

Council

Monday, 18 June 2018

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Juliet Brunner (Mayor), Councillor Roger Bennett (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Salman Akbar, Joe Baker, Tom Baker-Price, Joanne Beecham, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Debbie Chance, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Julian Grubb, Bill Hartnett, Pattie Hill, Wanda King, Anthony Lovell, Gemma Monaco, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford, Michael Rouse, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith, Craig Warhurst and Pat Witherspoon

Officers:

Kevin Dicks and Claire Felton

Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley

17. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting.

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Anita Clayton and Jennifer Wheeler.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20. MINUTES

Members noted that Councillor Akbar had attended the annual Council meeting on 21st May though had arrived late. This needed to be reflected in the minutes.

RESOLVED that

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Chair

subject to the amendment detailed in the preamble above the minutes from the annual Council meeting held on 21st May 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

21. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor invited Members to join her at the following civic events:

- The Fly the Flag ceremony on Monday 25th June at 10.00 am. Participants would be invited to join the Mayor and representatives of the Royal British Legion for tea and biscuits after the ceremony.
- Armed Forces Day on 30th June. Participants were invited to arrive at the Town Hall for a salute at 11.45 before proceeding to the war memorial for a service. Refreshments would be available at St Stephen's Church from 12.30 onward.
- Tea Parties. Following national Volunteering Week the excellent contribution of local volunteers to the community had been highlighted. The Mayor would be hosting tea parties to celebrate the work of volunteers. Members were invited to nominate volunteers and community groups to attend these tea parties. The first such event would host the Redditch Association for the Blind.
- The Civic Dinner was due to take place on 2nd March 2019. This would have a military theme and all Members would be welcome to attend.
- The Mayor was due to hold a bag packing and car washing event and would welcome assistance with this.
- The Great Redditch Bake Off would be taking place and contributions would be requested.
- The Mayor was also planning to hold a Christmas quiz.

The Mayor advised that she would circulate a list of her engagements to date after the meeting.

During consideration of this item the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Roger Bennett, was invited to provide an update in respect of a recent official visit that had taken place to Redditch's twin town, Gruchet-Le-Valasse in France. Councillor Bennett had participated in this visit alongside a group of representatives from Redditch, which had coincided with the 25 year anniversary of the towns' twinning arrangements. In honour of this occasion Councillor Bennett had been presented with a picture by the Mayor of Gruchet-Le-Valasse and he requested that this be placed on public display in a Council building.

b) The Leader's Announcements

The Leader advised that he had been very busy since he was elected Leader of the Council in May 2018 and had attended a lot of meetings. The following meetings that he had attended with external partners were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- The Worcestershire Leaders' Board. The Leader had chaired a meeting of this Board in Redditch, which had provided him with an opportunity to meet with the Leaders of the other Councils in Worcestershire. Michelle McKay, Chief Executive at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT), had attended this meeting. She had provided an update to those present in respect of the trust's workforce recruitment plan, operational performance, the quality of services, finances, including capital funding, age population profiles and bed availability. Whilst there had been some improvements to the services provided by the trust Ms McKay had been clear that further changes were needed. The Leader advised that he would work with the lead Portfolio Holder for health, Councillor Prosser, to meet with the Chief Operating Officer of the Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to address the position of local health services further.
- West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board. The Leader had attended the latest meeting of this board and was keen to work closely with Councillor Bush, as the relevant Portfolio Holder, to align the Council's economic priorities with those of the emerging industrial strategy for the West Midlands region.
- The WMCA Non-Constituents meeting, which had been chaired by the Leader. He advised that he would be encouraging partners to consider the position of all members of the WMCA, both constituent and non-constituent members, in order to achieve the level of economic growth needed in the West Midlands region. The Leader welcomed a recent announcement that Redditch would receive £175,000 over four years as part of the WMCA's Employment Support Pilot and he noted that he was eager to make sure that Redditch continued to receive its fair share of funding.
- Meeting with the Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council. During this meeting the Redditch Gateway and Alexandra Hospital had been discussed.
- Meeting with the Leader of Worcestershire County Council. The Leaders had discussed plans to unlock Redditch as well as the potential to work more closely

together in respect of the regeneration of Redditch town centre. As part of these discussions the Leader had asked the Leader of Worcestershire County Council to consider match funding the £200,000 that Redditch Borough Council had agreed to invest in this.

c) Chief Executive's Announcements

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had no announcements to make at this meeting.

22. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 9)

The Leader responded to a question that had been submitted by Councillor Baker in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.

Councillor Baker asked the following question of the Leader:

“As we are all aware the last administration under Councillor Hartnett championed equality and diversity and did a large number of events and policies that showed this Council to be forward thinking and a leading role model, we even won an award to show this. Could the Leader please advise the Council and our residents that he will continue with the good record this Council holds in regards to its equality and diversity policies and ensure us that he champions these sectors in our community?”

The Leader responded as follows.

“Thank you for your question. Let me begin by confirming that I would like to continue to maintain the Council's good record in relation to equalities and diversity policies and to ensure that these are championed in our communities.

I welcome the fact that as a Council we embrace all equalities and diversity issues within everything that we do on a day to day basis which are supplemented by various initiatives. I am keen to make sure that the Council continues to support events such as LGB&T history month as well as the Community Forum.

The Council has an excellent Policy Team which handles general equalities related enquiries from both staff and residents and I would like to thank them for their hard work.

I remain committed to the Council's Equalities Strategy and to the Community Engagement Strategy and I am happy to report that 'Inclusion – The Part I Play' training has been delivered to all staff in respect of the Council's Dignity at Work and Equalities Policies.”

Councillor Baker then asked a supplementary question which noted that 2018 marked 100 years since some women had gained the

right to vote. With this in mind Councillor Baker questioned why the Leader had not appointed any women to the Executive Committee.

The Leader answered by advising that he would provide a more detailed response in writing.

23. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 11)

There were no Motions on Notice for consideration at this meeting.

24. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There were no recommendations from the Executive Committee for consideration at this meeting.

25. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council considered minutes from meetings of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on 26th April, the Licensing Committee held on 5th March and the Planning Committee held on 14th March and 23rd May 2018 respectively.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee meeting held on 26th April 2018 be received and adopted;**
- 2) the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 5th March 2018 be received and adopted; and**
- 3) the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 14th March and 23rd May 2018 be received and adopted.**

26. MEMBERSHIP CHANGE TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Members noted a change in membership of the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee. Councillor Gareth Prosser, as the relevant Portfolio Holder, had been appointed to this Committee in place of Councillor Baker-Price.

RESOLVED that

Councillor Prosser's appointment to the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee be noted.

27. MEMBERSHIP CHANGE TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Members noted amendments to the membership of the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board and the Greater

Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership. The Chief Executive advised that the Council worked with Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest District Councils to appoint Members to represent north Worcestershire on these bodies. Members from Redditch Borough Council had been appointed as substitutes to these groups in 2018/19 in their capacity as the relevant lead Portfolio Holders.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the appointment of Councillor Chris Rogers of Wyre Forest District Council as lead member and Councillor Gareth Prosser as substitute member on the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board be noted; and**
- 2) **the appointment of Councillor David Bush as substitute member on the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP), replacing Councillor Matthew Dormer, be noted.**

28. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no urgent decisions to note.

29. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.07 pm
and closed at 7.27 pm