

# Council

13th December 2010

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## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Kath Banks (Mayor), Councillor Anita Clayton (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Jack Cookson, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Malcolm Hall, Bill Hartnett, Roger Hill, Gay Hopkins, Robin King, Wanda King, William Norton, Jinny Pearce, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Derek Taylor, Diane Thomas and Graham Vickery

### Also Present:

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

### Officers:

K Dicks, C Felton, S Hanley, A Marklew, S Skinner, J Staniland and D Sunman

### Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

## 61. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The Mayor thanked all those who had been involved in the carol service preceding the meeting, most particularly the children from Abbeywood and Matchborough First Schools and the Bridge Choir. The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Jo Musson, led the Council in prayer.

## 62. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Juliet Brunner, Nigel Hicks and Debbie Taylor.

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MAYOR, in the Chair

## 63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Malcolm Hall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9 (Executive Committee) as detailed separately at Minute 69 below.

## 64. MINUTES

### **RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1st November 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

## 65. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### a) Mr Stevan Walton

The Mayor presented Mr Stevan Walton with a certificate in recognition of his sporting achievements at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi earlier in the year. Mr Walton had won gold medals in both the double trap and individual events in the clay pigeon shooting competition.

### b) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council she had attended various functions, including: the Council's Fireworks Extravaganza at the Arrow Valley Park on Friday, 5th November, the Opening of Stitch in Time at the Winyates Craft Centre, the League of Friends of the Alexandra Hospital AGM, Remembrance Day at the Plymouth Road cenotaph on 11th November, then the services at both St Stephen's and St George & St Mathias, Astwood Bank on Sunday, 14th November, a visit to Kohima House, 37 Signals Regiment Volunteer Reserve HQ, the Redditch Roadway Arts unveiling of "Celebration of Redditch" mural, Redditch Operatic Society's production of Beauty and the Beast, Oscars Night at The Bridge Church, Bewdley Guildhall Christmas Lights switch on, assorted Carol Services at local district centres, Bridge Church Christmas Fayre, Redditch Association for the Blind Christmas party, a reception for the Jamaican High Commissioner and the Caribbean Christmas event, an assembly at St Stephen's First School with the Leader of the Council, Kingsley College's awards evening and lastly, today the launch of the Big App in the Kingfisher Centre. Unfortunately, due to illness, the Mayor had been unable to attend Batchley Support Group's

Christmas event, the St John Ambulance Carol Concert and the Council's own Pantomime, Mother Goose, at the Palace.

c) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included: the opening of Osprey House for NEW College, Bromsgrove District Council's carol service, the staff quiz and the Churches Together carol service in the town centre.

d) Urgent Business

The Mayor advised that she had accepted one late report, Item 8, the Executive Committee decision notice for the meeting on 2nd December.

## 66. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader's Announcement was considered under the following heading:

Shopmobility

The Leader invited the Deputy Chief Executive to read a statement concerning the operation of the Council's Shopmobility Service. It was announced that the Council would regrettably have to cease providing this additional service on Bank Holidays and a number of Sundays leading into Christmas. The reason for this action was a reduction in the amount of funding provided by Scottish Widows, owners of the Kingfisher Centre, about which the Council had received no advance notice.

## 67. LEADERS' QUESTIONS

The Leader responded to three questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 8A, as follows:

1. "Brockhill S106"  
(Ms Pattie Hill)

Ms Hill's question related to the full adoption of the Brockhill estate and the consequent release of Section 106 monies.

The Leader responded that the adoption process had been complex, particularly in relation to drainage matters. Officers were working to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion whilst avoiding any detriment to the Council.

2. Housing Problems  
(Mr Luke Stephens)

Mr Stephen's question related to comments made at earlier meetings of the Council in respect of proposals to remove lifetime tenancies for those in the rented sector.

The Leader responded that whilst social housing was imperative for some sections of the community most people aspired to own their own homes and such people should be encouraged to buy starter or shared equity properties where this was an option. There was a very substantial waiting list for housing within the Borough and, although levels of homelessness were reducing over time, turnover rates were still low.

3. Social Care  
(Mr Neal Stote)

Mr Stote's question related to the recent NHS White Paper and the implications of the proposals on the provision of social care by local authorities.

The Leader responded that such matters fell within the remit of the County Council. As a consequence, the question had been passed to County Councillor Gretton, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, who would be responding in writing in due course.

## 68. NOTICES OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Graham Vickery. Councillor Carole Gandy gave notice of an amendment to the Motion and so the original Motion was consequently seconded by Councillor Bill Hartnett.

The Council was advised that a system was required that allowed both Councillors and the public to access Officers in order that concerns over local highways issues might be discussed and resolved to the greater satisfaction of local residents and their elected representatives. It was contended that the infrastructure was both fallible and risky as a result of under-investment and to the detriment of local residents. It was further contended that the removal of the Highways Partnership Units had not led to an improvement of the situation.

The Leader of the Council put forward an amendment to the original Motion, noting that an Overview and Scrutiny Review of the HUB had recently been undertaken by the County Council. It was hoped that the recommendations arising out of the review might lead to the changes desired across the Borough Council and the County Council was encouraged to implement the recommendations as soon as possible. Following on from discussion of the review, it was

suggested that the most effective means of having highways issues resolved was through contact with the relevant local County Councillors. The amendment received the majority of votes and it was duly

**RESOLVED that**

**the Motion be approved in the following terms:**

***"The Council is gravely concerned about the unresponsiveness of the County Council to highway issues raised by members of the public and some Borough Councillors in Redditch as identified in the recent Worcestershire County Council Overview and Scrutiny review of the Worcestershire Hub.***

***We welcome the recommendations of the Worcestershire County Council Overview and Scrutiny review as a means of improving the responsiveness of County Council officers on highways and other issues raised by either the public or Councillors.***

***We urge the County Council to implement these recommendations as early as possible as part of a general improvement of the highways and other services for the residents of Redditch in a modern and effective system of communication.***

***The Leader of the [Borough] Council is instructed to monitor progress towards this aim and report back as appropriate during Leader's Announcements."***

## **69. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 20th October and 10th November 2010 and the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee on 2nd December 2010.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 20th October 2010 be received and adopted;**
- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 10th November 2010 be received and all recommendations approved, subject to:**

**in respect of Minute 112 (Climate Change Strategy) it being further RESOLVED that**

**the second recommendation to Council be amended to read “100% of the savings from the Salix project be reinvested into further climate change work following the paying back of the original loan”; and**

- 3) the decision notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2nd December 2010 be received and all recommendations approved, subject to:**

**in respect of Minute 124 (Tenant Involvement Agreement) it being further resolved that consideration of this item be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of the Council to allow Members the opportunity to consider the updated Agreement document.**

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Malcolm Hall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in view of the fact that he held positions of influence on certain beneficiary organisations (Minute 125 – Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy).

## **70. REGULATORY COMMITTEES**

The Council received the minutes of the recent meeting of the Planning Committee and recommendations from the recent meeting of the Licensing Committee.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the recommendations of the Licensing Committee held on 29th November 2010 be approved; and**
- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th November 2010 be received and adopted.**

## **71. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - ADDITIONAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council considered a request that an additional meeting of the Council be convened to conduct business that required resolution prior to February 2011.

**RESOLVED that**

**an additional meeting of the Council, to be preceded by an additional meeting of the Executive Committee, be held on Monday, 10th January 2011.**

**72. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS- CRIME AND DISORDER  
SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Council considered a nomination to fill a vacancy on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

**RESOLVED that**

**Councillor Roger Hill be appointed to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel.**

**73. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS**

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

**74. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)**

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.05 pm  
and closed at 9.04 pm

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MAYOR, in the Chair