety Team.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

52. ACTION MONITORING

It was noted that the Actions arising from the meetings on 20 May and 10 June 2009 had been carried out.

**Executive
Committee**

1 July 2009

53. 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 matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.

Asset Management and Disposal Programme - Update (as detailed at Minute 47 above).

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 9.14pm

.....
Chair



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Audit & Governance

Committee

30th June 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Robin King (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors M Braley, M Hall and G Hopkins

Officers:

S Hanley and T Kristunas

Committee Officer:

D Sunman

18. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09

Members considered a report seeking approval of the Statement of Accounts 2008/09.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Statement of Accounts 2008/09, as attached to the report, be approved; and
- 2) a copy of the Statement be signed by the Chair.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.00 pm

.....
Chair



Planning Committee

16 June 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Chalk (Chair), Councillor Kath Banks (Vice-Chair) and Councillors J Field, W Hartnett, N Hicks, D Hunt and R King

Also Present:

M Collins (Vice-Chair Standards Committee)

Officers:

R Bamford, S Edden, A Hussain, A Rutt and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth

15. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Enderby and Smith.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Banks and Hartnett declared personal and prejudicial interests in Agenda Item 13 (Affordable Housing Tenure Clauses – Variation to a Section 106 Agreement – Former Megabowl Site), as detailed at Minute 28 below.

Mr Skinner, Officer and Procedural Advisor to the Planning Committee, declared an interest in Planning Application 2009/081/ADV (Display of Flags other than permitted National etc. flags), as detailed at Minute 27 below.

17. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on the 21 April and 19 May 2009 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

18. LOCAL PLAN NO.3 POLICIES RELATING TO PLANNING CONTROL DECISIONS - UPDATE

The Committee received a report which detailed the reasons for the retention of various Local Plan No. 3 Policies still relevant to Planning Control decisions and those Policies that were no longer relevant.

Members noted that the Policies deemed to be no longer relevant were so considered, because they duplicated other broader policy or statutory requirements.

The Chair brought forward this item in the agenda running order so that Members could consider all the listed applications in full knowledge of the reported policy changes.

RESOLVED that

the list of Policies attached at Appendix 1 (saved Policies still relevant to Planning Development Control decisions) and those attached at Appendix 2 (Policies obsolete and no longer relevant to Planning Development Control decisions), be noted.

19. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

The Committee considered and determined seven Planning Applications as detailed in the subsequent minutes below.

Officers tabled an update report detailing any late responses to consultation, changed recommendations, further conditions and any additional Officer comments in relation to each application. This report was further updated orally at the meeting as appropriate to each application.

Public speaking was permitted, in accordance with the Council's agreed procedures, in relation to five of the applications being considered.

20. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/043/FUL - LAND BETWEEN 249 AND 253 AND TO THE REAR OF 253 TO 257 EVESHAM ROAD

Erection of two detached dwellings with garages
Applicant: Miss J Smith and Mr P Ryan

Ms C Whitby and Mr Harris, Objectors and Mr H Gore, the Applicant's Agent, addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

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.

21. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/052/FUL - FORMER CLAYBROOK FIRST SCHOOL SITE, DILWYN CLOSE, MATCHBOROUGH

Construction of 36 affordable homes, 2, 3 & 4 bedrooms,
With access of road
Applicant: Westbury Partnerships

The Committee noted that, further to Officers' advice, this Application had been WITHDRAWN from the Agenda by the Applicant, and it was therefore not discussed.

22. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/063/OUT - LAND ADJACENT TO 17 CHAPEL STREET, ASTWOOD BANK

Outline application for a detached three bedroom dwelling with garage
Applicant: Mrs H Palmer

Mr Jones, an objector, addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

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.

23. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/071/LBC - ASTWOOD FARM HOUSE, ASTWOOD LANE, ASTWOOD BANK

Proposed demolition of outbuilding and replace
With double garage
Applicant: Mr J Lavery

This application, which would normally have been dealt with under Officer Delegated Powers, was exceptionally considered by the Committee in view of the fact that the Applicant was closely related to an employee of Redditch Borough Council.)

RESOLVED that

- 1) **having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Listed Building Consent be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informative summarised below,**
 1. **Commence within 3 years,**
 - 2, **All materials to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.**

Informative

No works to start on site until Planning Permission is also granted; and

- 2) **authority be delegated to the Acting Head of Planning and Building Control to determine Planning Application 2009/105/FUL in line with the decision made above.**

24. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/075/FUL - 1247 EVESHAM ROAD, ASTWOOD BANK

Erection of 4 bedroom detached dwelling on land adjacent to 1249 Evesham Road
Applicant: Mr T Walton

Mr Walton, 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, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informatives summarised in the report.

25. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/078/COU - 2 ORCHARD STREET, SMALLWOOD

Change of use from single dwelling to hot food takeaway (Ground Floor) and two bedroomed flat (first floor)
Applicant: Mr S M Hussein

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 and the following additional condition:

“7. One of the car parking spaces hereby approved and shown to be within the curtilage of the building within the area edged red as shown on the approved plan, be demarcated on the ground and kept available for the personal use of the occupier or future occupiers of the first floor flat granted under this consent.

Reason: In the interests of providing dedicated parking facilities for the occupier of the flat and in accordance with Policy C(T).12 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3.”

26. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/079/FUL - YEW TREE HOUSE, WEAVERS HILL, HUNT END

Detached two-storey dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding
Applicant: Mr D Ellis

Mr J Shopland, Supporter and Mr B King, Agent for the Applicant, addressed the Committee under the Council’s public speaking rules.

(This application, which would normally have been dealt with under Officer Delegated Powers, was exceptionally considered by the Committee at the request of Ward Member, Councillor B Clayton. Councillor Clayton’s remarks in support of the proposal, contrary to Officer recommendation, were reported to the Committee.)

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be REFUSED, for the following reason:

“The site is identified in the Development Plan for the area as falling within the Green Belt where there is a presumption against inappropriate development. In such an area, development is limited to that which is not inappropriate to a Green Belt and which would preserve its openness. The proposal would amount to inappropriate development, which by definition, is harmful to the Green Belt. It would result in an obtrusive form of development which would reduce the openness of the Green Belt. The Council consider that no very special circumstances have been put forward to overcome the harm to the Green Belt. As such the proposal is considered to

be contrary to Policy B(RA)1 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3 and national guidance set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 “Green Belts”.

**27. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/081/ADV - TOWN HALL,
WALTER STRANZ SQUARE, REDDITCH**

Display of Flags other than permitted National etc. Flags
Applicant: Redditch Borough Council

Mr S Skinner, on behalf of 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, Advertisement Consent be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informatives summarised in the report, together with the following additional informative:

“The applicant is advised that the Planning Committee was concerned with the types and condition of flags to be displayed as a result of this consent, and requested that the appropriate Council body be tasked with reviewing and implementing an appropriate Council flag flying policy. The potential display of commercial advertisements was a particular cause for the Committee’s concern.”

(Prior to consideration of this item, Mr Steve Skinner, Council Officer and Procedural Advisor to the Planning Committee, declared an interest in the Application, in view of the fact that he had made the subject application on behalf of the Borough Council, and that he would be representing and speaking on behalf of the Applicant. He therefore withdrew to the public gallery for the duration of its consideration.)

**28. AFFORDABLE HOUSING TENURE CLAUSES - VARIATION TO
A SECTION 106 AGREEMENT - FORMER MEGABOWL SITE**

The Committee considered a variation to a Section 106 Agreement (Planning Obligation) to amend affordable housing tenure clauses in relation to details approved under Planning Application 2005/552/FUL (Erection of 89 residential units with associated parking and amenity space on the former Megabowl site, Greenlands Drive) in respect of five one bedroomed flats previously identified as affordable housing for shared ownership.

RESOLVED that

the reported a variation to the Section 106 Agreement, dated 6 March 2006 and made between (1) the Council of the Borough of Redditch, (2) Worcestershire County Council, (3) Claypond Ltd, (4) Dodd Homes (Greenlands) Ltd and (5) Britannia Building Society, regarding tenure and nomination rights, be agreed, namely that the tenure and nomination rights of five one bedroomed units, previously identified as affordable housing for shared ownership, become social rented housing.

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillors Banks and Hartnett declared personal and prejudicial interests in view of the fact that they were Board Members on Redditch Co-operative Homes, the Registered Social Landlord for the development, and withdrew from the meeting.)

29. INFORMATION REPORTS

The Committee received and considered two items of information relating to outcomes of appeals against Planning decisions, namely:

- a) Planning Application 2008/270/FUL and 2008/271/FUL Iceland Foods, Unit 4b Trescott Road, Trafford Park Single Storey rear extension to existing unit and the installation of five condenser units on roof of proposed extension

Members noted that both appeals against the Committee's decision to refuse the applications on grounds of the effect on the living conditions of occupiers of dwellings in Honeychurch Close in terms of privacy, outlook and noise, had been ALLOWED by the Inspector.

- b) Planning Application 2008/164/FUL Land adjacent to 1 Pool Bank, Southcrest Demolition of 'Lodge' building and erection of of eight apartments in two blocks

Members noted that, the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission (under delegated powers afforded to Officers), on grounds relating to the proposed development's appearance, over-intensive form of development and inadequate levels of communal space, had been DISMISSED by the Inspector.

RESOLVED that

both items of information be noted.

Planning
Committee

16 June 2009

The Meeting commenced at 7.01 pm
and closed at 9.44 pm

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CHAIR



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Standards Committee

24th June 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Independent Members:

D Andrews (Chair) and B Warwick

Borough Council Members:

Councillors A Clayton, M Hall, P Mould and J Pearce

Feckenham Parish Council Member:

Councillor J Matthews

Officer:

S Mullins

Committee Officer:

D Sunman

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted for Borough Councillors Fry and Norton and Mr M Collins (Independent Member).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

There were no minutes submitted for approval.

4. REVIEW OF DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS, HOSPITALITY AND INTERESTS

The Committee received a report on a review of gifts, hospitality and Interests made by Members in the last year and to review the Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality adopted by the Council on 13 August 2007.

.....
Chair

Standards Committee

24th June 2009

Officers reported that Appendix 1 to the report had not included information regarding Independent Members' and Parish Councillors' personal interests and apologised for the omission.

Members noted that there were large variances in the way individual Members registered their personal interests and that there seemed to be uncertainty around what should or should not be included.

It was reported that work is ongoing to investigate ways of placing the Register of Members' Interests on the Council's website so that public access is available on the Internet as well as through paper copies held at the Town Hall. Members expressed concern regarding the possibility of scanned signatures being included on the web-site.

Members were informed that only two declarations of interest had been made in the last two years in terms of gifts and hospitality. Officers reported that when the Council's Code of Conduct on Gifts and Hospitality was adopted it had been the intention that training would be provided for all Members. This training had not taken place.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted;**
- 2)
 - a) **a single document be compiled in order to enable a comparison of Member's responses when completing the Register of Interests form, which could be used in training;**
 - b) **investigations continue regarding publication of a Register of Interest on the web-site;**
- 3) **training and further guidance be provided to all Members on the declaration of personal interests, including interests arising from gifts and hospitality; and**
- 4) **a further review be carried out on the Register of Interests following completion of forms in 2010 following completion of training.**

5. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Members were informed that the Register of Interests forms had been distributed in the last week. To date 11 forms had been returned.

Standards

Committee

24th June 2009

6. CHAIR'S / MEMBERS' REPORTS

Members received a verbal report regarding conduct and procedure at a recent Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that

a number of Members attend Planning Committee to gain an overall impression of how the Committee is run and report to the next meeting.

7. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT (IF ANY)

There was no report from the Parish Council.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

Members received a report on the Committee's Work Programme for 2009/10. There were no additions to the Work Programme.

RESOLVED that

the report be received.

The Meeting commenced at 7.05 pm
and closed at 8.40 pm

