

Council

Monday, 15 June 2015

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Pattie Hill (Mayor), Councillor Joe Baker (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Roger Bennett, Natalie Brookes, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Greg Chance, Anita Clayton, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Wanda King, Jane Potter, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford, Mark Shurmer, Rachael Smith, Yvonne Smith, Paul Swansborough, Debbie Taylor, David Thain, Jennifer Wheeler, Pat Witherspoon and Nina Wood-Ford

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton and Sheena Jones

Committee Services Officer:

Rosemary Cole

14. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Juliet Brunner, Gay Hopkins and Nina Wood-Ford.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bill Hartnett declared an other disclosable interest item No. 9, Planning Committee Minute 96 – land off Dixon Close, Enfield.

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

That subject to the inclusion of Councillor Roger Bennett as a representative on the Redditch Highways and Transportation Forum, the minutes of the meeting of the Annual Council held

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Chair

on 21st May 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) The Mayor

The Mayor gave a summary of some of the events she had attended since the previous meeting including:

- Town Twinning visit to Auxerre;
- YMCA event;
- Bandstand performances which had been re-located to St Stephens due to bad weather with kind permission of Reverend Paul Lawlor;
- Brownies Sports Day;
- 25th Anniversary of the Bel Canto Singers

b) The Leader's Announcements

The Leader referred to recent events he had attended including a meeting of the Redditch Mental Health Action Group, musical performances from 8 Groups in St Stephen's Church and the Arts in Redditch pop up gallery in the Kingfisher Centre.

The Leader then spoke in detail about the situation in respect of the Alexandra Hospital arising from the publication of the long awaited West Midlands Clinical Senate report. The Leader stated that Members would have seen in the news reports that the report contained very little good news for Redditch, particularly in respect of maternity services and Accident and Emergency Services.

The Leader stated that he felt that the report did not address access and capacity issues and that the Authority would need to continue to work with partners to find the best solution for local residents.

The Leader also read out a statement from the Worcestershire Local Medical Committee who represented General Practitioners in the County. The statement had been issued following the publication of the Senate Report and concluded by urging the Senate and the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust to urgently review the call for other options to be urgently developed.

The Leader concurred with these views and referred to the Health Commission which had been set up but which had not

yet met. It may be that this would meet in future to discuss the further consultation.

18. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

There were no questions on notice on this occasion.

19. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No motions had been submitted.

20. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 14th April 2015 and 9th June 2015.

Equal Opportunity Policy (Minute141)

The Leader reported that at the Executive Committee a number of queries had been raised in respect of the application of the Policy to employees under the age of 18. Officers had since requested that consideration of the recommendation on the Equal Opportunity Policy be deferred to enable additional information to be included within the Policy.

Write Off of Debts 2014-15 (Minute 143)

In response to a query from Members, the Chief Executive undertook to provide additional information on the procedure in respect of debt recovery of Housing Benefits payments in particular and whether any errors had been logged against the Council.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 14th April 2015 be received and adopted; and**
- (b) the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 9th June 2015 be received and adopted subject to further consideration of the recommendation within Minute 141 as referred to above.**

21. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of the recent meetings of the Licensing Committee and the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 2nd March 2015 be received and adopted; and**

- (b) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 11th March 2015, 8th April 2015 and 29th April 2015 be received and adopted.

22. CONSTITUTION UPDATE - OFFICER EMPLOYMENT RULES

Members considered a report on revised Officer Employment Rules in relation to a Senior Officer Disciplinary Panel.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the officer Employment Rules and terms of reference for the Senior Officer Disciplinary Panel be approved;
- (b) the Borough Council's membership of the Panel comprises 5 Councillors, politically balanced (currently 3 Labour and 2 Conservatives); and
- (c) it be noted the following members were nominated to the Panel by Group Leaders: Councillors B. Hartnett, Greg Chance, John Fisher, Juliet Brunner and Brandon Clayton

23. APPOINTMENT TO THE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR THE GBSLEP SUPERVISORY BOARD

RESOLVED that

Councillor Pat Witherspoon be appointed as the Borough's representative on the Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Supervisory Board with Councillor Mark Shurmer as substitute.

24. MEMBERSHIP OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

It be noted that Councillor Wanda King had been appointed to the Licensing Committee in place of Councillor Yvonne Smith.

25. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no urgent decisions to note.

26. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL

There were no separate items of urgent business to consider at this meeting.