



Council

26th November 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Alan Mason (Mayor), Councillor Wanda King (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Joe Baker, Roger Bennett, Rebecca Blake, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, David Bush, Michael Chalk, 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:

J Carradine, K Dicks, C Felton, S Hanley, B Houghton and J Cooper

Democratic Services Officer:

I Westmore

71. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

72. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Juliet Brunner and Brenda Quinney.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

74. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th October 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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MAYOR, in the Chair

75. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Mayor

The Mayor's communications and announcements were as follows:

i) White Ribbon Campaign

The Mayor advised Members of the annual White Ribbon Campaign against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety was invited to say a few words about the campaign.

The Portfolio Holder drew Members' attention to the scale of domestic abuse and sexual violence in this country. It was suggested that, by publicly confronting this abuse, others could gain the courage to do likewise. The Portfolio Holder added that she had attended an event at Redditch United Football Club at which players, staff and supporters had pledged their support in the lead-up to the campaign and added their handprints and signatures to the Council's campaign banner, entitled 'These Hands are not for Hurting'. It was proposed that the Council meeting be adjourned to allow Members the opportunity to contribute to their own campaign banner.

The Leader of the Council was also invited to speak and added his support to the campaign. Members were informed that a number of other authorities across Worcestershire were following Redditch's lead in respect of the creation of campaign banners and a number of men were to take part in a walk on 30th November to demonstrate their opposition to violence against women. The proposal to adjourn was seconded and it was consequently

RESOLVED that

the meeting be adjourned in order that Members might offer their handprints and signatures in a personal and public commitment to the White Ribbon Campaign.

(The meeting adjourned at 7.08pm and reconvened at 7.26pm)

Other Members then took the opportunity to add their support to the campaign, among their number several who had first-hand experience of abuse of this nature. James Cooper and other members of the Community Safety Team were thanked for their efforts in supporting the promotion of the campaign.

Mayoral Functions

The Mayor advised that, since the last meeting of the Council, he had attended a number of engagements, including Fireworks at Arrow Valley Park, Eid celebrations at St Stephen's School, Terryspring Court's 12th anniversary celebrations, the Remembrance Day Parade & Service, the presentation of swimming medals at Abbey Stadium and the Christmas Lights switch on in Redditch.

ii) Forthcoming Engagements

The mayor advised that forthcoming engagements included the Worcester Christmas Fayre, a function hosted by the Redditch Association for the Blind, the Sunset Club Christmas Party and the Mayor's Charity Quiz.

b) Leader's Announcements

The Leader's Announcements were as follows:

i) Hereford and Worcester Sports Awards

The Leader advised that he had been present at the recent Hereford and Worcester Sports Awards and had been delighted in the success of Redditch Road and Pathways Cycling Club in winning the Junior Team Award.

ii) Remembrance Day

It was reported that the Remembrance Day Parade and Service had been very well attended and had taken place at both the War Memorial on Church Green and that on Plymouth Road. It was noted that the Editor of the Redditch Standard and a number of local schools were researching the histories of the fallen whose names were recorded on these Memorials.

iii) Christmas Light Switch-on

The Leader thanked both Lyndsey Hadley and Louise Jones from the Planning Team for their part in making the switching on of the Town Centre Christmas lights such a success.

iv) Primrose Hospice

Council was made aware of the excellent effort made by Lisa King, daughter of Councillor Wanda King and the late Councillor Robin King, in raising more than £1250 for the Primrose Hospice in memory of her late father.

v) Joint Services Review – Alexandra Hospital

The Leader updated Members on the latest developments on the Joint Service Review (JSR). The Leaders and the Chief Executive of Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils had met the JSR team following the previous meeting of the Council in October.

The JSR team had stated in October that, although it had not finalised a shortlist, it was focussing on options for services at all three sites being reviewed. Members were informed that the Alexandra Hospital was the site most likely to be affected and the main services being considered were the Accident and Emergency (A & E) Department led by specialist A & E consultants, paediatric inpatient services and consultant-led obstetrics. The majority of urgent and emergency care would still be provided at the Alex.

The Leader made clear the resolve that he and other local Council Leaders had to continue to fight to protect services at the Alex. A very encouraging and positive meeting had been held with the Health Minister, Dan Poulter, at which this message had been pressed home. Indeed, Mr Poulter was due to visit the Alex site in January. Members were informed, however, that any formal consultation on proposals for the provision of Healthcare in Worcestershire would probably not commence until March 2013 at the earliest.

The Leader advised the Council that he had asked for a further briefing on or before 18th December 2012 to ensure that he and others might proactively represent the interests of local people in this regard.

76. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions had been received.

77. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No motions had been received.

78. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 16th October and 20th November 2012.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16th October 2012 be received and all recommendations' adopted; and**

- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 20th November 2012 be received and all recommendations adopted, subject to:

in respect of minute 96 (Sickness Absence Policy and Disciplinary Policy – Review) it being noted that the A5 laminated guide to the Council’s Sickness Absence Policy be made available to those Councillors who wished to receive one.

79. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Members received the minutes of the most recent meetings of the Council’s Regulatory Committees.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 26th September 2012 be received and adopted;
- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 31st October 2012 be received and adopted; and
- 3) the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 22nd October 2012 be received and adopted.

80. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT - SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS - AND AMENDMENT TO THE PLANNING CODE OF PRACTICE

The Council received a report which updated it on changes considered beneficial to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers following on from amendments made to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and, secondly, an amendment to the Planning Code of Practice to reflect the Shared Service arrangement beyond the Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council agreement.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the changes to how the Council conducts investigations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) be noted;
- 2) the Head of Legal Services be delegated authority to authorise Officers to appear on the Council’s behalf in Court proceedings, including as required as a result of the changes to RIPA procedures;

- 3) the addition to the Council's Planning Code of Practice as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and
- 4) the Head of Legal Services be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Scheme of Delegations and the Planning Code of Practice within the Council's Constitution to reflect the decisions at 2) and 3), above.

81. 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:

Greater Birmingham and Solihull Business Rate Pool – Draft Governance Arrangements

The decision was in respect of delegation to the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer of the approval of the draft Governance Arrangements for the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Business Rate Pool.

In response to a question from a Member, the Leader undertook to have Officers provide a written answer detailing how the charge (£65,000) to the Accountable Body, Birmingham City Council, was apportioned between the members of the Pool. In addition, following a discussion about the responsibility on individual Members to attend meetings of the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Business Rates Pool Executive Body, the Chief Executive made himself available to speak to any Member following the meeting on this matter.

RESOLVED that

the decision be noted.

82. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.01 pm
and closed at 8.10 pm

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MAYOR, in the Chair