

Council

1st November 2010

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Kath Banks (Mayor) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Jack Cookson, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Malcolm Hall, Bill Hartnett, Nigel Hicks, Roger Hill, Gay Hopkins, Robin King, William Norton, Jinny Pearce, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Debbie Taylor, Derek Taylor, Diane Thomas and Graham Vickery

Also Present:

Michael Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

K Dicks, C Felton, S Hanley, S Skinner, J Staniland and A Walsh

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

49. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Jo Musson, led the Council in prayer.

50. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Anita Clayton and Wanda King.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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Chair

52. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20th September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

53. PETITION - WEBHEATH ADR

A petition had been received, in accordance with current constitutional arrangements and the Petition Scheme, which contained in excess of the 400 signatures required to trigger a Council debate.

The petition organiser, Mr David Rose, took advantage of the opportunity to address the Council on the subject of the ADR land at Webheath. The primary concern of the petitioners was to prevent any further development of the ADR land at Webheath and the land at Foxlydiate and to have the land in question designated as Green Belt. Supporting documentation and a DVD were circulated to all Council Members.

Mr Rose reminded Members of a number of the points that had been made in the Consultant's report prepared by White Young Green in 2009, the Study into the Future Growth Implications of Redditch. He then cited a number of reasons why further development would be undesirable, including his view that any new development would be visually intrusive, that the local infrastructure was inadequate, including the road network, the lack of public transport links, the distance from the town centre and the sewerage and drainage problems that could ensue. A number of other possible sites for additional housing within the town were identified by Mr Rose as being, in the petitioners' view, more suitable for this purpose than the land at Webheath.

Following presentation of the Petition, the Council proceeded to debate the subject of the petition, for which an extension of time was granted by the Mayor owing to the public interest in the issue. Members noted the strength of feeling amongst local residents at the possibility of development on the Webheath ADR land but highlighted the ongoing commitment on the Council to find suitable locations for additional housing, notwithstanding the ending of the Regional Spatial Strategy process. They acknowledged that balanced decisions had to be made, which took into account a wider range of views and interests and it was made clear that for this purpose any further proposals for development would have to be the subject of a full consultation process.

Members noted, however, that there was appeared to be some lack of common understanding over a number of matters in respect of

the status of the Webheath land, such as, for example whether the site was 'far from the Town Centre' or not, or whether the site was 'sustainable', etc. and it was therefore

RESOLVED that

Officers investigate further the matters disputed by the petitioners in order that clearer common understanding might be developed of a number of contentious facts in respect of any proposed development on the subject Webheath land.

54. COMMUNICATIONS, MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LEADER'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 she had attended numerous engagements. The Mayor drew particular attention to the Graduation Ceremony at NEW College to which she had been invited and her own Civic Service at St. Stephen's Church which had been attended by a number of her fellow Councillors.

b) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included the Borough's own Fireworks Extravaganza at the Arrow Valley Park, the Opening of Stitch in Time at the Winyates Craft Centre, the League of Friends of the Alexandra Hospital AGM, the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Plymouth Road cenotaph on 11th November and the services at both St Stephen's and St George & St Mathias , Astwood Bank on Sunday, 14th November.

c) Local Democracy Day

The Mayor thanked Councillor Juliet Brunner for once again helping to organise a very successful Local Democracy Day event at the Town Hall. The Chair of the Student Council, April Powell, presented certificates to those Members present who had proved themselves to be the most popular Councillors with the local students at the event, namely:

- 1st Councillor Simon Chalk
- 2nd County Councillor Terry Spencer
- 3rd Councillor Gay Hopkins

d) Canon Gathercole

The Mayor advised the Council of the recent sad death of Canon Gathercole, an Industrial Chaplain, Chaplain to a number of former Borough Council Mayors and a significant figure locally.

e) Commonwealth Games Gold Medallists

The Mayor advised that two local sportspeople had struck gold at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi the previous month. They were Stevan Walton who had gained two golds in the shooting events and Katrina Hart who had gained a gold in the T37 100 Metres. It was hoped that the two Commonwealth champions would be able to attend the following meeting of Council.

f) Urgent Business

The Mayor advised that she had accepted one late report, Item 8, the Executive Committee decision notice for the meeting on 20th October 2010.

55. LEADERS' QUESTIONS / NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Leader's Questions or Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders.

56. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 8th and 29th September 2010 and the decision notice of the meeting held on 20th October 2010.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 8th September 2010 be received and adopted;**
- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 29th September 2010 be received and all recommendations approved; and**
- 3) the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 20th October 2010 be received and all recommendations approved, subject to:**

in respect of Minute 100 (Regional Housing Pot Grant – Proposals) it being further RESOLVED that

Officers investigate the feasibility of making the provision of loans to the landlords of Houses in Multiple Occupation conditional on their being members of a local accreditation scheme.

57. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

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

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 28th September 2010 be received and adopted;**
- 2) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 14th September and 12th October 2010 be received and adopted; and**
- 3) the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 13th October 2010 be received and adopted.**

58. CONSTITUTION - UPDATE - CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

The Council considered a request that the new Contract Procedure Rules, approved at its meeting in December 2009 formally supersede the existing Contract Procedure Rules and be fully implemented.

RESOLVED that

the Revised Contract Procedure Rules formally supersede Standing Order 46 in the pack of Constitutional documents.

59. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

The Council noted an Urgent Business decision which had been approved in accordance with Standing Order 36, namely:

Interest Free Energy Efficiency Loans
(UB Reference 487)

RESOLVED that

the matter be noted.

60. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

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

Council

1st November 2010

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.37 pm

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Chair