

Council

15th October 2012

MINUTES

Present:

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

Officers:

K Dicks, C Flanagan, S Hanley, S Jones, R Brown and J Cochrane

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

59. MAYOR'S WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Rauf and Hussain Shah entertained the Council with a performance on sitar and mutka.

60. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Michael Chalk and Brenda Quinney.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

62. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5th September 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

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MAYOR, in the Chair

63. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Mayor

The Mayor's communications and announcements were as follows:

i) Mayoral Functions

The Mayor advised that, since the last meeting of the Council, he had attended a number of engagements, including the Mayor of Evesham's Monks' Supper, the Bandstand musical event, the Mayor of Bewdley's Charity Dinner, the NEW College Graduation Ceremony, a Murder Mystery evening at Forge Mill, a musical spectacular at Redditch Arts Centre, a visit to a resident of Terryspring Court on the occasion of their 100th birthday and visits to most of the Council's Sure Start Children's Centres.

ii) Forthcoming Engagements

The Mayor advised that forthcoming engagements included a Rotary Club meal at the Foxlydiate Hotel, the Mayor of Worcester's charity dinner, the annual Firework Display at Arrow Valley Park, the University of Worcester Awards Ceremony, 12th Anniversary celebrations at Terryspring Court, the League of Friends of the Alex Hospital AGM, Redditch Operatic Society's production of Summer Holiday and the Remembrance Day Parade.

b) Leader's Announcements

The Leader's announcements were as follows:

i) Keralan Indian Association

The Leader introduced to the Council three representatives of the Keralan Indian Association, a new local body established by members of that community, who were in attendance at the meeting.

ii) Olympics / Paralympics 2012

The Leader of the Council was delighted to introduce three individuals with local connections who had played a part in the London Olympics and Paralympics 2012.

Katrina Harte shared with the meeting her experiences of competing at the London Paralympics and showed off the Bronze Medal that she had won as part of the Women's 4x100 Metres Relay team. Katrina had not quite achieved the success that she had hoped for in the individual sprint events but was justifiably delighted at her performance in the Relay.

Glenn Scott, a former student of Kingsley College, was unfortunate to not get the chance to compete in the London Paralympics but was able to speak about the wonderful experience of being an Olympic Torch bearer in the run up to the Games and of his hopes to be a part of the squad for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

A local resident, Mumtaz Shah, told the meeting about his experience as a Games Maker and having the opportunity to be present at the Olympics Volleyball tournament. He commented that the experience had been two of the best weeks of his life.

iii) Helen Gregory

The Leader was very sad to have to report the death following a short illness of Helen, the wife of Ian Gregory, the Council's Bereavement Services Manager. The Leader led the Council in expressing his sincere condolences to Ian at this difficult time.

iv) Bandstand Festival

The Leader spoke of the success of the Bandstand Festival held several weeks earlier on Church Green and his desire that the event should be repeated in years to come.

v) Alexandra Hospital

Following the sending of a letter to the Minister for Health, the recent Ministerial changes had altered plans for a meeting with representatives of Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove and Stratford on Avon District Councils. The intention now was for a meeting to take place between the Council representatives, the local MP and Dr Dan Poulter, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, on 13th November.

vi) Midlands BMX Championships

The Leader reported on the success of the Midlands BMX Championships which had been held at the Redditch BMX track the previous weekend. Steve Rooke and his colleagues at the track were congratulated on the event which had attracted around 500 competitors.

vii) Britain in Bloom

It was reported that Redditch had received a Gold Medal in the Small Cities category of the annual Britain in Bloom competition 2012.

viii) Audit and Governance Committee

The Council was advised that Councillor Alan Mason was to replace Councillor Mark Shurmer on the Audit and Governance Committee with immediate effect.

64. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions had been received.

65. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No motions had been received.

66. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 18th September 2012.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 18th September 2012 be received and all recommendations adopted.

67. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of a recent meeting of the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5th September 2012 be received and adopted.

68. THE ALEX - A COUNCIL COMMISSION

The Leader of the Council informed the meeting of the intention to create a Council Commission to allow local residents, NHS staff, local groups, organisations and businesses the opportunity to give their feedback on the latest proposals. The Commission was to be cross-party and comprise all members of the Executive Committee. It was intended to use the views of local people to inform the Council's response to the Joint Services Review.

The Leader took the opportunity to clarify a number of points contained within the covering reporting in addition to tabling amended recommendations in the light of an announcement from NHS Worcestershire on 11th October 2012.

Members were united in their disappointment at the failure of the NHS to come forward with a short-list of healthcare options which clearly affected the ability of the Council and local residents to put forward their views. There was also a concern that uncertainty at the possible outcomes of the Review was affecting morale amongst staff at the Alexandra Hospital. This was not helped by a feeling amongst staff that they were unable to comment in public on any proposals.

The Council was pleased at the amount of media coverage, both local and national, that the threat to the Alexandra Hospital had received, singling out the local newspapers for praise for their part in raising this issue.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Executive Committee be set up as a Commission to examine the Joint Service Review, in particular the proposals affecting the Alexandra Hospital and the fact that that Alexandra Hospital has been highlighted as one of the sites that is most likely to be adversely affected by the Review; and**
- 2) **the evidence gathered by the Commission be used to inform the Council's response to the consultation as well as form the basis of a report to Worcestershire NHS for consideration as part of their consultation.**

69. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

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

Local Transport Bodies

The decision was in respect of a response to the Department for Transport on the establishment of Local Transport Bodies.

RESOLVED that

the decision be noted.

70. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

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

Council

15th October 2012

The Meeting commenced at 7.20 pm
and closed at 8.18 pm

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MAYOR, in the Chair