

Council

19 January 2009

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Jack Field (Mayor), Councillor Malcolm Hall (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors 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, W Norton, J Pearce, B Quinney, M Shurmer, D Taylor and D Thomas

Also Present:

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

Officers:

J Bayley, K Dicks, E Storer, T Kristunas, S Hanley, S Mullins, S Skinner, J Smith, J Staniland, and A Walsh

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

95. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

96. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Smith.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Anderson, Brunner, Chalk, B Clayton, Cookson, Gandy and Hall declared a personal but not a prejudicial interest in Item 6 (Executive Committee – Notice of Decisions of the meeting of 7 January 2009) as detailed separately at Minute 100 below.

98. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

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Chair

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99. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

b) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council he had attended various functions, including: the Pakistani Community Forum AGM, the Pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Cinderella, the Town Carol Service in Worcester Square, a Rotary Club lunch, a visit to the Alexandra Hospital on Christmas Day and a New Year Celebration at Wychavon.

c) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included the Sports Partnership Awards, the Holocaust Memorial Day event and the Special Olympics Presentation evening at the Town Hall.

d) Urgent Business

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

Item 8 - Decision Notice of the Executive Committee on 13 January 2009.

The Mayor had also accepted a late report:

Item 8 – Decision Notice of the Executive Committee, 7 January 2009.

100. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 29 October, 19 November and 3 December 2008 be received and adopted;**
- 2) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 17 December 2008 be received and adopted and all recommendations approved:**
- 3) **the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 7 January 2009 be received and all recommendations approved, subject to:**

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in respect of Minute 176 (Housing Revenue Account 2009/10)

it being further RESOLVED that

a letter be sent to the Government requesting that the authority be allowed to keep a greater proportion of its income in order that the Council might reduce or remove its negative subsidy position;

in respect of Minute 177 (Fees and Charges 2009/10) it being further RESOLVED that

a decision on the proposed Fees and Charges 2009/10 be deferred in order that further consideration be given to a number of the proposed Fees and Charges in the area of Leisure and Arts prior to a one-off consultation with the three Group Leaders and the Chair of the Fees and Charges Sub-Committee that was to precede re-submission to a future meeting of the Executive Committee;

in respect of Minute 187 (Council Magazine Re-introduction) it being further RESOLVED that

Councillors A Clayton, Farooqui and Hartnett be appointed to the Editorial Panel; and

in respect of Minute 189 (Electronic Agendas – Modern.Gov) it being further RESOLVED that

any Member requiring paper copies of agendas, reports and minutes will receive them upon request.

- 4) **the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 13 January 2009 be received and all recommendations approved.**

(Members hoped that the press might impart to local residents the benefits of contacting the Council at the earliest opportunity should they be experiencing difficulties in paying their Council Tax or Council House rent.

The Portfolio Holder for Local Environment, Planning and Transport undertook to provide Councillor Hartnett with further information and clarification on whether the information in Appendix 1, Page 43 of the report on Future Development of Waste Services (Minute 181 refers) applied to both owner-occupied and local authority

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rented households and clarification of the Council's proposed course of action in relation to the collection of waste from churches, charities etc. detailed within the same report.

Officers undertook to provide Councillor Hartnett with further information following the meeting on Section 106 monies (Minute 184 refers) that were apparently in the possession of the Council.)

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillors Anderson, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, Cookson and Gandy declared personal interests in view of the fact that Councillors Brunner and A Clayton were associated with the Arts in Matchborough organisation, Councillors Anderson and Gandy were respectively a Governor and a clerk to the Governors of the Vaynor First School, Councillor Chalk was employed by Arrow Vale School and Councillor Cookson was a member of Age Concern. Councillor Hall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in view of the fact that he was the Chair of the Redditch Arts Council and took no part in the voting on the relevant recommendation.)

(In view of the fact that the report on Shared Services Business Cases (Executive Committee Notice of Decisions, 7 January 2009, Minute 191) contained information relating to consultations / negotiations in connection with labour relations, part of this discussion took place after the exclusion of the press and public. There is nothing exempt, however, in this record of the proceedings.)

101. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of recent meetings of the planning and Standards Committees.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 7 October, 4 November and 2 December 2008 be received and adopted; and**
- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 9 December 2008 be received and adopted .**

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102. INVESTING IN HEALTH FOR WORCESTERSHIRE - DRAFT STRATEGY 2008-13

Members considered and discussed a five year draft health strategy for Worcestershire developed by the Worcestershire PCT.

The Council welcomed the strategy and it was agreed that both a Corporate response be prepared and that Members be encouraged to respond individually to the PCT.

The Council was somewhat concerned at the lack of reference to both District Councils in general and to the Borough of Redditch in particular. It was recognised that the new Strategy would shape the provision of healthcare within the County for years to come and the Council was able to support broadly the strategic priorities.

The Council was pleased to note that the Strategy had recognised that there were challenges to be addressed alongside the positive messages that it contained. The financial turnaround to a surplus position was acknowledged and the Council also welcomed progress that had been made in, for instance, ophthalmology, obstetrics and midwifery at the Alexandra Hospital.

The renewed focus on Mental Health provision was considered a positive move; similarly it was hoped the current levels for assessment of dementia across the County could be improved. End of life care was identified as an area where further work might be undertaken and the lack of emphasis given to the prevention of teenage pregnancies was also noted. Finally, it was hoped that further thought might be given to the Choose and Book system and the means by which appointments could be made with General Practitioners.

RESOLVED that

a Corporate response be agreed by the Group Leaders and forwarded to the PCT.

103. SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS - LEISURE FEES AND CHARGES

The Council considered a minor amendment to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers in order that the extent of the authority delegated to Officers in a certain area of the Council's activities might be clarified.

RESOLVED that

the Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended as set out below:

Amendments shown as ~~strike through~~ for deletions and ***bold italics*** for additions:

To vary fees and charges in accordance with market conditions ~~as set out in Appendix 1 of the "Fees and Charges" report presented to Amenities Committee on 6th November 2004.~~ (DLCBS **DHLCS** - Director of Housing, Leisure and Customer Services) (C).

To approve and implement short-term and one-off promotions at all ***permanent and temporary*** Sports and Leisure facilities (HLD&P / MLeis, MSS).

104. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

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

105. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

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

106. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that

under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.

Shared Services Business Cases (Executive Committee Notice of Decisions, 7 January 2009, Minute 191) (as detailed at Minute 100 above).