

# Council

Monday, 27 October 2008

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## Minutes

### Present:

Councillor Jack Field (Mayor), and Councillors P Anderson, K Banks, K Boyd-Carpenter, M Braley, J Brunner, M Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, R J Farooqui, A Fry, C Gandy, M Hall, N Hicks, D Hunt, R King, W King, P Mould, W Norton, J Pearce, B Quinney, M Shurmer, D Smith, D Taylor and D Thomas.

### Also Present:

Mr M Collins (Vice Chair, Standards Committee)

### Officers:

R Bamford, K Dicks, L Hadley, S Hanley, S Mullins, S Skinner, J Smith and J Staniland

### Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth.

### 72. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

### 73. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cookson, Enderby, Hartnett and MacMillan.

The Council recorded its condolences to Councillors Hartnett and MacMillan in view of their recent bereavements.

### 74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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Mayor, as Chair

## 75. MINUTES

### RESOLVED that

**subject to the adjustment in the record of the description of the 'Leader of the Main Opposition Party', the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 15 September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

## 76. 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 Civic visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire; Civic Services in Bromsgrove, Alcester and Stratford-on-Avon; the Official opening of the Underpass in Bengrove Close, Woodrow by the Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP; a cheque presentation (monies raised for charities) at EZE Fitness, in Alcester Street, Redditch; the Friends of Gruchet AGM and Quiz: the Malvern Hills District Council Chairman's Charity Dinner; a Celebration Church Service and Joint Declaration of Intent at the Headless Cross Methodist Church; Local Democracy Week events at Walkwood Middle School and at the Town Hall; Mrs Ada Hampton's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Plymouth Court; the opening of a new affordable housing development at Yeates' Acre, off Astwood Lane, in Feckenham; and the Worcestershire Army Cadet Force League Fund-Raising Lunch at the Chateau Impney, Droitwich.

### b) Forthcoming engagements

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included the Official opening and re-launch of Redditch Market; the 5 November Bonfire and Fireworks display in the Arrow Valley Country Park and the Remembrance Day Service at St Stephen's Church, Redditch.

The Mayor also took the opportunity to remind Members of the Charity Auction, to be held at the Town Hall at 7.00 pm on Saturday, 15 November in aid of his Charities and also the Primrose Hospice, for which tickets, at £10 each, could be purchased from Trish Buckley.

The Mayor also thanked the Deputy Mayor for stepping in to take on a number of engagements on his behalf and finally, reminded all

present that a Carol Service in Walter Stranz Square would precede the next full Council meeting on Monday, 8 December.

c) Oakenshaw Clean-up Event

With the permission of the Mayor, Councillor Gandy advised that, a clean-up event held in Oakenshaw on the previous Saturday, in liaison with the Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints, had attracted up to fifty people. The event, which had included a BBQ, had been a great success and had made a huge impact on the environment of the area.

Councillor Gandy thanked the Council Officers who turned out for the event.

## 77. LOCAL DEMOCRACY DAY

The Council received an oral report on the Local Democracy Week Events held on the 21 October from its Champions for Young People, Councillors Brunner and Hunt and from Student Councillor Patrick Yates.

Councillor Brunner thanked all Councillors who participated in the Local Democracy Events which had been a great success once again. Relevant Officer were also thanked for all their work organising and ensuring the success of the event at the Town Hall.

Student Councillor Patrick Yates reported that the event had been very enjoyable and on behalf of the Student Council, thanked Councillor Brunner and everyone else involved for organising it.

Patrick was then invited to present Certificates to the winning Borough Councillors for the "Most Popular Councillor" Awards: namely

Overall Most Popular Borough Councillor – Councillor Farooqui  
1st Runner up – Councillor Fry  
2nd Runner up – Councillor A Clayton.

The Leader also added her own thanks to everyone involved, particularly Councillor Brunner and staff at Walkwood Middle School, where a further Local Democracy event had been held.

### **RESOLVED that**

**the success of the Local Democracy Events and the Council's appreciation of the contributions of everyone involved in the events, in particular Councillor Brunner, be formally noted.**

## 78. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 3 September 2008 be received and adopted;
- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 17 September 2008 be received and adopted and all recommendations contained within them approved;
- 3) the Decision Notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 8 October 2008 be received and all recommendations contained within it approved, subject to:

in respect of Minute 107 (Advisory Panels Update),  
it being further

### RESOLVED that

- 1) an Economic Advisory Panel be established with a membership of six (3 Con + 2 Lab + 1 LibDem);  
and
- 2) membership of the Panel be made up of Councillors MacMillan (relevant Portfolio Holder in the Chair), Braley, Norton, R King, Shurmer and Thomas; and
- 4) the Decision Notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 22 October 2008 be received and all recommendations contained within it be approved.

## 79. 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 the 5 August 2008 be received and adopted.

**80. OUTSIDE BODIES - COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS /  
NOMINATIONS**

The Council noted recent changes to the composition of the County Council Highways Forum, which would now comprise all Redditch County Councillors plus up to two non-voting Borough Councillors.

Members expressed disappointment at the changes in the composition of the Forum, particularly in that it no longer represented a truly 'partnership' approach and in relation to the County's decision to restrict the Borough Council's appointees to that of non-voting representatives.

**RESOLVED that**

**Councillors MacMillan (Portfolio Holder for Local Environment and Planning and Transport) and Hunt be appointed to the County Council Highways Forum as the Borough Council's representatives.**

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

Members noted three Urgent Business decisions, which had been determined in accordance with Standing Order 36, namely:

Improved Lighting in Redditch Town Centre – Unicorn Hill and Bates Hill

(UB Reference 473)

Revised 2007/08 Statement of Accounts

(UB Reference 474)

Ice Rink Proposal

(UB Reference 475)

In relation to the matter of the Revised 2007/08 Statement of Accounts, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management reiterated the need for all Members to take up Member Development training opportunities when presented.

In relation to the recent financial difficulties being experienced by other Local Authorities Officers who had invested funds in Icelandic Institutions, confirmed that, in accordance with current Treasury Management policy, the Council had no investments in Overseas Banking Institution. As a precautionary measure, however, Officers agreed to look into whether the London Investment Banks with whom the Council invested, had themselves subsidiary interests in Overseas Banks that might affect the security of the Council's investments.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) **the reports be noted; and**
- 2) **the Revised Statement of Accounts, as presented in the report attached to the Agenda, be approved.**

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

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.03 pm  
and closed at 8.18 pm

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Mayor, in the Chair