



Council

26th October 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Malcolm Hall (Mayor), Councillor Kath Banks (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors P Anderson, M Braley, J Brunner, M Chalk, G Chance, A Clayton, B Clayton, J Cookson, D Enderby, J Field, C Gandy, W Hartnett, N Hicks, G Hopkins, D Hunt, R King, P Mould, W Norton, J Pearce, B Quinney, M Shurmer, D Smith and D Taylor

Also Present:

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

Officers:

K Dicks, H Halls, S Hanley, S Mullins, Jackie Smith and J Staniland

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

59. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

60. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Fry, W King, MacMillan and Thomas.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Braley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 7 (Executive Committee) as detailed separately at Minute 66 below.

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Chair

62. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

63. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

a) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council he had attended various functions, including: 150th Birthday celebration of Redditch Railways, the "We are Redditch" cultural community event, Civic Services at Bromsgrove District Council and Upton upon Severn Town Council, the County Harvest Festival at Worcester Cathedral, Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services AGM, NEW College 2009 Graduation Ceremony, Worcestershire Breast Unit Campaign launch, the annual ROWL Seminar, the Chinese Association's Mid-autumn Moon Festival, the opening of a butcher's unit at The Stables, Feckenham, the Friends of Gruchet AGM and Quiz, the hand over to its new owners of a recently completed social housing property at Windsor Heights by Persimmon Homes, a Redditch United Football match, Local Democracy Day, with local high school students here at the Town Hall, and Black History events this weekend past.

The Mayor also advised that during this period there was his Charity Quiz – which had raised at least £500 for his charities and the Council's own Civic Service, which was a very successful and enjoyable event.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Banks for stepping in to take on engagements he had been unable to attend.

Members were extremely complimentary about the Mayor's Civic Service and, in addition to congratulating him on an excellent event, they considered his own contribution to have been commendable and it was consequently

RESOLVED that

the Mayor provide a rendition of 'The King of Rome' in exchange for contributions to his charity.

b) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included: a visit by some New Zealand Rotarians, together with their Redditch counterparts, the Welsh Society's Annual Concert on 31st October, the Student Council's Big 5 Event, the annual Fireworks Extravaganza at Arrow Valley Park, a concert by the Bel Canto Singers; and the Remembrance Sunday event.

c) Angie Heighway

The Mayor announced that the Council's Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Angie Heighway, had received a Certificate from West Mercia Police in recognition of her significant work in the area of community safety in Redditch and across Worcestershire as a whole. The Mayor added his congratulations to those of the Police.

d) Additional matters

During consideration of the Mayor's announcements, he gave permission to a number of Members to make further announcements in relation to matters not listed on the agenda, namely:

e) Car Park Seven

The Council Leader thanked those Officers and Members who had been instrumental in getting the owners of the Kingfisher Centre to reopen Car Park Seven.

f) Redditch New Mosque

The Leader led the Council in condemning the vandalism that had occurred at the new Mosque over the preceding weekend. It was subsequently agreed that a letter be sent to Muslim Community Leaders outlining the Council's views on the actions over the weekend.

64. LEADERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted to the Leader.

65. NOTICES OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor MacMillan in respect of St Stephen's Church of England First School. In the absence of Councillor MacMillan, Councillor Gandy proposed the Motion. This was seconded by Councillor Braley.

A number of Members congratulated the School on its achievement, particularly given that it served a population that faced a number of significant challenges. The Mayor and the Leader expressed their willingness and desire to visit the School to meet the staff and pupils and pass on their congratulations in person. It was therefore

RESOLVED that

the Motion be approved in the following terms:

(the Council join with Councillor MacMillan) in congratulating Kathy Skan, Headmistress, and all her staff, governors and, of course, the pupils for this great achievement and ask the Chief Executive to write to them expressing the Council's recognition of their achievement.

66. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 12th and 26th August and 16th and 22nd September 2009 and the decision notices of the meeting of the Executive Committee on 7th October 2009.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 12th and 26th August 2009 be received and adopted, subject to:**

in respect of Minute 82 (Church Hill District Centre – Redevelopment Update) it being further resolved that the desire of the pupils at Church Hill Middle School to be involved in the design of aspects of the Centre be factored into the consideration of this scheme in due course;

- 2) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16th September 2009 be received and all recommendations approved subject to:**

in respect of Minute 127 Development Opportunities – Dingleside and Ipsley) it being noted that Councillor Hartnett wished to receive confirmation from Officers that Redditch Co-op Homes did not have an interest as a possible developer of the Auxerre Avenue site;

- 3) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 22nd September 2009 be received and all recommendations approved; and**
- 4) **the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 7th October 2009 be received and all recommendations adopted, subject to:**

in respect of Minute 155 (REDI Centre – Leasing Options) it being noted that Officers were to provide a briefing note to all Members outlining the latest position with regard to the leasing of the REDI Centre.

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Braley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in view of his position as a Corporation Governor of NEW College, a body which now had an interest as a possible lessee of, and service provider at, the REDI Centre.)

67. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of recent meetings of the Audit and Governance, Licensing, Planning and Standards Committees.

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee expressed a degree of concern at the conduct of business at the meeting on 29th September and proposed that the minutes be withdrawn and incorporated into Minute Book 5, 2009/10.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 29th September 2009 be withdrawn and submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the Council.;**
- 2) **the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 28th September 2009 be received and adopted, subject to**

it being further resolved that the Council thank Councillor Andy Fry for undertaking the role of the Chair of the Taxi Licensing Forum;
- 3) **the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 8th September and 6th October 2009 be received and adopted; and**

- 4) **the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 30th September 2009 be received and adopted.**

68. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

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

69. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.44pm

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Chair