

minute book 5

Council

Mon 7th Dec
2009
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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Council

26th October 2009

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

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

Officers:

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

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

59. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

60. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Fry, W King, MacMillan and Thomas.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Braley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 7 (Executive Committee) as detailed separately at Minute 66 below.

.....
Chair

62. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

63. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

a) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council he had attended various functions, including: 150th Birthday celebration of Redditch Railways, the "We are Redditch" cultural community event, Civic Services at Bromsgrove District Council and Upton upon Severn Town Council, the County Harvest Festival at Worcester Cathedral, Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services AGM, NEW College 2009 Graduation Ceremony, Worcestershire Breast Unit Campaign launch, the annual ROWL Seminar, the Chinese Association's Mid-autumn Moon Festival, the opening of a butcher's unit at The Stables, Feckenham, the Friends of Gruchet AGM and Quiz, the hand over to its new owners of a recently completed social housing property at Windsor Heights by Persimmon Homes, a Redditch United Football match, Local Democracy Day, with local high school students here at the Town Hall, and Black History events this weekend past.

The Mayor also advised that during this period there was his Charity Quiz – which had raised at least £500 for his charities and the Council's own Civic Service, which was a very successful and enjoyable event.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Banks for stepping in to take on engagements he had been unable to attend.

Members were extremely complimentary about the Mayor's Civic Service and, in addition to congratulating him on an excellent event, they considered his own contribution to have been commendable and it was consequently

RESOLVED that

the Mayor provide a rendition of 'The King of Rome' in exchange for contributions to his charity.

b) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included: a visit by some New Zealand Rotarians, together with their Redditch counterparts, the Welsh Society's Annual Concert on 31st October, the Student Council's Big 5 Event, the annual Fireworks Extravaganza at Arrow Valley Park, a concert by the Bel Canto Singers; and the Remembrance Sunday event.

c) Angie Heighway

The Mayor announced that the Council's Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Angie Heighway, had received a Certificate from West Mercia Police in recognition of her significant work in the area of community safety in Redditch and across Worcestershire as a whole. The Mayor added his congratulations to those of the Police.

d) Additional matters

During consideration of the Mayor's announcements, he gave permission to a number of Members to make further announcements in relation to matters not listed on the agenda, namely:

e) Car Park Seven

The Council Leader thanked those Officers and Members who had been instrumental in getting the owners of the Kingfisher Centre to reopen Car Park Seven.

f) Redditch New Mosque

The Leader led the Council in condemning the vandalism that had occurred at the new Mosque over the preceding weekend. It was subsequently agreed that a letter be sent to Muslim Community Leaders outlining the Council's views on the actions over the weekend.

64. LEADERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted to the Leader.

65. NOTICES OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor MacMillan in respect of St Stephen's Church of England First School. In the absence of Councillor MacMillan, Councillor Gandy proposed the Motion. This was seconded by Councillor Braley.

A number of Members congratulated the School on its achievement, particularly given that it served a population that faced a number of significant challenges. The Mayor and the Leader expressed their willingness and desire to visit the School to meet the staff and pupils and pass on their congratulations in person. It was therefore

RESOLVED that

the Motion be approved in the following terms:

(the Council join with Councillor MacMillan) in congratulating Kathy Skan, Headmistress, and all her staff, governors and, of course, the pupils for this great achievement and ask the Chief Executive to write to them expressing the Council's recognition of their achievement.

66. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 12th and 26th August and 16th and 22nd September 2009 and the decision notices of the meeting of the Executive Committee on 7th October 2009.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 12th and 26th August 2009 be received and adopted, subject to:**

in respect of Minute 82 (Church Hill District Centre – Redevelopment Update) it being further resolved that the desire of the pupils at Church Hill Middle School to be involved in the design of aspects of the Centre be factored into the consideration of this scheme in due course;

- 2) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16th September 2009 be received and all recommendations approved subject to:**

in respect of Minute 127 Development Opportunities – Dingleside and Ipsley) it being noted that Councillor Hartnett wished to receive confirmation from Officers that Redditch Co-op Homes did not have an interest as a possible developer of the Auxerre Avenue site;

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- 3) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 22nd September 2009 be received and all recommendations approved; and
 - 4) the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 7th October 2009 be received and all recommendations adopted, subject to:

in respect of Minute 155 (REDI Centre – Leasing Options)
it being noted that Officers were to provide a briefing note to all Members outlining the latest position with regard to the leasing of the REDI Centre.

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Braley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in view of his position as a Corporation Governor of NEW College, a body which now had an interest as a possible lessee of, and service provider at, the REDI Centre.)

67. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

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

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee expressed a degree of concern at the conduct of business at the meeting on 29th September and proposed that the minutes be withdrawn and incorporated into Minute Book 5, 2009/10.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 29th September 2009 be withdrawn and submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the Council.;
- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 28th September 2009 be received and adopted, subject to

it being further resolved that the Council thank Councillor Andy Fry for undertaking the role of the Chair of the Taxi Licensing Forum;
- 3) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 8th September and 6th October 2009 be received and adopted; and

- 4) **the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 30th September 2009 be received and adopted.**

68. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

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

69. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.44pm

.....
Chair



Council

16th November 2009

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee) and B Warwick (Independent Member, Standards Committee)

Officers:

K Dicks, S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

70. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

71. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Fry, Gandy, Mould and Thomas.

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

73. SHARED SERVICES BOARD - PROPOSALS FOR A SINGLE MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Council considered the recommendations of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 9th November 2009.

.....
Mayor, in the Chair

The recommendations detailed the steps that were required to achieve a single management team for Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils, a process which to date had involved consultation with Members, management and staff. It was suggested that the proposed model would result in a robust structure producing good services and significant year on year savings. The view was expressed that neither Council would otherwise be well-placed to survive in the post-2010 financial environment.

The recommendations from the Shared Services Board were the subject of a named vote in accordance with Standing Order 16, as follows

Members voting FOR the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Banks, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Field, Hall, Hicks, Hopkins, MacMillan, Norton, Pearce, Quinney and Smith.
(16 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the motion:

Councillors Chance, Cookson, Hartnett, Hunt, R King, W King, Shurmer, Taylor.
(8 votes)

Member abstaining from voting:

(No Members abstained.)

It was accordingly

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) be retitled Executive Director (Finance and Resources).**
- 2) the title 'Joint Chief Executive' be amended to 'Chief Executive'.**
- 3) the proposed structure set out at Appendix 4 to the report to the Shared Services Board be approved for implementation with effect from 19th November 2009;**

- 4) **the proposal to open the initial ring fence for the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) to Heads of Service who possess the appropriate qualifications be approved;**
- 5) **the proposed selection criteria for Voluntary Compulsory Redundancy / Early Retirement, as set out at Section 6.2 of the report to the Shared Services Board, be approved;**
- 6) **the three applications received for Voluntary Compulsory Redundancy / Early Retirement as detailed at Appendix 5 to the report to the Shared Services Board be approved; and**
- 7) **extension of the opportunity for Voluntary Compulsory Redundancy beyond the original 29th October 2009 deadline to the Officers whose posts are currently affected, in order to receive any further applications arising through the recruitment process be approved.**

(In view of the fact that it contained information relating to the financial affairs of particular persons and employment terms and conditions currently under negotiation, part of this discussion took place after the exclusion of the press and public. There is nothing exempt, however, in this record of the proceedings.)

74. 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 paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.

Shared Services Board – Proposals for a Single Management Team (as detailed at Minute 73 above).

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 7.53pm

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Mayor, in the Chair



Executive Committee

7th October 2009

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors P Anderson, J Brunner, W Hartnett, N Hicks, C MacMillan and M Shurmer

Officers:

J Bough, M Bough, J Braithwaite, S Hanley, R Kindon, S Mullins, G Revans, A Rutt and P Wilkins

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

141. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors B Clayton and Gandy.

142. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Anderson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 11 (Minutes / Referrals - Urgent Recommendation from the Grants Panel) as detailed separately at Minute 151 below.

143. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Energy Strategy
- Easemore Road Community House – Options Appraisal

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

Item 5 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee referral in respect of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy;

.....
Chair

Item 11 - Minutes / Referrals – Urgent Recommendation from the Grants Panel in respect of the grant application from the Caribbean Roots Connection; and

Item 15 - REDI Centre – Leasing Options

(Not meeting the publication deadline)

144. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12th and 26th August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

145. JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY

The meeting considered the revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The key changes had been outlined at a special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week to which all Members had been invited.

The Committee was content to endorse the recommendations within the report aside from reservations over the possible collection of garden waste at some future date. Members remained to be convinced that this was going to provide an environmental benefit. It was conceded by Officers that the case for garden waste collection still needed to be made, although the benefits in terms of recycling rates were apparent and the need to redirect waste from landfill was pressing. It was noted that the Strategy did not commit the Council to the introduction of garden waste collection.

The Committee discussed the future direction of waste collection services within the County. It was noted that the direction of travel was towards increasing harmonisation of service provision with the possibility of significant cost savings to be made for disposal if not the collection of waste.

RECOMMENDED that:

- 1) the Council endorses the reviewed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and agrees the adoption of the revised Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire, subject to full consideration of the business case for the collection of garden waste;**

- 2) the Council requests that the County Council provides Worcestershire District Councils with suitable financial support to better enable the authorities to work jointly toward the goals set in the JMWMS. The Head of Environment be delegated responsibility to undertake such negotiations in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Local Environment and Health;
- 3) the Council requests that Worcestershire County Council work with the District Councils to identify any efficiency savings on waste collection and disposal that arise from the revised JMWMS that can be shared amongst the Partners;
- 4) the Council thank the drafting team of Richard Woodward (Worcestershire County Council), Kenton Vigus (Herefordshire Council) and Sue Horrobin (Redditch Borough Council) for their work producing this document and Bobbie Ashby (Redditch Borough Council) for her graphic design work on both the questionnaire and the final Headline Strategy document.

146. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT AND THE LIFETIME GRANT

The Committee received a report setting out the expenditure for the current year for the Disabled Facilities Grant and the Lifetime Grants provided by the Council to elderly and disabled homeowners. The report highlighted the benefits of reallocating a proportion of the Lifetime Grant funding to the money available for the Disabled Facilities Grant as there was projected to be an underspend on the former and an overspend on the latter.

Members recognised the tremendous benefits of these services both in terms of allowing individuals to live independently and, consequently, as an example of spending to save over the longer term. The Committee was reassured that the reallocation of funds would not disadvantage grant recipients and also that the service worked hard, in concert with the Occupational Therapy service, to ensure that the Council achieved value for money from the adaptations that were carried out.

Officers undertook to provide a written response to Members in respect of the use, if any, that the Council made of second hand equipment, particularly stairlifts.

The Chair proposed that the investigation of possible actions to reduce the Priority waiting list be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the contents of the report relating to budget spend for the Disabled Facilities Grant and Lifetime Grant for 2009/10 be noted; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 2) a re-allocation of funding in the sum of £50,000 from the existing Lifetime Grant capital funding for 2009/10, to the Disabled Facilities Grant funding be approved.

147. PLANNING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS - NATIONAL CHANGES

The Committee considered the suggested Council response to the Communities and Local Government (CLG) consultation 'Streamlining information requirements for planning applications' as prepared by Officers.

RESOLVED that

the response at Appendix 2 to Communities and Local Government regarding the consultation document 'Streamlining information requirements for planning applications' be endorsed and submitted.

148. PUBLICATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSULTATION

The Committee considered the suggested Council response to the CLG consultation 'Publicity for Planning Applications' as compiled by Officers. Members were supportive of the proposals and recognised that there was no ideal solution to publication. It was noted that the cost savings accruing could be reinvested in other means of publication. To this end, Officers were asked to consider a slight expansion of the circulation of notifications of planning applications should these new measures come into effect.

RESOLVED that

the response at Appendix 2 to Communities and Local Government regarding the consultation document 'Publicity for Planning Applications' be endorsed and submitted.

149. INCREASED PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Members considered the suggested Council response to the CLG consultation 'Improving Permitted Development' as compiled by Officers.

Officers had detailed a number of concerns in their response to this consultation for reasons including a lack of clarity and the difficulty of enforcing what was proposed. It was suggested that the implications of the proposals contained within the consultation paper would be greater for communities with a greater proportion of older buildings. A possible reduction in the level of consultation with those affected by permitted developments was highlighted as a further cause for concern.

RESOLVED that

the response at Appendix 2 to Communities and Local Government regarding the consultation document 'Improving Permitted Development' be endorsed and submitted.

150. IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS

The Committee considered a report requesting that 17 cases of irrecoverable debt amounting to £47,922.19 be written off.

Members were concerned that a number of the debts that they were being asked to write off were long-standing. Officers were able to reassure the Committee that tenants were contacted as soon as rent arrears were present. It was stated that repayment plans were established where appropriate although the implications of seeking Court Orders on the possibility of reviewing such schedules was acknowledged.

It was noted that the Portfolio Holder had requested a briefing for Members on the processes involved in the recovery and write off of debts relating to the Council's property.

RESOLVED that

the debts totalling £47,922.19 as detailed in the Schedule attached to the report be written off as irrecoverable.

(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 debate on the grounds that information would be revealed concerning the personal details of individuals.

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

151. MINUTES / REFERRALS - URGENT RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GRANTS PANEL

The Committee received an urgent referral from the Grants Panel, a request for funding from a voluntary sector organisation for a cultural event in the town. The money available to fund the event comprised funds left from 2008/09, which was originally allocated to MECA but subsequently retained by the Council following the demise of that group. The funding request under consideration required a decision prior to the meeting of the Committee at which it was intended to consider the allocation of funds to all Groups who had applied.

(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 debate on the grounds that information would be revealed in respect of the financial or business affairs of other organisations, including the authority holding that information.)

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Anderson declared a personal and prejudicial interests in view of his involvement in a local voluntary sector organisation, and withdrew from the meeting.)

152. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Members considered an update report on the Council's advisory Panels, Working Groups and similar bodies. It was noted that there was to be a meeting of the Planning Advisory panel on Tuesday, 20th October 2009, to which all Members would be invited, at which an update on the Regional Spatial Strategy would be provided.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

153. ACTION MONITORING

Members noted the Action Monitoring Sheet.

154. 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 paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.

Irrecoverable Debts (as detailed at Minute 150 above);

Minutes / Referrals – Urgent Recommendation from the Grants Panel (as detailed at Minute 151 above); and

REDI Centre – Leasing Proposals (as detailed at Minute 155 below).

155. REDI CENTRE - LEASING OPTIONS

The Committee considered a report which set out a number of options for leasing the REDI Centre building. Following the decision taken previously that an alternative provider be sought for the services at the REDI Centre the current report was seeking to provide certainty to providers as to the nature of the lease they would be expected to take on should they be selected through the tendering exercise.

It was established that the REDI Centre Trust was still nominally in existence but had no building from which to operate and so was not considered to be a significant factor in the leasing of the Centre. It was confirmed that the building was in need of some remedial works before it could again be used to provide a service. Officers explained that the repairs required to be carried out would be a condition on the lease.

Officers undertook to provide Councillor Hartnett with an estimate of the capital value of the property following the meeting.

(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 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 prospective tenants.)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted



Executive Committee

28th October 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors P Anderson, J Brunner, B Clayton, W Hartnett, N Hicks and M Shurmer

Also Present:

Councillor P Mould (Chair – Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Officers:

K Dicks, S Hanley, A Heighway, E Hopkins, T Kristunas, S Mullins, J Staniland, L Tompkin and A Walsh

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

156. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor C MacMillan.

157. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

158. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Business Centre Review
- Easemore Road Community House – Options Appraisal
- Dial-a-Ride Business Case Review
- Feasibility Study – Garden Waste Collection
- Shopmobility Business Case Review
- Joint Worcestershire Scrutiny into Flooding Task and Finish Group Recommendations

.....
Chair

- Redditch Borough Council Establishment
- Equalities Mapping

159. MINUTES**RESOLVED that**

the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 16th and 22nd September 2009 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

160. BUDGET PREPARATION GUIDELINES AND TIMETABLE

Members considered a report which recommended guidelines for the preparation of the 2010/11 estimates and the projections for 2011/12 and 2012/13 for endorsement prior to issue to budget holders.

Officers were requested to add briefings for Shadow Portfolio Holders to the timetable at similar timescales to those for Portfolio Holders.

RECOMMENDED that

the proposed Budget Preparation Guidelines and timetable, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

161. WEST MIDLANDS BIODIVERSITY PLEDGE

The Committee received a report that informed it about the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge (WMBP) and the Council's duties under the National Environmental and Rural Communities Act (2006). Approval was sought for the Council to become signatories to the Pledge.

Members were informed that the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership and the West Midlands Local Government Association have been jointly promoting the WMBP as a means of raising awareness of the duties imposed on Local Authorities in Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), commonly known as the Biodiversity Duty.

By signing the pledge Redditch Borough Council would be acknowledging:

- a) that biodiversity and the natural environment play a vital role in enhancing wellbeing and quality of life;
- b) the Council's duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) to have regard to the purpose of

conserving biodiversity in carrying out its functions;

- c) the social, health, environmental and economic benefits which come from biodiversity;
- d) the opportunities for Local Government to lead the drive to conserve and enhance biodiversity at a local level.

Officers reported that all Local Authorities in the West Midlands Region had been invited to become signatories to the Pledge and that by the end of January fifteen Local Authorities had done so.

A Member requested that Council be recommended to support the 10:10 initiative to reduce carbon emissions by 10% by the end of 2010. The Chair replied that although she agreed that there was support in principle for the initiative, a final decision would not be made until further information, in the form of a report to this Committee, had been made.

RECOMMENDED that

Redditch Borough Council sign the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge to assist in meeting its duties under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006.

162. CORPORATE PLAN - PHASE 1

Members received a report which sought to confirm the Council's Vision and Priorities for 2010/13 prior to an update of the Corporate Plan, which would link to the key themes of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Committee also considered the Council's revised Corporate Indicators for 2009/10.

The Committee was informed that a comprehensive analysis of Redditch had been carried out based on demography, survey results and other data. This profile of Redditch had been designed to:

- a) provide the current position regarding key service areas and priorities in Redditch:
- b) provide a context for Redditch Borough Council's Corporate Plan for the financial years 2010 to 2013: and
- c) identify the emerging priorities on which the Council should focus.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Vision and Priorities, detailed in paragraph 5.6 of the report, be adopted namely;**
 - a) **Vision** - *an enterprising community which is safe, clean and green.*
 - b) **Priorities**
 - i) ***Enterprising Community*** which is defined as *a vibrant and vital Borough where its population is well educated, has high skill levels and is healthy and fit. Housing is excellent and varied and the community is served by a prosperous town centre and has access to first class leisure facilities. The Council's voice is influential and respected by residents, partners, other governmental agencies and suppliers. The Town's economy provides sufficient high quality jobs for residents with good levels of pay and reward.*
 - ii) ***Safe*** – *the Council will work in partnership with other agencies through the Redditch Community Safety Partnership to reduce crime and disorder. The Council will identify key projects to build community confidence and allow residents and visitors to be safe and feel safe.*
 - iii) ***Clean and Green*** – *to develop attractive open spaces, taking enforcement action against littering, fly tipping and other behaviour detrimental to the environment where appropriate and supporting measures to tackle climate change.*

The above three priorities to be underpinned by:

Well Managed Organisation – *in order to deliver efficient and effective services and achieve the Council's priorities and outcomes, the Council needs to be a well managed organisation.*

- 2) **the revised Corporate Performance Indicators, attached at Appendix 2 of the report ; be adopted and**

- 3) **the revised values, as set out in paragraph 5.8 and shown below, be adopted.**
- a) *we place a value in **Partnership working**, ensuring that these partnerships add value to service delivery and provide Redditch with a strong voice both locally and regionally.*
 - b) *we are **Fair** in the decisions that we make. We value probity and fairness and strive to understand the needs of all communities, embracing a diverse range of needs and showing respect at all times.*
 - c) *we are **Responsive and Accountable**. We believe in customer focus and aim to deliver a standard of service that our customers require whilst being open and honest about the decisions we make. We aim to achieve greater value for money through smarter practices and new technology.*
 - d) *we value feedback through **Communication and Consultation**. We listen and act appropriately, and will enable and provide support for people to become involved in the services we deliver.'*

163. INTRODUCTORY TENANCIES

The Committee received a report which sought the adoption of Introductory Tenancies for all new tenants with Redditch Borough Council.

Officers reported that an Introductory Tenancy was one which would last initially for a twelve month period during which time the tenant would effectively be on probation. At the end of the twelve month period, if the Introductory Tenancy had been conducted satisfactorily, it would automatically become secure. In the event that further help or support was required the Introductory Tenancy could be extended for a further six months.

Members were informed that evidence from Social Landlords who had adopted Introductory Tenancies had found that they had assisted in identifying vulnerable clients who might be at risk of losing their tenancy. This had enabled help and support to be provided at an early stage to sustain the tenancy. It had also been found to be effective in assisting landlords to tackle persistent or serious antisocial behaviour more quickly and without involving victims in court.

Consultation had taken place with positive feedback from the Community Forum and Neighbourhood Groups.

RECOMMENDED that

the Council adopts the use of Introductory Tenancies for all new tenants with effect from January 2010.

164. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23rd September and 1st October 2009.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended to clarify the intentions of that Committee on their recommendation regarding the Policy for the Award of Contracts to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations included in Minute 75 of their meeting held on 23rd September 2009.

Members noted that the recommendations in Minute 87 of the meeting held on 1st October 2009 had been considered and resolved upon at the Executive Committee meeting held on 7th October 2009.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23rd September and 1st October 2009 be noted; and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 2)
 - a) **the proposed policy for the Award of contracts to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations not be approved; and**
 - b) **the Policy for Funding of Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations, which was approved by full Council on 22nd June 2009, remain unchanged.**

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

There were no Minutes of Referrals for discussion.

Executive Committee

28th October 2009

166. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Members considered the report on the work of the Executive Committee's Advisory Panels and similar bodies.

Members were advised that meetings of the Constitutional Review Working Party and the Member Development Steering Group would be arranged in November.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

167. ACTION MONITORING

Members considered a report on Action Monitoring. Officers were asked to include all minuted actions in the report.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.30 pm

.....
Chair



Executive Committee

18th November 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor M Braley (Vice-Chair in the Chair) and
Councillors P Anderson, J Brunner, B Clayton, W Hartnett, N Hicks and
M Shurmer

Also Present:

Councillor D Hunt and M Collins (Standards Committee)

Officers:

E Baker, C Flanagan, H Halls, S Hanley, T Kristunas, G Revans,
Jackie Smith, Jane Smith, J Staniland, D Taylor, A Williams

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

168. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of
Councillors Gandy and MacMillan.

169. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

170. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Private Sector Home Support Service

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

- Item 6 - Community Management and Ownership of Assets –
Proposed Policy and Procedure;

.....
Chair

- Item 9 - Benefits Improvement Plan – Quarterly Monitoring – July – September 2009;
- Item 12 - Churchill District Centre – Redevelopment Update; and
- Item 20 - Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Development Options – Joint Consultation with Bromsgrove District Council.

(Not meeting the publication deadline.)

171. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 7th and 28th October 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

172. CHARGEABLE WASTE COLLECTION - BUSINESS CASE

Members considered a report that sought approval for the introduction of a paid for 'opt in' garden waste collection service in a pilot area from March 2010 and, if successful, rolled out across the Borough in 2011/12.

Officers reported that the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) 2009 had set a target of 43% recycling / composting by 2014. The Council, as a signatory to the JMWMS 2009, had committed to increase its recycling /composting rate (NI 192) to help to achieve this target and would also impact on the impact of Climate Change (NI 185).

Members expressed their concerns that all options for the disposal of garden waste had not been investigated. An amendment to the Officers' recommendation to continue the existing policy of the use of grey bins and orange sacks in the pilot area was not approved.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) a further report be prepared for a future meeting of the Committee.**

173. COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND OWNERSHIP OF ASSETS - PROPOSED POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Members considered a report regarding the adoption of a Policy and Procedure on Community Management and Ownership of Assets, which would provide a consistent approach across Worcestershire.

Members suggested that the voluntary sector in Redditch should be consulted on the policy and procedures before a decision could be made.

An earlier amendment to the Officers' recommendations to delete recommendation 1 as set out in the report was not approved.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **the voluntary sector in Redditch be consulted on the proposed policy and procedures.**

174. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING - QUARTER 2 - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2009

The Committee received a report that provided information on aspects of the Council's overall performance for Quarter 2 of the 2009/10 financial year. In particular, it showed which performance indicators, when compared to the same quarter last year, were exceeding their target, were not on target or where performance had remained static.

RESOLVED that

the update on key performance indicators for the period April to September 2009 be noted.

175. QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 2 - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2009

Members considered a report which provided an overview of the budget, including the achievement of approved savings, as at the end of the second quarter of the 2009/10 financial year.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

176. BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT PLAN - QUARTERLY MONITORING - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2009

The Committee received a report on progress against the Benefits Service Improvement Plan during the second quarter of the 2009/10 financial year.

Officers reported that work had been progressed towards meeting the aims of Benefits Service Improvement Plan that had been devised from the recommendations following an Audit Commission inspection. In partnership with the Department of Works and Pensions, the Benefits Services had been looking at overpayment recovery, a Take Up Strategy, improved access to the service and performance management.

Officers were requested to highlight the Inspector's comments regarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee's involvement in overseeing the management of performance. [Appendix 1 (R7a)]

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

177. QUARTERLY MONITORING OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS - QUARTER 2, JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2009

Members considered a report that provided an overview on aspects of the Council's Formal Complaints Procedure for quarter 2 of the 2009/10 financial year.

The report also included compliments recorded during the same period and also details regarding Ombudsman Enquiry response times and outcomes.

RESOLVED that

the update on complaints and compliments for the period July to September 2009 be noted.

178. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BIDS 2009/10 TO 2012/13

The Committee received a report outlining a number of revenue and capital bids for the financial years 2009/10 to 2012/13 for consideration and approval subject to the availability of resources.

Officers reported that based on the assumptions included in the Medium Term Financial Plan, the implications of the 2009/10 approved budget and the unavoidable and high revenue capital

bids, the estimated position for the next three years would be as follows:

	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000	2012/13 £'000
GF balances 31st March	2,131.2	1,658.7	924.8	750.0
less forecast use of balances	-31.0	-475.2	-630.4	-244.6
Assume VAT refund not rec'd till 2010/11	-346.0	346.0		
2009/10 approvals	-45.1	-66.1	-99.0	-99.0
Pressures				
Unavoidable and high revenue bids	-50.0	-520.2	-339.1	-338.2
Revenue implications of unavoidable and high capital bids	-0.4	-18.4	-78.4	-120.9
Budget gap			972.2	802.7
Forecast GF balances c/fwd	1,658.7	924.8	750.0	750.0

Members were informed that the Medium Term Financial Plan assumed that there would be no increase in the Formula Grant over the next three years. Other Authorities had assumed that there might be up to 5% reduction in grant which could mean a reduction of up to £322k from 2011/12.

Officers reported that in order to prepare for a potential shortfall in 2011/12 and to minimise the risk of operating within the approved minimum level of revenue balances a basket of savings options and a timetable would be produced for Members' consideration.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the General Fund revenue bid set out in Appendix 1 in respect of the current financial year, if it is determined it should proceed, be approved and funded from General Fund revenue balances;**
- 2) **the General Fund capital bid set out in Appendix 2 in respect of the current financial year, if it is determined it should proceed, be approved and funded from General Fund revenue balances;**

- 3) those of the General Fund revenue bids set out in Appendix 1 for the period 2010/11 to 2012/13 which it is determined should proceed be approved in principle, subject to the availability of resources;
- 4) those of the General Fund capital bids set out in Appendix 2 for the period 2010/11 to 2012/13 which it is determined should proceed be approved in principle, subject to the availability of resources;
- 5) the Housing Revenue Account capital bid set out in Appendix 2 in respect of the current financial year, if it is determined it should proceed, be approved and funded from Housing Revenue Account revenue balances;
- 6) those of the Housing Revenue Account revenue bids set out in Appendix 1 for the period 2010/11 to 2012/13 which it is determined should proceed be approved in principle, subject to the availability of resources; and
- 7) those of the Housing Revenue Account capital bids set out in Appendix 2 for the period 2010/11 to 2012/13 which it is determined should proceed be approved in principle, subject to the availability of resources.

179. CHURCH HILL CENTRE - REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Members considered a report which gave an update on the progress of the scheme to redevelop the Churchill District Centre and to request additional funding to enable the completion of the market testing process.

Officers reported that a notice had been placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on 12th October 2009 with the requirement that developers who wished to express an interest should complete a Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) to be returned to the Council by noon on 18th November 2009. Additional marketing had also commenced on 17th October 2009 with the same deadline for the return of the PQQ.

Members were informed that four PQQs had been received and a full report on the suitability of those developers would be presented to Council on 7th December 2009. This report would set out the financial implications of proceeding with the project and would ask whether the Council would want to proceed to the next stage.

RESOLVED that

- 1) progress on the scheme be noted; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 2) **additional revenue funding of £2,360 be approved to progress the scheme for the year 2009/10 up to and including reporting on the outcomes of the market testing exercise.**

180. WOODROW LIBRARY PROJECT

Members considered proposals for the co-location of Woodrow One Stop Shop in Woodrow Library as part of a capital project being proposed by Worcestershire County Council (WCC).

Members were informed that following the creation of a Libraries and Learning Service by WCC in 2008 Woodrow had been identified as a priority area for service delivery, including adult learning. A substantial capital bid of £500,000 to refurbish the library would be submitted by WCC focussing on the benefits of co-location of the One Stop Shop.

Officers reported that in June 2008, as part of the decision to retain local One Stop Shops, an Executive Advisory Panel was set up to look at ways to make local offices more relevant, accessible and better utilised. The Panel was kept informed of progress of the co-location discussions and have supported the project.

Members were informed that the current face to face cashier service provided at the One Stop Shop could not be transferred into the library. However, Officers had investigated the cost and use of payment kiosks and space for housing a kiosk had been included in the refurbishment proposals.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **Redditch Borough Council supports in principal the co-location of Woodrow One Stop Shop in Woodrow library;**
- 2) **Officers investigate the feasibility of extending the use of swipe cards as a possible alternative to a payment kiosk and report back to this Committee on their findings before the expenditure requested in paragraph 5 is committed;**
- 3) **the rent currently charged for the library be reviewed, taking into account the extent of the investment proposed to improve a community facility and the implications of the future use of the vacated office space.**

- 4) the outcome of the investigation outlined in paragraph 3 be brought back to Committee for consideration; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 5) the capital bid of £17,000 for the installation of a payment kiosk and the revenue bid of £2,500 per year for maintenance be approved.

181. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14th October 2009 be noted; and
- 2) Asset Maintenance Officers be asked to prioritise the redecoration of the Mayor's Parlour in the Town Hall redecoration programme scheduled to take place in 2010/11.

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

There were no minutes or referrals for discussion.

183. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Members considered the report on the work of the Executive Committee's Advisory Panels and similar bodies.

Members noted that the next meetings of the Economic Advisory and Procurement Advisory Panels had been arranged on the same date as the Licensing Committee.

RESOLVED that

the update report on the work of the Committee's Advisory Panels, etc. be received and noted, subject to the following further updates:

- 1) a date for the next meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Panel be identified;
- 2) the Economic Advisory and Procurement Advisory Panels on 14th December be rescheduled;

- 3) **a date for the next meeting of the Member Development Steering Group be identified.**

184. ACTION MONITORING

Members considered a report on Action Monitoring.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

185. CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

Members considered a report that sought approval for consultation to be carried out jointly by Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council on the Core Strategy Development Options, which would outline options for development along the adjacent boundary of both Councils to meet growth needs up to 2026.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **A six week consultation period from 1st February to 15th March 2010 to be held jointly with Bromsgrove District Council be approved for the purposes of consulting on the Development Options to meet Redditch's growth needs up to 2026.**
- 2) **Authority be delegated to the Acting Development Plans Manager, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and the Leaders of the political parties to agree the nature and content of the consultation publicity material.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.50 pm

.....
Chair



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Licensing Committee

2nd November 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Braley (Chair), Councillor Kath Banks (Vice-Chair) and Councillors A Clayton, J Cookson, J Field, A Fry, W Hartnett, N Hicks, D Hunt and J Pearce

Officers:

S Garratt and G Revans

Committee Officers:

Denise Sunman

5. APOLOGIES

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

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

8. LICENSING - SERVICE STANDARDS

Members considered a report which sought endorsement of the Licensing Service's written Service Standards.

Officers reported that although there were no statutory requirements for the Council to publish Licensing Service Standards it had been recognised as good practice to provide written standards that indicate the level of service that customers can expect from the Service.

.....
Chair

RESOLVED that

the Licensing Service Customer Standards, as amended and detailed below, be approved and published.

Licensing Service Customer Standards

The Licensing Service

The Licensing Section operates in connection with the Council's role as the Licensing Authority for the Licensing and Gambling Acts and the Local Authority for the regulation of all other licensable activities. We work in partnership with the Police, Trading Standards, Businesses, Residents and other partner organisations.

Through advice and enforcement we seek to ensure high standards of operation from the premises and the services we licence.

It is the Licensing Service's intention that all licence applications will be dealt with promptly. However, many delays are caused by applicants who fail to submit all required documents.

Each licence or registration is considered in accordance with statute law, case law, any appropriate Council policy, the requirements of the Enforcement Policy and any applicable code of practice, guidance or condition.

In addition to the consultation, administration and licence production processes most applications require an inspection of the proposed premises or vehicle by officers of the Council.

The Licensing Service will when dealing with the investigation of complaints or possible breaches of licence conditions take enforcement action in line with our enforcement policy to ensure fairness and consistency.

Complaints and Compliments

If we do things well please tell us; but if you have a complaint please speak to the member of staff who has been dealing with you. They may be able to sort it out straight away. Alternatively, ask to speak to the manager. Complaints give us the chance to put things right and improve how we do things in the future. If you are still not satisfied we can give you our leaflet "How to make a complaint or compliment" which fully explains the formal complaints

Licensing Committee

2nd November 2009

procedure. We are determined to provide quality, customer focussed services.

Licensing Service Customer Standards	How will they be measured?	Measuring Frequency
We will investigate and resolve complaints made in relation to premises or services we licence within 2 months.	Excel Enforcement Spreadsheet	Quarterly
We will consult in accordance with Statutory requirements on all licensing matters.	Post book	Monitored yearly
Application packages for all licences will be issued within 5 working days of receipt of request	Post book	Monitored quarterly
All Premises Licences will be issued within 5 working days of public notices being completed if all papers are submitted and are complete and no representations are received.	Post book	Monitored quarterly
All licensed vehicles will have safety tests carried out within 28 days of the appointed date.	Caps Uniform	Monitored Monthly
All medical examinations and CRB applications for drivers will be renewed applied for within 28 days of the expiry the original documentation and in any case prior to the renewal of a licence.	Caps Uniform	Monitored Monthly
Inspections: Licensing Act 2003 - Premises Licenses – Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment.	Caps Uniform and Officers Excel Spreadsheet.	Quarterly

Licensing

Committee

2nd November 2009

<p>A representative sample of premises and all premises which have been the source of complaints or other problems will be inspected prior to the issue of a licence. All premises will be subject to a “during performance” inspection by the Enforcement Officer usually in company with the Police.</p>		
<p>Gambling Act 2005 – Premise Licence – Betting, Bingo and Amusement Arcades.</p> <p>All premises will be inspected prior to the issue of a licence.</p>		
<p>Taxis - Hackney Carriage Vehicles and Drivers, Private Hire Operators, Vehicles and Drivers.</p> <p>All applicants will be interviewed and all vehicles inspected prior to the issue of a licence.</p> <p>Licensing will work in partnership with VOSA and the West Mercia Police to ensure all licensed vehicles are kept in a roadworthy condition and fit for purpose.</p>		

9. SECURITY INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (S.I.A.) DOOR SUPERVISORS

Members considered a report that sought endorsement of an application by the Council to the Security Industry Authority (S.I.A) for written authorisation, which would enable Licensing Officers to carry out entry and inspection powers in accordance with Section 19 of the Private Security Industry Act (2001).

Officers reported that such powers would prevent and detect offences in relation to door supervisors employed on Licensed Premises within the Borough on behalf of the S.I.A. and aid the Council's Licensing Officers in the enforcement and management of community safety and the night time economy in partnership with the Police. All enforcement visits to Premises Licensed under the Licensing Act (2003) would comply with the SIA Enforcement Policy Code of Practice.

RECOMMENDED that

an application to the Security Industry Authority (S.I.A.) for written authority be approved to enable Licensing Officers to carry out powers authorised by the Private Security Industry Act (2001).

10. GAMBLING ACT - REVISED STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES

The Committee considered a report that requested the Council's adoption of the revised Statement of Licensing Principles in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

Officers reported that the revised Statement of Licensing Principles had been produced in consultation with neighbouring Local Authorities in Worcestershire, Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority and MS Entertainments Ltd (Shipleys) Ltd.

Members were informed that, once adopted, the revised Statement of Licensing Principles would form the basis on which decisions would be made under the Gambling Act (2005) by the Licensing Committee, its Sub-Committees or Officers. Any subsequent changes to the review would require full consultation with a wide range of statutory bodies. By order of the Secretary of State, Licensing Authorities must publish the revised Statement of Licensing Principles by 14th January 2010.

Licensing Committee

2nd November 2009

RECOMMENDED that

the revised Statement of Licensing Principles under the Gambling Act (2005), as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be adopted and added to the Council's Policy Framework.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme 2009/11. Officers reported that informal invitations had been extended to West Mercia Police and Worcestershire County Council's Trading Standards to give updates to future meetings. Officers would amend the Work Programme once dates had been identified.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.02 pm.
and closed at 7.50 pm.

.....
Chair



Planning Committee

3rd November 2009

MINUTES

Present:

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

Officers:

A Hussain, S Mullins, A Rutt, S Skinner and J Staniland.

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth

63. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

(Councillor King had indicated that he was acquainted personally with Mr Blewitt, a public speaker for Application 2009/206/RC3 (Environment Enhancements – Himbleton Close, Lodge Park), but not sufficiently to warrant a declaration of interest.)

65. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 6th October 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

66. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

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

.....
Chair

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 eight of the applications being considered.

**67. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/186/FUL –
UNIT 9, WASHFORD TRADE PARK, WASHFORD DRIVE**

Erection of new (Class A1) Retail Unit
Applicant: HSL Property Ltd

Mr P Haslam and Mr C Robinson, the Applicant and Agent respectively, addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, authority be delegated to the Acting Head of Planning and Building Control to GRANT Planning Permission, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of the grant of this permission.**

Reason: - In accordance with the requirements of Section 91(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 2) The premises shall be used for the preparation, baking and retail sale of bread flour and sugar confectionary, savoury products, fresh and delicatessen foods, sandwiches, snacks, soft drinks, beverages, ice-cream and for no other purpose (including any other purpose in Class A1 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes Amendment) Order 2005, or in any provision equivalent to that Class in any statutory instrument revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification) unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.**

Reason: In the interest of sustainability to prevent additional trips by car in accordance with Policy E(TCR).4 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No 3.

- 3) The development hereby approved shall be implemented in accordance with the following plans:

Drawing Nos: 7344-02C, 7344-03A

Date Stamped: 8 September 2009

Reason: To accurately define the permission for the avoidance of doubt and to ensure that the development is satisfactory in appearance in order to safeguard the visual amenities of the area in accordance with Policy B(BE).13 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.

(This decision was taken contrary to Officer recommendation in view of the fact that Members were of the opinion that the proposed A1 Class Use was acceptable in this particular location in that it was, in their view, an ideal use for the site and would provide an aesthetically pleasing and high standard facility for the surrounding employment and nearby sporting and recreation facilities.

It was further agreed that authority should be delegated to Officers to approve the application in order that appropriate conditions, including restricting the A1 use to a Sandwich Shop only, could be negotiated and applied.)

**68. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/194/FUL –
18 CHESTNUT ROAD, ASTWOOD BANK**

Erection of New Dwelling

Applicant: Mr I Osborne

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.

**69. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/203/COU –
UNITS 1 - 2 MARKET PLACE, REDDITCH TOWN CENTRE**

Revised application for a change of use from A1 (Retail)
to A2 (Financial and Professional Services),
alterations to the shopfront and installation of 4 satellite Dishes,
TV Aerial to roof and associated works

Applicant: Paddy Power Plc

Mrs Warner, objector, and Mr Robson, Agent for 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 summarised in the main report.

**70. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/205/RC3 –
DORMSTON CLOSE, LODGE PARK**

Environmental Enhancements (part retrospective)

Applicant: Redditch Borough Council

Mr K Stokes, Agent for 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 summarised in the main report, with the exception of Condition 1, which was to be removed, and Condition 3 which was amended to read as follows:

“3. Details of finishes of surfaces to be submitted and implemented as agreed prior to further works being undertaken.”

**71. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/206/RC3 –
HIMBLETON CLOSE, LODGE PARK**

Environmental Enhancements (Part Retrospective)

Applicant: Redditch Borough Council

Mr Blewitt, objector and Mr K Stokes, Agent for 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, authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Building Control to GRANT Planning Permission, subject to: receipt of satisfactory amended plans showing the removal of the proposed parking in the area fronting the grass bank; the Conditions summarised in the main report, but with the exception of Condition 1, which was to be removed, and Condition 3, which was amended to read as follows:

“3. Details of finishes of surfaces to be submitted and implemented as agreed prior to further works being undertaken.”

(In considering this, in part, retrospective Application, and further to representations made by the objector, Members were of the opinion that the proposed overall parking provision for the Close, which would equate to an average of 2.9 spaces per dwelling, was over-provision in terms of Policy requirements. For this reason and further to advice from Officers, it was proposed and agreed that one aspect of the application, relating to proposed car parking to the front of the grass bank on the site plan, might be deleted and the existing incidental amenity grass space be retained.

Authority to approve the Application was delegated to Officers in order that amended plans, as necessitated by the deletion of some of the parking spaces, could be sought.)

**72. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/208/RC3 –
FLYFORD CLOSE, LODGE PARK**

Environmental Enhancements (part retrospective)

Applicant: Redditch Borough Council

Mr K Stokes, Agent for 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 summarised in the main report with the exception of Condition 1, which was to be removed, and Condition 3, which was amended to read as follows:

“3. Details of finishes of surfaces to be submitted and implemented as agreed prior to further works being undertaken.”

**73. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/210/S73 –
LAND AT CHURCH GREEN / MARKET PLACE /
ALCESTER STREET, TOWN CENTRE**

Variation of Conditions 3 and 4 of Application 2008/067/RC3
to ensure trading hours and deliveries / collections / vehicle
movements are all in line with Market Rules and Regulations
2009/10

Applicant: Redditch Borough Council

Mrs M Davidson and Mr D Hawkins, Agents for 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, authority be delegated to the Acting Head of
Planning and Building Control to GRANT Planning Approval,
subject to no new issues being raised following the expiry of
the Public Press Notice on the 6th November 2009 and the
conditions and informatives summarised in the main report.**

**74. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/211/FUL –
LAND AT CHURCH GREEN / MARKET PLACE /
ALCESTER STREET, TOWN CENTRE**

Amendment to Planning Permission 2008.067
for improvement works to pedestrian area and
permanent use of area as outdoor market

Applicant: Redditch Borough Council

Mrs M Davidson and Mr D Hawkins, Agents for 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, authority be delegated to the Acting Head of
Planning and Building Control to GRANT Planning Approval,
subject to no new issues being raised following the expiry of
the Public Press Notice on the 6th November 2009 and the
conditions and informatives summarised in the main report.**

**75. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/214/COU –
26 AND 28 EVESHAM WALK AND
36 AND 37 EVESHAM WALK, KINGFISHER CENTRE,
REDDITCH**

Amalgamation of units and change of use from
A1 Retail to A2 Financial and Professional Services
(resubmission of Planning Application 2009/169/COU
Applicant: Scottish Widows

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

This application, which would normally have been dealt with under Officers' delegated authority, was exceptionally considered by the Committee at the request of Councillor MacMillan.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of the grant of this permission;**

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of Section 91(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 2) The premises shall be used as a bank or building society only and for no other purpose (including any other purpose in Class A2 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, or in any provision equivalent to that Class in any statutory instrument revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification.**

Reason: In order to protect the retail core of Redditch Town Centre and the shopfront style appearance of the frontage of the unit(s) in relation to Policy E(TCR)5 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3.

- 3) **The use hereby permitted shall be implemented in accordance with the plans submitted in support of the application, and the frontage remain as a glazed shopfront in accordance with those plans unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.**

Reason: In order to protect the retail core of Redditch Town Centre and the shopfront style appearance of the frontage of the unit(s) in relation to Policy E(TCR)5 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3.

(This decision was taken contrary to Officer recommendation in view of the Committee's opinion that, whilst mindful of the Shopping Centre's primarily retail (A1) function and the Council's adopted Policies, an A2 use, restricted to Banks and Building Societies only, would be appropriate in this prominent location, part of which had failed to attract any permanent retail outlets over several years. The proposed hours of opening, as indicated by the Agent, were also considered to address Officers' concerns in relation to opening hours during the Centre's peak shopping hours. In weighing up the arguments for and against the proposed change of use, Members considered that on balance, the A2 use as specified and subject to appropriate conditions, was acceptable.)

76. PLANNING SYSTEM - PROPOSED CHANGES

The Committee received a report which detailed various changes to the planning system that had come into force on the 1st October 2009 together with information on proposed changes to certain nationally set fees due to come into force in the near future.

Members noted that the changes were part of the Government's response to the economic downturn and were designed to increase ways of encouraging the implementation of developments that had the benefit of Planning Consent.

The areas of change were summarised under the following headings:

- 1) applications for non-material changes to planning permissions;
- 2) extension of time applications; and
- 3) new consultation requirements.

Officers advised that, in conjunction with the changes, the Department for Communities and Local Government had proposed different fees for these types of applications. Members noted that

the suggested fees, which were still to be confirmed, were likely to be introduced in December 2009 and would, Officers anticipated, result in a reduction in planning application income.

RESOLVED that

the areas if change to Planning and associated consents, as detailed in the report and its Appendix, in relation to extending Planning Permissions and making non-material amendments to Planning Permissions, be noted.

77. MEMBERS' PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

The Committee considered proposed revisions to the Council's Planning Code of Good Practice in order to take account of the changing role of Members in the planning process.

Following the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services' presentation of the report, Members felt that an opportunity for more extensive discussion was required.

RESOLVED that

- 1) this matter stand deferred pending the outcomes of**
2) below; and
- 2) Officers be instructed to arrange an event to permit more detailed discussion, by all Members, of the proposed Code of Practice.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.01 pm
and closed at 10.26 pm

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CHAIR

