



# COUNCIL

30th June 2008

## MINUTES

**Present:**

Councillor J Field (Mayor, in the Chair), and Councillors M Hall, P Anderson, K Banks, K Boyd-Carpenter, M Braley, J Brunner, M Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, J Cookson, D Enderby, R J Farooqui, A Fry, C Gandy, W Hartnett, N Hicks, D Hunt, R King, W King, C MacMillan, P Mould, J Pearce, M Shurmer, D Smith, D Taylor and D Thomas

**Also Present:**

Mr H Davies (IDeA)

**Officers:**

C Flanagan, S Hanley, T Kristunas, L Shrimpton, S Skinner, C Smith, J Smith and L Shrimpton

**Committee Services Officer:**

I Westmore

**21. MAYOR'S WELCOME**

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**22. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Norton.

**23. COUNCILLOR BETTY PASSINGHAM**

The Mayor introduced a tribute to a former colleague, Councillor Betty Passingham, whose death had come as a shock to all at the Council at the end of May.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Passingham's husband, Ron and other members of the Passingham family to the meeting and expressed the Council's deepest condolences to them. Members of the Council were invited to offer up words they might wish to offer in memory of Councillor Passingham and of her services to her Borough.

.....  
Chair

The Leader of the Council commenced the tributes to Councillor Passingham and moved that the thanks and deep admiration of Council for her be formally recorded. The Leader of the Minority Group and the Deputy Mayor then led other Members in expressing their thoughts on the life and achievements of Councillor Passingham.

Ron Passingham spoke in response to those who had expressed their condolences at the loss of his wife and who had offered such glowing tributes to Betty, adding that she had been a great family person over and above her role in public life. Councillor Passingham's daughter's Jenny, Sue and Esther spoke in similar part of their love and admiration for their mother.

**RESOLVED that**

**the Council's thanks to Councillor Betty Passingham for her tremendous contribution to the public life of the Borough be formally recorded.**

**24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor MacMillan stated that, at the preceding meeting of the Executive Committee that same evening, he had declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 11 (Abbey Stadium Redevelopment - Consultancy – Funding Approval) as detailed separately at Minute 31 below.

**25. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on the 19th of May 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

**26. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

a) Mayoral Engagements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council he had attended various functions, including: a wine tasting record attempt at Wetherspoons, presentation of certificates to the Ipsley CE Middle School football team who

won the Schools Premier League Tournament National Finals 2008, Under 11 England, the opening of the newly designed Dementia Garden at Bowood Mews, the Green Fair at St Stephen's Church, Civic Services at Evesham Town Council, Wychavon and Worcester City, the Carers' Careline Activities Day, the Redditch Lions Family Fun Day at the Arrow Valley Park, a photocall for Shades Day with a local blind resident and her guide dog, the Saltways Cheshire Home Summer Fete and the Veterans' Day Parade and Service.

b) Forthcoming engagements

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included the "Noah's Ark" Nursery's garden party and the Green Fair at Arrow Valley countryside Centre where he would be judging a children's competition.

The Mayor also thanked Councillor Hall for stepping in to take on engagements I was unable to do but for which I felt a Mayoral presence was appropriate

c) Urgent Business

The Mayor advised that he had had accepted no additional items of "Urgent Business" this evening. However, he had accepted three late reports:

The Redditch Partnership Agreement and Protocol, which was to be considered as a matter arising on the Executive Decision Notice from the 11th of June;

The Statement of Accounts report; and

The report on Shared Services and the possible appointment of a Joint Chief Executive.

**27. NOTICES OF MOTION - 57-58 FIRST BUS ROUTE**

A Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Hartnett in accordance with Standing Order 6 in respect of the 57-58 First Bus Route. This was seconded by Councillor Fry.

The substantive motion, below, in respect of the 57-58 First Bus Route was the subject of the following named vote in accordance with Standing Order 16:

Members voting FOR the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Banks, Boyd-Carpenter, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Cookson, Enderby, Farooqui, Field, Fry, Gandy, Hall, Hartnett, Hicks, Hunt, R King, W King, MacMillan, Mould, Pearce, Shurmer, Smith, Taylor and Thomas.  
(27 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the amendment to the motion:

None.

Members Abstaining from Voting:

None.

**RESOLVED that**

**the Motion be approved in the following terms:**

**“The Council views with great concern the actions of First Bus in withdrawing the Alexandra Hospital leg of the 57-58 bus service.**

**This has caused great concern and inconvenience to many people in Redditch who rely on this service, such as staff who work at the Hospital, out-patients who attend the Hospital for appointments and friends and family who are visiting patients at the Hospital.**

**The 57-58 is the busiest route in Redditch and is the most profitable in the County.**

**We call on the Council to contact First Bus to revert back to the service they operated prior to this latest change, reinstating the 57-58 service to the Alexandra Hospital whilst at the same time retaining their revised 55-56 service. We would also ask the Council to call on First Bus to enter into a dialogue with the Council whenever they propose to amend their bus routes within the Borough**

**Further, the Council is grateful to Diamond Bus for introducing the 57A - 58A service which offers a 40 minute service to the Alexandra Hospital.**

**The Council would request Diamond Bus to consider the following:-**

1. To start their service 1 hour earlier to arrive at the Hospital at 7.50am to allow staff to start their shift on time.
2. To consider a more regular service say every 20 minutes instead of the current 40 minute service.”

A second Notice of Motion in respect of the same matter had been submitted by Councillor Thomas and seconded by Councillor Hall but this was not discussed subsequently as the Mayor determined that the matter had been adequately dealt with.

## 28. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 23rd of April 2008 be received and adopted and all recommendations approved subject to:

- a) in respect of Minute 242 (Children and Young People’s Plan), it being further

**RESOLVED that**

Officers be requested to develop a specific Children and Young People’s Action Plan for Redditch as an adjunct to the County Plan;

- b) in respect of Minute 243 (District Centres – Final Report), it being further

**RESOLVED that**

this Item be deferred to allow for further work to take place on the recommendations, involving the relevant Portfolio Holder, former Task and Finish Group Chair and relevant Officers;

- c) in respect of Minute 244 (Communications – Final Report), it being further

**RESOLVED that**

this Item be deferred to allow for further work to take place on the recommendations, involving the relevant Portfolio Holder, former Task and Finish Group Chair and relevant Officers; and

- d) **in respect of Minute 245 (Charging Policy and Procedures)**, it being noted that an amended version of the document considered by the Executive Committee had been submitted to Council and it being further

**RESOLVED that**

**the Council approve and adopt the Charging Policy and Procedure, as set out in Appendix A to the update report.**

- 2) **the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 11th of June 2008 be received and all recommendations approved subject to:**

**in respect of Minute 6 (Redditch Partnership Agreement and Protocol)**, it being further

**it being noted that an amended version of the document considered by the Executive Committee had been submitted to Council and it being further**

**RESOLVED that**

**the updated Redditch Partnership Agreement and Protocol be endorsed.**

(A motion to amend the recommendation in respect of the three district One-Stop Shops at Batchley, Winyates and Woodrow was the subject of the following named vote in accordance with Standing Order 16:

**Members voting FOR the amendment to the motion:**

Councillors Cookson, Enderby, Fry, Hartnett, Hunt, R King, W King, Mould, Shurmer and Taylor.  
(10 votes)

**Members voting AGAINST the amendment to the motion:**

Councillors Anderson, Banks, Boyd-Carpenter, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Farooqui, Field, Gandy, Hall, Hicks, MacMillan, Pearce, Smith and Thomas.  
(17 votes)

Members Abstaining from Voting:

None.

Accordingly, the amendment to the Motion fell.)

**29. REGULATORY COMMITTEES**

The Council received the Minutes of recent meetings of the Planning Committee.

**RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 1st and 22nd of April and the 20th of May 2008 be received and adopted.**

**30. LEADER'S ANNUAL POLICY STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council set out a brief summary of her Group's main policy objectives for the coming year.

It was stated that the overarching ambition was to raise the profile of the town which was stated to be attractive and cosmopolitan and with a strong volunteer network. The Borough was said to have Councillors and Officers who strove hard to improve the lives of its residents but that the Council had not sufficiently celebrated its achievements.

The Leader stated that her Group would work hard to fulfil its pledges and was grateful for the opportunity that the electorate had provided.

**31. ABBEY STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT - CONSULTANCY - FUNDING APPROVALS**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Leisure Contracts Advisory panel as agreed by the Executive Committee in respect of the Abbey Stadium redevelopment. It was noted that the Executive Committee had approved expenditure of up to the sum of £200,000 whereas Council was being asked to allocate up to £1.2M capital funding for the purpose of project management and design for the scheme.

**RESOLVED that**

**the sum of up to £1.2M capital funding be allocated for the purpose of project management and design for the scheme.**

**32. CHIEF OFFICER SELECTION PANEL - REFERRAL REPORT - BOROUGH DIRECTOR**

**RESOLVED that**

**the Council record for audit purposes that the Selection Panel received the subject report at its meeting held on the 17th of June 2008.**

**33. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Council received the Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 for formal approval.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the 2007/08 Statement of Accounts, as attached to the report, be approved;**
- 2) a copy of the statement be signed at the meeting by the Mayor; and**
- 3) in view of their late circulation to Members, the Statement of Accounts be submitted for consideration as Urgent Business at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.**

**34. BY-ELECTION EXPENDITURE**

The Council considered a request to allocate funds for the conduct of By-Elections for the vacant seats in Batchley Ward and the Arrow Valley East County Electoral Division.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the initial sum of £9,000 be allocated from balances for the conduct of the Borough By-Election; and**
- 2) the sum of up to £18,000 be allocated for the conduct of the County Council By-Election in the Arrow Valley East Electoral Division, to be fully reimbursed in due course by the County Council.**

**35. "PREFERRED OPTIONS" STUDY FOR FUTURE HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT IN AND AROUND REDDITCH**



Members considered a proposal to part fund and agree to the project brief for a Redditch Joint Study to identify the preferred option for future housing and employment development in and around Redditch.

The long term importance of the study was recognised by the Council and it was concluded that it was more beneficial to come forward with a joint planning solution to this matter than a number of separate and competing political solutions.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) **the Project Brief attached to the report as Appendix A for the second stage of the Redditch Joint Study be agreed; and**
- 2) **a financial contribution of up to £10,000 be agreed.**

**36. COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, PANELS, OUTSIDE BODIES - APPOINTMENTS - UPDATES**

A number of appointments made at the Annual meeting of the Council in May required updating in the light of subsequent events, including the passing of Councillor Passingham.

**RESOLVED that**

**the following appointments be approved:**

**WMRA Regional Housing Partnership (alternate) – Councillor Shurmer;**  
**Local Area Transport Forum – Councillor Taylor;**  
**Community Children and Young Persons Forum – Councillor Taylor;**  
**Redditch Play Council – Councillor Taylor;**  
**Smallwood Almshouses Trust – Councillor Fry;**  
**Redditch Co-operative Homes – Councillor Cookson; and**

**it be noted that Councillor A Clayton was appointed to the Leisure Contracts Advisory Panel.**

**37. CONSTITUTION - ANNUAL REVIEW**

This matter was deferred.

**38. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS**

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

**39. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)**

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

**40. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC****RESOLVED that**

**under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public, with the exception of Mr Howard Davies of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) be excluded from the meeting for the following matters on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act, as amended:**

**Minute 42 – Shared Services – Appointment of Joint Chief Executive (Paragraphs 1, 2 and 4).**

**Minute 43 – Church Hill District Centre – Redevelopment Update**

(Confidential Minute 19 of the Executive Committee, 11th June 2008) (Paragraph 3).

**41. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES / REFERRALS (IF ANY)**

There were none.

**42. SHARED SERVICES UPDATE - APPOINTMENT OF JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

A report was considered that sought approval for the appointment of a Joint Chief Executive between Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council.

Discussion of this matter took place after the exclusion of the public in view of the fact that it would be necessary to consider exempt matters before reaching a decision. In this case the exempt matters were in relation to specific individuals and their identities and employee relation matters, disclosure of which was not considered to be in the public's best interest.

**43. CHURCH HILL DISTRICT CENTRE - REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

# COUNCIL

C O M M I T T E E

30th June 2008

---

Members sought clarification and assurances in respect of the decision to defer approval of a land assembly issue at Church Hill District Centre.

There were no additional decisions taken.

Discussion of this matter took place after the exclusion of the public in view of the fact that it would be necessary to consider exempt matters before reaching a decision. In this case the exempt matters were in relation to the financial affairs of individuals and organisations other than the Council and provisional terms of land (freehold and leasehold) acquisition under negotiation, disclosure of which was not considered to be in the public's best interest.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm  
and closed at 11.35 pm