

Council

5th September 2011

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

M Collins (Vice-Chairman, Standards Committee)

Officers:

J Bayley, K Dicks, C Felton, C Flanagan, S Hanley, J Pickering, S Skinner and A Walsh

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

43. WELCOME

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

44. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Greg Chance and Brenda Quinney.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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Chair

46. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th July 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

47. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

a) Citizens' Advice Bureau / MacMillan Cancer Care

The Mayor advised the Council that Mrs Moira Morris, Manager of the Redditch Citizens' Advice Bureau and Mrs Ida Parkinson, a former MacMillan Cancer Care nurse were present to speak in connection with the launch of a new service involving the two organisations, local hospices and the PCTs.

Mrs Morris and Mrs Parkinson explained that the new service would help to signpost those who were suffering from cancer and their carers to the appropriate support and guidance that was available. Mrs Parkinson added her own insights into the development and good work of the MacMillan Cancer Care service.

b) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council she had undertaken a number of engagements in her civic capacity including the Morton Stanley Park 'Party in the Park'.

c) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included the Council's own Civic Service on Sunday 2nd October and the Local Democracy Day events at the Town Hall on Thursday, 20th October 2011.

d) Urgent Business

The Mayor advised that she had not accepted any items of urgent business.

48. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader's Announcement was considered under the following heading:

Morton Stanley Park 'Party in the Park'

The Leader thanked those Officers who had given of their time over the weekend of the Morton Stanley Park 'Party in the Park' and helped make the event such a success once again. The Leader also thanked those Councillors who had attended to seek the views of local residents and those residents who had attended the weekend's events.

49. DEPUTATION - SAVE BROCKHILL GREEN BELT

A petition had been received, in accordance with current Constitutional arrangements and the Petition Scheme, which contained in excess of the 400 signatures required to trigger a Council debate. In addition, the petitioners had asked that the Council receive a deputation on this matter.

Prior to receipt of the deputation, the Council's Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services clarified for the benefit of Members and the petitioners / deputation the extent of the involvement which the Council might properly have in this matter at this particular stage. Advice was given that planning applications were only to be determined by the Planning Committee but that planning policy was a matter for Council approval in due course. However, the petition focussed upon matters being considered and consulted upon within the ongoing Core Strategy development process.

The members of the deputation, Mr Mark Whitworth and Mr Richard Lee, supported by Mr David Moss, addressed the Council on the subject of the two areas of land in Brockhill, those covered by Policy 29 in the draft Core Strategy (Brockhill East) and Policy 30 (Brockhill West).

Mr Whitworth reminded Members of the outcomes of earlier reviews of land available for development within the Borough. It had previously been acknowledged that areas of green belt should not be considered as potential sites for future development. Members were informed that the deputation and petition were not in objection to the future development of the ADR land in Brockhill.

Mr Lee argued that the Brockhill East area should be removed from the developing Core Strategy as land suitable for development. It was noted that the Planning Inspectorate had previously stated that the current green belt would be readily defensible and that exceptional circumstances did not prevail that should cause this designation to be removed. The high ecological and environmental interest and sensitivity of the site was noted as was the quality of the farmland, the potential visual impact of any development and the high amenity value of the area.

Mr Whitworth noted that Brockhill West was not referred to as green belt in the current Core Strategy consultation despite it being previously designated as the Foxlydiate Green Belt. The small size of this site made it relatively insignificant in terms of meeting Redditch's future housing needs but there was the obvious potential for it to be used as an enabler for substantial development across the boundary in Bromsgrove. The inclusion of the site within the Master Plan and its designation as a Strategic Site was considered a substantial change in the space of a few months. It was argued that development of the green belt should be a last resort and not a first option.

Members noted the comments of the Deputation and the content of the petition and, in accordance with the advice of Officers

RESOLVED that

the petition stand referred to the ongoing Core Strategy development process which was to be reported for formal decision by the Council at a later date.

50. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions had been received.

51. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No Motions had been received

52. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 2nd August and 23rd August 2011.

RESOLVED that

1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2nd August 2011 be received and all recommendations adopted; and**

2) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 23rd August 2011 be received and all recommendations adopted, subject to:**

in respect of Minute 58 (Joint Environmental Enforcement Strategy) it being noted that Officers had been asked to respond to a request from Councillor Hartnett for clarification following the meeting as to the rationale for increasing certain fixed penalty notice sums by a significant amount; and

in respect of Minute 71 (Shared Service Business Case – Single Business Case) it being further RESOLVED that

Recommendation 1 be agreed subject to there being a period of formal consultation with the affected staff.

53. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of recent meetings of the Licensing Committee and Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 14th July and 11th August 2011 be received and adopted; and**
- 2) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 13th July and 10th August 2011 be received and adopted.**

54. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

The Council noted three Urgent Business decisions which had been approved in accordance with the Council's urgency procedures, namely:

River Revetment Works – Old Forge Drive
(UB Reference 493);

Transfer of Waste Heat between the Crematorium and the Abbey Stadium
(UB Reference 494); and

Appointment of Miss Jesbir Uppal as a Court Officer of the Council and to Delegate to her the Conduct of Legal Proceedings on behalf of the Council.
(UB Reference 495).

RESOLVED that

the matters be noted.

55. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

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

Council

5th September 2011

The Meeting commenced at 7.01 pm
and closed at 8.28 pm

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Chair