

Council

9 March 2009

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Malcolm Hall (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors P Anderson, K Banks, M Braley, J Brunner, M Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, J Cookson, D Enderby, A Fry, C Gandy, W Hartnett, N Hicks, D Hunt, R King, C MacMillan, W Norton, J Pearce, B Quinney, M Shurmer, D Smith and D Thomas

Also Present:

D Andrews and M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

S Hanley, A Marklew, S Mullins, J Smith and J Staniland

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

114. WELCOME

The Deputy Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

115. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor Field, and Councillors W King, Mould and Taylor.

116. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

117. KIETH BOYD-CARPENTER

The Deputy Mayor introduced a tribute to a former colleague, Councillor Kieth Boyd-Carpenter, who had recently retired his seat on the Council because of ill-health.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed Councillor Boyd-Carpenter and his wife, Val to the meeting and spoke of Councillor Boyd-Carpenter's contribution to the Council over a period of more than a quarter of a century, including his time as Mayor of the Borough in 2003/04.

.....
Chair

The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Minority Group continued the tributes to Councillor Boyd-Carpenter, followed by other Members, many of whom commended his work as a good local Councillor to the communities he served.

RESOLVED that

the Council's thanks to Councillor Kieth Boyd-Carpenter for his contribution to the Council be formally recorded.

118. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 19 January and 23 February 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

119. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

a) Mayor's announcements

The Deputy Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council he and the Mayor had attended various functions, including: the Sports Partnership Awards, the Holocaust Memorial Day event, a Special Olympics Presentation evening at the Town Hall, a Burns Night celebration at Bromsgrove, the AGMs of the Friends of Auxerre, Redditch One World Link and the Student Council, the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Partnership Awards presentation and the Art and Heritage Open Day at the Gallery in Millsborough House.

The Deputy Mayor particularly highlighted the three local winners of awards at the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Partnership Awards presentation, Will James, Georgette Mullen and the Astwood Bank Girls Under 15 Cricket Team, and it was agreed that a letter of congratulation be sent to the individuals concerned.

b) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included the Worcestershire Young Musicians of the Year event, a Royal Visit to Where Next?, Astwood Bank Operatic Society's production of "The Count of Luxembourg" and the Chinese New Year Celebration which had been postponed from February owing to the weather.

c) Urgent Business

The Deputy Mayor advised that he had accepted one additional item of "Urgent Business":

Item 12 – Civil Parking Enforcement – Delegations and Authorisations.

The Deputy Mayor had also accepted a late report:

Item 7 – Decision Notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2 March 2009.

120. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 7 January, 13 January and 23 February 2009 be received and adopted;
- 2) the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 28 January and 18 February 2009 be received and adopted and all recommendations approved, subject to:

in respect of Minute 229 (Empty Homes Strategy)
it being further RESOLVED that

the minutes be amended to read "...increase the level of..." rather than "...reduce the level of...";

in respect of Minute 232 (Constitutional Review Working Party)
it being further NOTED that

recommendations 11-15 (Standing Orders) were intended as guidance and did not reflect an intention to amend Standing Orders; and

- 3) the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2 March 2009 be received and all recommendations approved, subject to:

in respect of Minute 246 (Core Strategy Evidence Base)
it being further NOTED that

an amendment was to be made to Appendix B under the delegated authority granted and subsequent to the site visit by Members to a number of the sites in question.

121. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of recent meetings of the Audit and Planning Committees.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 21 January 2009 be received and adopted and all recommendations approved; and**
- 2) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 6 January and 3 February 2009 be received and adopted and all recommendations approved.**

122. FEES AND CHARGES - 2009/10

The Council considered once again the Fees and Charges for 2009/10, incorporating the additional information that had been requested at the last ordinary meeting of the Council in respect of the charges for Leisure Services.

Members were being asked to consider the approval of the Fees and Charges in their entirety following deferral of the recommendations at the meeting on 19 January. There were two additional amendments to those reported to the meeting in January that were tabled on the evening in respect of the charge for beverages in the Civic Suite and the incremental charges for the collection of additional items of bulky waste.

RESOLVED that

- 1) in cases where;-**
 - a) fees or charges are statutory;**
 - b) fees and charges are set externally (for example under the Model Scheme of Charges for Building Control fees and charges);**
 - c) the Council has delegated authority for Officers to vary fees and charges to take account of various circumstances; or**

- d) fees and charges are established under separate processes, for example the setting of Taxi Fares, the requirement for a general minimum 5% increase in fees and charges be waived;
- 2) the proposed fees and charges for 2009/10, as listed in the appendices to the report submitted to the Executive Committee on 7 January 2009 and subject to the amendments recommended below, be approved;
- 3) the requirement for a general minimum 5% increase in fees and charges for Leisure Services be waived;
- 4) the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the additional report be approved; and
- 5) the concessionary element of the Reddicard be reduced from 50% to 25%.

123. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - ADDITIONAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Members considered the convening of additional meetings of the Council for various purposes and the delegation of authority to Officers to arrange a further extraordinary meeting in connection with the conferring of the Freedom of the Borough.

RESOLVED that

- 1) additional meetings of the Council be held on 6 April 2009 and 27 July 2009; and
- 2) authority be delegated to Officers, in consultation with the Mayor and the Leader of the Council, to establish a date for an extraordinary meeting of the Council at which the Freedom of the Borough might be granted to the Mercian Regiment.

124. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

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

125. URGENT BUSINESS - CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT - DELEGATIONS AND AUTHORISATIONS

The Council considered a request to delegate powers in respect of Civil Parking Enforcement in the Borough and bestow authority to enter into agreements required by legislation for adjudication.

RESOLVED that

- 1) authority be delegated to the Director of Housing, Leisure and Customer Services to exercise the Council's civil parking enforcement powers within the Borough of Redditch, when civil parking enforcement within the Borough comes into effect;**
- 2) the Council enter into a Deed of Arrangements with the Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee (PATROLAJC) for the functions in relation to adjudicators under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004; and**
- 3) authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Democratic & Property Services to sign any necessary agreements or other documents to enable the introduction of civil parking enforcement within the Borough.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.37 pm

.....
Chair