



# Council

Monday, 17 September  
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, Anita Clayton, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Pattie Hill, Anthony Lovell, Gemma Monaco, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford, Mike Rouse, Mark Shurmer, Craig Warhurst, Jennifer Wheeler and Pat Witherspoon

**Officers:**

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

**Democratic Services Officer:**

Jess Bayley

**41. WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomed all those present to the meeting.

**42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Julian Grubb, Wanda King and Yvonne Smith.

**43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Michael Chalk declared an other disclosable interest in respect of Minute Item No. 48, in relation to the Leisure Service Business Plan due to his personal connection with the Palace Theatre, which included previously volunteering to support the venue and his wife's involvement with local theatrical groups. However, as this was not a pecuniary interest he stayed in the meeting during consideration of the Leisure Service Business Plan and voted thereon.

.....  
Chair

Councillor Joanne Beecham declared a pecuniary interest in Minute Item No. 49 in relation to the recommendations from the Licensing Committee made on 3<sup>rd</sup> September in respect of Animal Establishment Licensing Reforms, due to her role as the owner of a cattery. During consideration of that item she left the room and did not take part in the debate or vote thereon. Councillor Beecham also declared an other disclosable interest in respect of Minute Item No. 48, in relation to the Leisure Services Business Plan, as she sometimes hired the facilities at the Palace Theatre. However as this was not a pecuniary interest she stayed in the meeting during consideration of the Leisure Service Business Plan and voted on the matter.

#### 44. MINUTES

##### **RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

#### 45. ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### a) The Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that she would circulate a list of the civic engagements that she had attended since the previous meeting of Council after the meeting. She thanked the Deputy Mayor for his support and for attending those engagements that she had been unable to attend.

Members were asked to note that the Mayor would be hosting a Macmillan coffee morning on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in memory of former member of staff, Mrs Jenny Delorenzo.

The Mayor invited all Members to attend the civic service that was due to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 10.30 am.

##### b) The Leader's Announcements

The Leader circulated a written update of his announcements for Member's consideration (Appendix 1). This included an update on a recent meeting to discuss the position of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT) and reference to the Leader's attendance at the latest meeting of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board, which took place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

##### c) Chief Executive's Announcements

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had no announcements.

**46. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 9)**

The Mayor advised that no questions had been received for this meeting.

**47. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 11)**

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

A motion in respect of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT) was proposed by Councillor Bill Hartnett. This was seconded by Councillor Greg Chance.

In proposing the motion Councillor Hartnett acknowledged that the information provided in the Leader's announcements indicated that some problems were being addressed but he suggested that further action was needed. Whilst Councillor Hartnett noted that he was a keen supporter of the NHS and valued the work of staff, he highlighted the need for further information about the improvements that had been made to the Trust since the Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) had consulted on proposed changes in 2017. There was also a need to clarify how much of the £29 million highlighted during the consultation had been received and how much of this funding had been invested in the different sites managed by the Trust. The Council had previously demonstrated its commitment to supporting the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch by holding a cross-party Health Commission in 2017 which had made a number of recommendations but had not supported the CCGs' proposals. Since then the Trust had remained in special measures and it had recently been announced that their Chief Executive would be leaving. Councillor Hartnett suggested that the Trust needed to work in partnership with the Council, to ensure services met the needs of residents.

In seconding the motion Councillor Greg Chance commented that the future of the Alexandra Hospital still remained open to question. He therefore suggested that the Council needed to do everything possible to support the hospital and to ensure that key services remained accessible in Redditch.

Following the presentation of the motion Members discussed the services provided by WAHT, particularly at the Alexandra Hospital. A number of Members highlighted the excellent care that they and their families had received from the NHS and there was general consensus that the Alexandra Hospital provided valuable local services. However, it was acknowledged that there were continuing challenges for the Trust, including delays for some appointments, backlogs with ambulance queues and the financial difficulties that were impacting on services.

Concerns were raised that whilst there had been significant financial investment in services at Worcester Royal Hospital there still needed to be further expenditure on the Alexandra Hospital. In addition, concerns were raised that many Redditch residents, particularly those on low incomes who did not have their own transport, could struggle to access services or to meet with friends and relatives at Worcester Royal Hospital where a lot of services were based. The number of visitors utilising the services at the Alexandra Hospital who lived outside the Borough had increased since 2017 and Members raised concerns that this was placing pressure on services. All of these problems were exacerbated by difficulties in terms of recruitment of suitably qualified staff across the NHS.

**RESOLVED that**

**Council agrees to write to WAHT and the Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG asking both organisations to provide a detailed update to this Council on improvements made to the acute services and the financial stability of the WAHT trust since the end of the last CCG consultation into the review of acute services which concluded April 2017.**

**How much of the expected and announced investment of £29 million has been actually paid to the WAHT trust following the approval of this consultation?**

**How much of the funds have been invested at the Redditch Alexandra Hospital site and what plans are in place for investing in this site in the near future?**

**48. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Members considered a number of recommendations arising from the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 respectively.

Members discussed the following items in detail:

Care Leavers Scrutiny Task Group

Members noted that the proposals would involve the introduction of interim measures to provide Council Tax support to care leavers through the Hardship Fund. This would help care leavers aged up to 25 years until permanent changes were made to the Council Tax Support Scheme, which was the subject of public consultation.

Reference was made to the work of the Care Leavers Scrutiny Task Group, which had been established earlier in the year following consideration of a Motion on Notice at a Council meeting. The group had investigated the matter in detail and the changes that

had been proposed would bring the Council into line with arrangements at other district Councils in Worcestershire.

### Town Centre Regeneration

The proposals for the regeneration of Redditch town centre were discussed in detail, with the following points being considered:

- The potential for housing to be included within the plans for the regeneration of the town. Members were advised that as this part of the report had been resolved by the Executive Committee no changes could be proposed by Council.
- The new market evidence that had emerged since March 2018 which had informed the proposal for the public sector hub to move from Church Green to the Town Hall.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's pre-scrutiny of the report and how this helped to enhance the transparency of the decision making process.
- The potential for new restaurants to be introduced in sites located close to the Palace Theatre.

### Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Implementation of Provisions

Members considered the proposals detailed in the report which outlined changes that would need to be made at the local level, including in relation to the Officer Scheme of Delegations, in response to guidance that had been issued by the Home Office. A key requirement in the provisions would be for the Executive Committee and Council to agree any requests for the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in particular locations within the Borough. Members also welcomed the Executive Committee's proposal that the use of these orders should be monitored by the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel every six months.

During consideration of this matter concerns were raised about how anti-social behaviour (ASB) in neighbour disputes, particularly where Council tenants were involved, would be resolved given the financial challenges for the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Members were advised that the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services was working closely with Officers to ensure that the Council could address all scenarios relating to the anti-social behaviour guidance and ASB between neighbours would be taken into account as part of this process.

### Redditch Local Lottery

Council considered proposals to introduce a Redditch local lottery and in so doing noted the following points:

- The lottery would help to support the Council's grants process whilst providing an additional source of funding for local charities.
- Any profits for the Council would be reinvested in discretionary rather than statutory services.
- There were many other organisations that had their own lotteries which residents could choose to participate in.
- Residents would make their own choices about whether to participate in the lottery and could buy a maximum of five tickets.
- Charities would receive 50 pence in the pound from the lottery, which was more generous than many other lottery schemes.
- Concerns were raised that the lottery could encourage gambling and that vulnerable people, particularly those on low incomes and young people, might take part potentially causing financial difficulties for the future.
- Similar lottery schemes had been introduced at over 50 Councils in the country and the jackpot had only been won twice.
- Members noted that limited market testing in the local community appeared to have been undertaken so it was difficult to ascertain the level of demand for a local lottery, though Redditch was considered to be similar to many places in the country where a lottery had been introduced.
- Concerns were raised about the potential impact that the introduction of this scheme could have on the Council's grants programme and the work of the Grants Panel. However, it was noted that there was continuing support for a grants process that met the needs of Voluntary and Community Sector groups as well as residents.
- The local lottery would provide participants with the opportunity to choose the charitable organisation(s) that would receive funding following their purchase of a ticket.
- There was general consensus that local Voluntary and Community Sector groups delivered valuable services within the community.

## Finance Monitoring Quarter 1 2018/19

Members considered the content of the Finance Monitoring update report for the first quarter of 2018/19 and noted that the financial position of the Council, like that for many local authorities, remained challenging. The Council needed to achieve £770,000 in unidentified savings and there was a further £1.6 million deficit to address across the four year period of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). There were also significant challenges for the Council in relation to the HRA.

The causes of the financial problems were briefly discussed, with Members noting that funding from the Government in the form of the revenue support grant had been significantly reduced in recent years and changes to the New Homes Bonus had resulted in a further reduction in funding for the Council. However, it was also noted that the government appeared to be indicating that the negative grant, whereby Councils had been informed they would need to pay an element of funding over to Government, might not now be implemented.

## Leisure Services Business Plan

Members discussed the Leisure Services Business Plan report in detail and noted the following:

- The hard work of the two previous Portfolio Holders for Leisure and Tourism, Councillors Roger Bennett and Pat Witherspoon, and the contribution this had made to the development of the business plan.
- The previous work of the Abbey Stadium Task Group and Leisure Services Provision Task Group in 2013 and 2014 respectively to investigate appropriate ways to deliver Leisure and Cultural Services.
- The contribution of the public to the development of the Local Authority Trading Company (LATC), including the responses that had been received in completed surveys from residents.
- The most appropriate name for the leisure company. Members were advised that, whilst previously the name Forge Leisure had been discussed, the proposal was for power to be delegated to officers to determine this, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism, once legal matters had been resolved.
- The valuable work of all volunteers who assisted the Council with the provision of Leisure and Cultural Services, including at the Palace Theatre.
- The need for the company to be provided with flexibility to operate in a commercial manner.

During consideration of this matter Councillor Bill Hartnett proposed an amendment to the seventh recommendation detailed in the Executive Committee minutes from 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Greg Chance. The amendment read as follows:

“The Council arrange a local competition with a nominal prize asking the public to suggest a company name and Logo for the proposed new company.”

In proposing the amendment Councillor Hartnett noted that in the past competitions had been held for various matters. Should a

competition go ahead it would not need to take long and would ensure that residents could engage with the development of the company.

In seconding the amendment Councillor Chance commented that he was keen to have as much public engagement as possible in the Borough.

Members subsequently discussed the amendment and concerns were raised about the timeframes available for a competition to name the company, given the LATC was due to launch shortly. Leisure and Cultural Services in their existing form was costing the Council £33,000 per month to run and in order to achieve savings the Council needed to establish the company as soon as possible. Members noted that there was the possibility that pupils at local high schools would be interested in participating in such a competition. However, Members also noted that there were significant pressures on schools in relation to the curriculum and therefore they might not have the time to participate.

Reference was made to the normal way in which companies were named and it was noted that the LATC needed a commercially vibrant name. Concerns were raised that, should a competition take place, residents might suggest a name such as Boaty McBoatface, which had been the winner of a national competition to name a polar research ship. On the other hand it was suggested that by holding a competition to name the company residents would feel involved with the LATC which could impact on custom.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

### Housing / HRA Overview and Recovery Plan

The housing / HRA Overview and Recovery Plan was discussed in some detail, with Members noting that the report had been produced at the end of a difficult 18 month period. During this time external legal advice had been sought and Members panels had been established to consider disciplinary and appeals matters. There were problems with the HRA, partly due to the impact of a one per cent reduction on rents over a four year period since 2016/17, in line with Government requirements.

Members concurred that it was important to move forward and to support Officers in making the changes needed to the service. Action would be taken to improve the position of the HRA, in particular by improving the speed with which void properties could be placed in a position to rent out to tenants.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018 be received and all recommendations adopted; and**
- 2) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be received and all recommendations adopted.**

(During consideration of this item there was a comfort break which lasted for ten minutes.

Whilst considering this matter Councillor Michael Chalk declared an other disclosable interest due to his personal connection with the Palace Theatre, which included previously volunteering to support the venue and his wife's involvement with local theatrical groups. However, as this was not a pecuniary interest he stayed in the meeting during consideration of the Leisure Service Business Plan and voted thereon.

Councillor Joanne Beecham also declared an other disclosable interest in respect of the item as she sometimes hired the facilities at the Palace Theatre. However as this was not a pecuniary interest she stayed in the meeting during consideration of the Leisure Service Business Plan and voted on the matter).

**49. REGULATORY COMMITTEES**

The Council considered the minutes from the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the Audit Governance and Standards Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> July and the Planning Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

During consideration of this item Members considered recommendations from the Licensing Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 in respect of Animal Establishment Licensing Reforms.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) **the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 be received and adopted;**
- 2) **the minutes of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 be received and adopted;**
- 3) **the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 be received and adopted; and**

- 4) **the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 be received and all recommendations adopted.**

(During consideration of this item Councillor Joanne Beecham declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the recommendations from the Licensing Committee made on 3<sup>rd</sup> September in respect of Animal Establishment Licensing Reforms, due to her role as the owner of a cattery. During consideration of the item she left the room and did not take part in the debate or vote thereon.)

## 50. **CONSTITUTION REVIEW**

The Leader presented a reported arising from work at two recent meetings of the Constitutional Review Working Party. Members were advised that a number of changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers were proposed in the report, with some stylistic changes having been made in accordance with the Monitoring Officer's power to make amendments following changes to legislation, job titles and to reallocate functions. The report proposed the introduction of an Appointments Committee, which could appoint or dismiss relevant senior officers in circumstances where the Chief Executive was not in a position to act. Changes had been suggested to Members' Role Descriptors, though Members were asked to note that these were only intended to be indicative and to help new Members.

The Constitutional Review Working Party had proposed that the Council should no longer receive the minutes of meetings of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee, Licensing Committee or Planning Committee where these simply needed to be noted. In cases where these Committees made recommendations these would be reported on to Council for consideration. Members noted that by no longer considering these minutes at every Council meeting this would help to reduce the amount of paperwork at Council meetings and would contribute to moving towards paperless meetings.

### **RESOLVED that**

- 1) **the amendments to the existing delegations detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, made in accordance with the Monitoring Officer's power to make amendments following changes to legislation, job titles and to reallocate functions, be noted;**
- 2) **the additional delegations requested for Community, Environmental and Leisure and Cultural Services, as detailed at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved**

- 3) the proposed changes to the Housing delegations, as detailed at Appendix 3 to the report, be approved;
- 4) the proposed changes to the HR delegations, as detailed at Appendix 4, be approved;
- 5) an Appointments Committee be established and the proposed terms of reference for this Committee, as detailed at Appendix 5 to the report, be approved;
- 6) the minutes of meetings of the Planning, Licensing and Audit, Governance and Standards Committees, where no recommendations have been made, should no longer be received at meetings of Council for noting;
- 7) the updated Planning Code of Practice, as detailed at Appendix 6 to the report, be approved;
- 8) the Council's constitution be amended so that the power to determine all employment and health and safety policies is delegated to the Head of Transformation and Organisational Development, following consultation with the Corporate Management Team, the Joint Corporate Health, Safety and Welfare Committee (where applicable), the Leader of the Council and the relevant Portfolio Holder;
- 9) trained substitutes should be permitted to serve at meetings of the Grants Panel; and
- 10) the proposed changes to the Members' Role Descriptors, as detailed at Appendix 7 to the report, be approved.

## 51. POLITICAL BALANCE REPORT

Members were advised that the introduction of an Appointments Committee, agreed during consideration of the report in respect of the review of the Council's constitution, impacted on the Council's political balance. A list of nominations to the Appointments Committee, including the Chair and Vice Chair, was tabled at the meeting for Members' consideration (Appendix 2).

Members agreed the proposals detailed in the report with nobody voting against.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the additional place for the Conservative Group in the overall balance, arising from the introduction of the Appointments Committee, is not taken up;
- 2) the political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out in paragraph 3.5;
- 2) the arrangement where the seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;
- 3) the arrangement where the seats on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;
- 4) appointments by political group leaders to the places on the Appointments Committee be approved;
- 5) the Council appoints a Chair and a Vice-Chair of the Appointments Committee.

## **52. MEMBERSHIP CHANGE TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Members noted that Councillor Gareth Prosser had been appointed to the Licensing Committee in place of Councillor Matthew Dormer.

## **53. MEMBERSHIP CHANGE TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members noted that following a change to the Cabinet portfolios at Wyre Forest District Council, Councillor Chris Rogers had replaced Councillor Ian Hardiman on a number of outside bodies to represent the district Councils in north Worcestershire.

## **54. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS**

There were no urgent decisions to note.

## **55. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)**

There was no general urgent business for Members' consideration.

## **56. BUSINESS RATES POOL PILOT 2019/20 REPORT**

Members discussed the Business Rates Pool Pilot 2019/20 report and noted that this followed a similar bid to take part in a business rates pool in Worcestershire that had been submitted to the Government the previous year. Unfortunately that bid had been unsuccessful but it was hoped that it would succeed this time. Members were advised that all Leaders in Worcestershire had agreed to put forward a bid to be included in a business rates pool

pilot in 2019/20, should this be approved by relevant Councils and then the Government.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) **Redditch Borough Council be included in a joint Worcestershire application to be a 75% business rates retention pilot in 2019/20; and**
- 2) **authority be delegated to the Executive Director Finance and Corporate Resources following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management and the Leader to make necessary decisions on the Council's behalf.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm  
and closed at 9.45 pm

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## Leader's Announcements

Current performance issues within Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust:

- David Nicholson hugely helpful to the Trust
- Performance issues almost entirely related to flow - will be addressed by investment
- Some elective work moved to The Alex, Kidderminster as per FOAHSW model
- Cancer - improvement up until end of year. Dip this year - because of national issue - will improve by October
- A and E not improving yet although different ambulatory models implemented
- Paediatric service consultant led post centralisation
  
- Frailty unit at the Alex being expanded
  
- No interim Exec left - chief operating officer being appointed and announcement imminent
- Modelling takes into account future projection growth - for 10 years
  
- Working hard through neighbourhood teams to address / prevent demand
- Discharge across boundaries is a big issue
  
- Update on CQC reports
  - March inspection - didn't look at all services. Alex - surgery and outpatients only services rated inadequate so continued areas of concern - responsiveness of service and safe domain. Lots of other services improved – Alex urgent care, medical care, diagnostic imaging, paediatrics all now requires improvement as a result of these reviews.
  - Previously big backlog of serious incident review – none overdue now
  - Response to complaints - improved performance – backlog cleared and target met for 4 months
  
- Financial sustainability
  - Significant deficit - medium term financial strategy being developed.
  - Benchmarked other trusts - back office services is lean. Estates and clinical staff are more expensive

- Have reduced spend on agency staff. Also making sure have the right skill mix.
- 6% saving target this year
- Deficit 50 - 60m - total accumulated deficit 199m.
- Update on £29m investment – how much of this has been invested / planned to be invested in the Alex site
  - Early draw down £3m to build bridge at Worcester site - so that acute patients can be put in Aconbury
  - £8m to do beds in Worcester - this has been reprogrammed as it was originally planned to do beds last - 2 years ahead of timescale
  - Treasury controlling the purse strings. Once the £29m is spent the health sector will have enough capacity to cope with demand from Worcestershire
  - Ambulance trust has algorithms which show them which hospital to go to
  - Parking at the WRH will be addressed as part of the 29m
- Other issues
  - Travelling / transport to WRH - transport not really used when was put in place on a temporary basis. No plans to reinstate this.
- What are the plans for the future of the Alex site
  - £8.1m allocated (out of £29m) for the Alex - theatres and endoscopy - still to be approved through final business case. Includes sign off by contractors - within next 4 weeks

### WMCA

I attended the latest WMCA Board meeting and continue to represent the interests of Redditch at these meetings.

**Council**17<sup>th</sup> September 2018**Item 11: Nominations to the Appointments committee**

<b>Committee / Sub-Committee etc.</b>	<b>Size (Members)</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Appointments committee</b>	<b>5</b>	3 Cllr Dormer (Chair) Cllr Bush (Vice Chair) Cllr Warhurst Sub: Councillor Prosser	2 Cllr G Chance Cllr Hartnett  Sub: Cllr Hill

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