

Council

Monday, 2 October 2017

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

Hayley Turner (St Basils)

Corinne Cooper, Richard Daykin, Shane Dennis, Mike Duffin, Sarah Duffin, Stacey Everill, Chris Finch, Lauren Francis, Jess Hiles, Jane Wedgbury and Jonathan Wedgbury (Redditch Special Olympics).

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, John Godwin, Sue Hanley, Julie Heyes and Jayne Pickering

Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley

38. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed all those present to the meeting and noted that unfortunately, since the last meeting of Council, there had been a number of tragic incidents globally. This included the terrorist attacks at Barcelona in August 2017 and at Parsons Green tube station in September 2017 as well as the shooting of at least 50 victims during a concert in Las Vegas that day. The Mayor led Council in paying tribute to all the victims and their families by observing a minute's silence.

Following this the Mayor reminded Members that her chosen charities for the year were St Basil's and Young Minds and the overarching theme for her mayoral year related to mental health and wellbeing. The speaker for the meeting was Ms Hayley Turner, manager of the Redditch branch of St Basil's, who was invited to

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Chair

talk about the positive impact of the charity's work in supporting vulnerable young people at risk of homelessness who in some cases were struggling with mental health and wellbeing problems.

Ms Turner thanked the Mayor for selecting St Basil's as one of her charities for the year and proceeded to outline the work of St Basil's in Redditch. The organisation's activities had grown in the last 10 years and by October 2017 24 young people were supported by the charity in the Borough at any one time. There were a number of causes of youth homelessness and increasingly many of the young people referred to St Basil's had complex needs that took time to address. The young people needed staff to listen and provide support and, despite resource pressures, staff had adapted to ensure that they could continue to help young people in this manner. Unfortunately many young people who approached St Basil's had experienced mental health problems, though might also be experiencing difficulties with substance abuse and learning difficulties. The intensive support provided by St Basil's had a positive impact on the lives of young people and there had been a noticeable decrease in anti-social behaviour and criminal incidents committed by the young people alongside reported improvements in the physical and mental health of the young people concerned and enhanced career prospects. In addition, many of the young people who were supported by St Basil's went on to secure sustained tenancies in the local community. Ms Turner completed her speech by inviting Members to visit St Basil's premises in Redditch.

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Tom Baker-Price and Nina Wood-Ford.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The majority of Councillors present at the meeting declared an Other Disclosable interest in Minute Item No. 45 – Leisure and Cultural Services Concessionary Policy by virtue of their membership of or links to the organisations listed below which held meetings at the Town Hall and were not charged for room hire. All of the councillors remained in the room and participated in the debate on this item and the voting thereon.

Councillor	Organisation
Joe Baker	Labour Party Friends of Gruchet-le-Valasse Friends of Auxerre
Roger Bennett	Conservative Party
Natalie Brookes	Labour Party Disability Action Redditch Redditch One World Link

Juliet Brunner	Conservative Party Unison
David Bush	Conservative Party
Michael Chalk	Conservative Party
Debbie Chance	Labour Party Friends of Gruchet-le-Valasse
Greg Chance	Labour Party Friends of Gruchet-le-Valasse
Anita Clayton	Conservative Party Disability Action Redditch
Brandon Clayton	Conservative Party
Matthew Dormer	Conservative Party
John Fisher	Labour Party Redditch One World Link
Andrew Fry	Labour Party
Bill Hartnett	Labour Party Board of Redditch Co-operative Homes Friends of Gruchet-le-Valasse Friends of Auxerre
Pattie Hill	Labour Party
Gay Hopkins	Conservative Party
Wanda King	Labour Party Redditch One World Link
Jane Potter	Conservative Party
Gareth Prosser	Conservative Party
Antonia Pulsford	Conservative Party
Mark Shurmer	Labour Party
Rachael Smith	Labour Party Redditch One World Link
Yvonne Smith	Labour Party
David Thain	Conservative Party
Jennifer Wheeler	Labour Party
Pat Witherspoon	Labour Party Redditch Older People's Forum Board of Redditch Co-operative Homes Friends of Gruchet-le-Valasse Friends of Auxerre

41. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 24TH JULY 2017

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 24th July 2017 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

42. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor circulated a list of engagements which she and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Nina Wood-Ford, had attended since the last meeting of Council (Appendix 1).

During consideration of the Mayor's announcements a group of Redditch residents who had participated in the recent Special Olympics event in Sheffield were welcomed to the meeting. Ms Sarah Duffin was invited to speak on behalf of the group and she highlighted the achievements of those who had participated in the event:

- Shane Dennis for Aquatics – Silver in the 25m relay, sixth in the 50m freestyle and eighth in the 100m freestyle.
- Laurie Brooks for Athletics – Bronze 100m, Silver Soft Ball Throw, fourth in the 200m and fourth in the 100m Relay.
- Stacey Everill for Athletics – Silver Standing Long Jump, Bronze in the Shot and fifth in the 50m.
- Emmeline Rudge for Athletics – Bronze in the 100m relay, fourth in the Standing Long Jump and fifth in the 100, Personal Best Soft Ball Throw.
- Jonathan Wedgbury for Athletics – Silver in the 100m relay, fifth in the 100m, fifth in the Standing Long Jump and seventh in the Soft Ball Throw.
- Jess Hiles for Boccia – Gold in the Singles and fourth in the doubles.
- Richard Daykin for Gymnastics – Bronze on the rings, Bronze on the floor, Bronze on the Bar, fourth on the Parallel bars, fifth on the Vault and fifth all round.
- Chris Finch in Gymnastics – Gold on the Pommel, Gold on the Bar, fourth on the Rings, sixth on the Vault, sixth on the Floor, seventh on the Parallel Bars and Silver all round.
- Lauren Francis in Gymnastics – Gold on the Floor, Silver on the Beam, fourth on the Vault, fifth on the Bar and Silver all round

In total the Redditch Special Olympics group had received four gold medals, seven silver medals and six bronze medals. Thanks were also extended to the support workers who had assisted participants during the event.

Members congratulated all those who had participated in the Special Olympics. It was noted that the Deputy Mayor had hosted a tea party with participants after the event had taken

place. The Council meeting provided an opportunity for every elected Member to celebrate their achievements.

b) The Leader's Announcements

The Leader advised that he had participated in a number of events and activities since the last meeting of Council. In addition to those events which had already been mentioned during the meeting the following updates were provided for Members' consideration:

- The Leader had attended community events organised by Church Hill Big Local, including a litter picking event and community walk.
- Morton Stanley Festival had successfully taken place on 20th – 21st August 2017.
- The Leader had attended the Scarecrow Day at Forge Mill Needle Museum.
- There had been two band stand events which had showcased children's activities and a food festival. The team involved in organising the events, particularly Ms Sue Yeng, were thanked for their hard work.
- The Leader had attended the Gifts Beyond Price event at St Stephen's Church, which celebrated those who had donated their organs to others.
- The Government had backed Birmingham as the official host city for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Whilst there was no guarantee the event would take place in the city, if it did this could create opportunities for businesses in Redditch, particularly in the hospitality industry.

Members were advised that following reports that both Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT) and the Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had received inadequate ratings the Leader had called for an urgent meeting to discuss the future of both services. During the meeting senior representatives of the Trust had advised that they were working on a nine point improvement plan and were hoping this would have a positive impact.

43. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 9.2)

The Leader responded to three questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2 that had been submitted by Mr C MacMillan, Ms J Beecham and Mr M Rouse.

a) Question from Mr C MacMillan

Mr C MacMillan asked the following question:

“I am aware that the Council, led by the Labour Party and under his stewardship, has a Homeless Strategy. I know that this is an issue of great concern to all sides of this Council.

I would ask that the Leader explain why his strategy is not working and why we have people, often in great need, camping on the ring road? What precisely has he done so far to help these people and how he is going to invigorate his efforts going forward such that these, and other homeless people in the Borough, are helped?”

The Leader responded as follows:

“Firstly, can I begin by thanking Mr MacMillan for his question.

Members will be aware that as recently as September the National Audit Office released a report on homelessness, highlighting a rise in rough sleeping nationally of 134% between 2010 and 2016.

The report also criticised the government for what it described as a ‘light touch’ to an issue that costs the tax payer over £1bn a year and showed how welfare reform has put added pressure on people in housing difficulty. So I would call into question the effectiveness of the national strategy around homelessness - local Councils are left tackling problems they never created in the first place.

Despite this, I would like to reassure Mr MacMillan and members that we have a strategic approach to homelessness in Redditch that is working well. Corporately, the Council has adopted a series of Strategic Purposes which steer its work. One of these is ‘Help me to find somewhere to live in my locality’. The purpose has an action plan running alongside it, which outlines a number of things we will be doing to tackle homelessness in the Borough.

We also developed a Council housing growth programme early in 2017, which sets out how we will maintain a supply of housing stock for local residents in the future because we can’t address homelessness without a steady supply of homes to offer.

On the ground, the Council provides a dedicated homelessness and housing advice service in the town centre. The team focuses on preventing homelessness and finding alternative accommodation for people who become homeless. The team are currently preparing to implement the forthcoming Homelessness Reduction Act which comes into force from April 2018 onwards. The same team lead our response helping people who are perceived to be homeless in Redditch,

settling them into accommodation or safely back into existing accommodation.

Often we work with the public, the Police, the voluntary sector and faith groups around the borough for which we are grateful and we would like to extend our thanks to them.

Although I can't talk in detail about specific cases, I can reassure everyone that the landowners of the area in question at the Redditch ring road have taken the steps required to recover possession of the land, so that particular matter should be resolved shortly.

I would conclude by mentioning that there is a report on the Council's website outlining current provision, together with ideas about invigorating our efforts to tackle homelessness in Redditch in the future. The homelessness report published in September 2017 is the product of a cross-party short sharp review undertaken by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it contains a series of recommendations which the Executive Committee will be invited to consider at the next Committee meeting on 31st October. I look forward to receiving that report in the near future, and would encourage everyone concerned with homelessness to read it because it's a great example of just how seriously we take this issue in Redditch."

Following this Mr MacMillan indicated that he would be keen to ask a supplementary question about the potential for the Council to investigate the use of void properties to alleviate homelessness. However, it was noted that the five minutes allotted to the question was close to ending. For this reason it was agreed that Mr MacMillan would submit a supplementary question in writing for the consideration of the Leader on this subject.

b) Question from Ms J Beecham

Ms J Beecham asked the following question:

"Does Redditch Borough Council use the sanctions that are available to them in the form of fines for breaches of Planning development regulations such as those currently being suffered by Webheath residents by developers Taylor Wimpey?"

The Leader responded as follows:

"Thank you for your question Ms Beecham

The simple answer to the question is that Redditch Borough Council does use the sanctions that are available to it, as appropriate.

The Council has a duty to investigate complaints about development that may have been carried out without permission or consent, or in the case of Webheath, to investigate complaints about breach of conditions attached to a planning permission. Where planning control is breached, the planning team will investigate the matter. It is important, however, to realise that enforcement action is taken at the discretion of the Council and just because a case is investigated it does not necessarily follow that that formal enforcement action will be commenced.

Planning enforcement is a very complex area. It should be noted that the legal processes involved are often lengthy and complicated and an 'instant response' or resolution cannot be guaranteed. Ultimately even if the council "wins" at appeal and at the magistrates court, it does not necessarily change anything on the ground for residents. The maximum penalty on conviction at the magistrate's court relating to contravening a breach of condition notice is a fine not exceeding "level 3" on the standard scale which is currently £1,000.

Indeed Central Government advises that "Addressing breaches of planning control without formal enforcement action can often be the quickest and most cost effective way of achieving a satisfactory and lasting remedy."

In terms of Webheath, the Council received complaints from local residents in relation to matters arising from working hours, lorry routeing, dust suppression, construction noise, lorry parking and mud on the roads.

The Council responded to these complaints by liaising with the local residents and the relevant developers in order to understand the issues being raised and provide a mediating role between the parties. Site visits were, and continue to be, undertaken including visits outside of normal office hours. Advice was obtained from relevant bodies, such as Worcestershire Regulatory Services, in order to establish the harm arising from the matters and whether other legislation was a more effective tool than the planning tools available. This included the consideration of statutory nuisance powers under Environmental Protection legislation.

Based on the views obtained from other stakeholders, the matters reported by local residents were not deemed to be demonstrably harmful. On this basis the Council exercised its discretionary powers and did not find it expedient to pursue matters formally under planning legislation. However, the

Council has continued to respond to further complaints and investigate these accordingly. The Council retains the right to take formal action if required using the appropriate planning enforcement tools available.”

Ms Beecham subsequently asked a supplementary question seeking clarification about the proportion of the 153 complaints she was aware of that had resulted in enforcement action that had led to a fine.

The Leader responded by explaining that he did not believe any of these complaints had led to enforcement action that resulted in a fine. However, the Leader undertook to check this with relevant Officers.

c) Question from Mr M Rouse

The Mayor explained that Mr Rouse had, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.6, nominated Mr C Warhurst to read out his question on his behalf.

Mr Warhurst asked the following question:

“How does the Council support elderly and disabled people to keep as active as possible?”

The Leader responded as follows:

“Thank you for your question.

The Council’s Leisure and Cultural Services Department provides a range of both targeted support and mainstream provision of services to elderly and disabled people. The service is underpinned by a number of strategies, including the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

A number of activities and programmes are also delivered by Leisure and Cultural Services. This includes:

- 2,108 hours of volunteering
- 91 people referred into Strength and Balance Classes
- 134 people referred into activity referral programmes
- 100 (on average) disabled people a month access disability sessions
- 1,550 (on average) people attend Arrow Valley Lake Parkrun per month
- 3,774 people have attended Couch 2 5k
- 393 people (on average) attend 50+ community exercise classes
- 1,395 disability swims last year at the Abbey Stadium
- 15,709 over 60s swims last year at the Abbey Stadium.”

The Leader also highlighted a number of activities that were delivered within localities across the Borough to elderly and disabled people. This included; seated mobility, strength and balance, Tai Chi, swimming, mobility classes, yoga, pilates, Ladies 50+ sessions, mixed fitness, Zumba for all, classes for people with MS and sessions for Stroke survivors.

At the agreement of the Mayor, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.9, Mr Warhurst was invited to ask a supplementary question though the five minutes allocated to this question had elapsed. Mr Warhurst subsequently questioned whether the proposed changes to swimming charges for people aged over 60 indicated that disabled people were being deliberately targeted.

The Leader responded by indicating that this was not the case.

44. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 11)

A notice of motion had been submitted by Councillor Bill Hartnett calling for enhancements to be made to the rail service serving Redditch. This motion was seconded by Councillor Juliet Brunner.

In proposing the motion Councillor Hartnett explained that he had been working for over 18 months to investigate the potential to introduce an express train serving Redditch. During this time he had met with representatives of a range of organisations in the West Midlands. This had included discussing the possibility of making adjustments to the timetable to introduce an express train between Redditch and Birmingham New Street that would stop at University Station only. This would help to reduce the journey time by approximately 20 minutes.

The introduction of an express train would have economic benefits for the Borough and would help the Council to deliver on the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP's) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and the West Midlands Combined Authority's (WMCA's) SEP.

The introduction of an express service would also provide an opportunity to review the fares charged for travelling on the service. Councillor Hartnett explained that he was keen to achieve 'fare equalisation' whereby the fare paid by passengers travelling from Redditch to Birmingham was comparable to the fare paid by residents travelling from other parts of the region to the city centre.

In seconding the proposal Councillor Brunner explained that she was keen to take action that would enhance economic development in the Borough. Connectivity was key to enhancing the Borough's

appeal to businesses. It was important for the Council to work with partner organisations, such as Worcestershire County Council, to achieve these objectives.

A number of Members subsequently spoke in support of the Motion. In so doing the costs of travelling from Redditch to Birmingham New Street, compared to travel costs in other parts of the region, were raised as an area of concern. A suggestion was made that a late night express train service might also be helpful.

A smartcard, the region's equivalent to London's Oyster card, was in the process of being piloted in the Borough and it was hoped that this would ease travel arrangements for Redditch residents moving forward. However, Councillor Hartnett explained that further improvements could always be made and an express train service would help to achieve this.

RESOLVED that

the motion be agreed in the following terms:

One of, if not the most important, priorities for this Council is Economic Development and Regeneration as part of our strategic purpose "Help me run a successful business". Key to this is our relationship with Birmingham and in particular our connectivity (particularly rail) into and out of the conurbation. This is key, not only to our businesses, but also our residents who often travel in and out of Birmingham.

However there are two main issues that impact on this connectivity which are fare parity (people tend to pay less for using the rail service within the Transport for West Midlands (formerly Centro) area than they do to travel from Birmingham to Redditch and the time take to travel into and out of the conurbation. If these issues were to be addressed then there would be a significant benefit to the Redditch economy:

"Redditch Council therefore calls upon Transport for West Midlands and Worcestershire County Council to work with Redditch Borough Council to urgently investigate and produce a sound business case on enhancements to the current rail service to and from Redditch namely :

- 1) The introduction of an express train in the morning and in the evening which would only stop at university and new street (both directions)**
- 2) To seek the equalisation of rail fares to and from Redditch to the same level of fare as the WMCA metropolitan council areas.**

45. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Leisure and Cultural Services Concessionary Policy

Members discussed the proposed changes to the Leisure and Cultural Service's Concessionary Policy and in so doing noted the following:

- The Reddicard had been in use since 1998.
- The existing pricing structure was relatively complex with 15 different pricing tariffs.
- The proposed new pricing structure would bring the Council in line with other local authorities in the area.
- Due to the way the Reddicard was originally established the concessions available had impacted on the standard charge for the Council's leisure services, which were much higher than at neighbouring facilities.
- A number of new leisure facilities were due to open in locations close to the Borough and this would increase competition for the Council's facilities.
- On the one hand concerns were raised about the potential impact that the new charging scheme might have on the potential for people with disabilities to participate in leisure activities.
- On the other hand it was noted that some people with disabilities had indicated during consultation that they would be willing to pay at the levels proposed in the new policy.
- There would be an affordability test and residents could receive discounts on the leisure fees if they could demonstrate that they were in receipt of particular benefits.
- Free swimming would continue to be available to those aged under 16.
- Concerns were raised that veterans from the armed forces might be penalised by the new pricing structure. However, it was noted that there was no ex-service personnel category in the current policy.
- It was noted that the Council was a signatory of the Worcestershire Armed Services Partnership Covenant and the new Concessionary Policy would not change arrangements for serving members of the forces.
- Officers confirmed that no additional training would be required by staff to implement the new policy arrangements, though standard training would continue to be provided on an ongoing basis.

Redditch Borough Council Garden Waste Service

During consideration of this item Members noted the following:

- The garden waste collection service would take place on the same day as the grey bin collection service.
- The service could be delivered at limited risk to the Council.
- Customers would be charged £45 per annum for the service, which would be delivered over a nine month period.
- The service differed from the previous garden waste collection service that had been trialled a number of years ago.
- Feedback received by the Council during consultation with the public on social media indicated that there would be interest in the service within the community.

Finance Monitoring Quarter 1

The content of the Finance Monitoring Quarter 1 report and associated recommendation was discussed and the following points were raised:

- Concerns were raised about the level of savings that had been achieved to date and the amount of information available in respect of progress delivering the Council's Efficiency Plan.
- However, it was noted that this was only the first quarter of the financial year and further savings would emerge over time.
- The external auditors had recently endorsed the Council's accounts with an unqualified value for money statement.
- Further improvements needed to be made in the reporting of financial matters to Members and this would be addressed by Officers.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 12th September 2017 be received and all recommendations adopted.

(During consideration of this item the majority of Members declared other disclosable interests in the Leisure and Cultural Services Discretionary Policy, as detailed at Minute 40, by virtue of their membership of and links to organisations that held meetings at the Town Hall and were not charged for room hire. All of the councillors remained in the room and participated in the consideration of this matter and voting thereon).

46. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

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

The Mayor reminded Members that the recommendation detailed at Minute 5 of the Licensing Committee minutes from the meeting held

on 17th July 2017 had been approved at the previous meeting of Council.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on 6th July 2017 be received and adopted;
- 2) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 12th July and 9th August 2017 be received and adopted; and
- 3) the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 17th July 2017 be received and adopted.

47. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL

RESOLVED that the following changes to the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel be noted:

- 1) Councillor Jane Potter appointed Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Tom Baker-Price;
- 2) Councillor Gay Hopkins appointed Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Jane Potter;
- 3) Councillor Gareth Prosser appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Tom Baker-Price; and
- 4) Councillor Gareth Prosser appointed to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel in place of Councillor Tom Baker-Price.

48. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

The urgent decision that had been taken on 28th July 2017 to establish a member panel to consider an officer employment matter was noted in accordance with the Council's Urgency Procedure Rules.

49. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

The 100% Business Rate Pilot Pool was accepted as an item of urgent business – not having met the publication deadline – and was considered at the meeting as such, with the approval of the

Mayor, in accordance with the Council's constitutional rules and the powers vested in the Chair by virtue of Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to agree matters of urgency being discussed by reason of special circumstances. In this case the special circumstances were that the Council needed to respond to the Government in respect of the Business Rate Pool Pilot by 27th October 2017 which provided limited time to hold an extra meeting of Council.

Redditch Borough Council was currently in the GBSLEP's business rate pool. The Council received a total of 26.5% of business rate growth either through direct allocation or via the current pooling arrangements Councils with negative business growth could access "safety net" payments. There was also currently a Worcestershire LEP pool, though Redditch Borough Council, like Bromsgrove District and Malvern Hills District Councils, were not part of this pool. There is also a WMCA pilot for 100% business rates growth, however, non-constituent members of the combined authority were not currently permitted to join this pool.

For the 100% Business Rate Pilot Pool to be successful in Worcestershire the County Council and all of the district local authorities in the County would need to agree to participate. There was no guarantee that even if all local authorities agreed to take part the pool would be approved; this would be determined by the Government. Whilst no specific requirements had been stipulated by the Government in terms of the distribution of Business Rates it was understood that for the bid to be successful there would have to be a financial benefit to the County greater than its current share of Business Rates.

During consideration of this item Councillor Juliet Brunner proposed an amendment to the wording of the proposed resolution for this item, which was seconded by Councillor Brandon Clayton. This amendment read as follows:

"That the Council consider the information received to date on the potential opportunities to participate in a 100% Business Rate Pool Pilot covering Worcestershire and delegate the decision on the 2018/19 business Rate Pool arrangements to the Executive Director Finance and Resources in agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, the Leader and the leader of the opposition."

Prior to the vote on this amendment a further proposal was made for Councillor Swansborough to be consulted, alongside the other Members named in the resolution, as he was not represented by either party. This proposal was not seconded.

On being put to the vote the proposed amendment was defeated.

RESOLVED that

the Council, having considered the information received to date on the potential opportunities to participate in a 100% Business Rate Pool Pilot covering Worcestershire, delegate the decision on the 2018/19 Business Rate Pool arrangements to the Executive Director Finance and Resources in agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Leader.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.22 pm