



Council

17th October 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Anita Clayton (Mayor), Councillor Gay Hopkins (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Michael Braley, Rebecca Blake, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Andrew Fry, Adam Griffin, Bill Hartnett, Roger Hill, Robin King, Wanda King, Alan Mason, Phil Mould, Jinny Pearce, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Luke Stephens, Debbie Taylor and Derek Taylor

Officers:

T Buckley, C Felton, C Flanagan, S Hanley, T Kristunas, S Skinner and A Walsh

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

56. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The Mayor's celebrant, June Saville, led the Council in a moment's reflection.

57. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor William Norton.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jinny Pearce declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 9 (Executive Committee – Redditch Borough Council's Grants Programme 2012/13 as detailed at Minute 64 below.

59. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

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MAYOR, in the Chair

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5th September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

60. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

a) Redditch One World Link – Mtwara visit

The Mayor advised the Council that representatives of Redditch One World Link (ROWL) were present to inform Members about their recent visit to Redditch's twin town of Mtwara in Tanzania. Mrs Pat Witherspoon introduced the presentation before handing on to Mrs Jackie Morgan who narrated a slide and film show about the visit. The Mayor, Deputy Chief Executive and Leader of the Council then accepted gifts on behalf of the Borough Council from the Mtwara municipal authority.

Members thanked the representatives of ROWL for attending and sharing with the Council news of their visit. Several Members spoke warmly of their experiences either in Mtwara or in Africa more generally and expressed their wish that the Council might more actively foster this twinning link in the future.

b) West Midlands 'Green Leader'

The Mayor advised that Miss Ceridwen John, the Council's Climate Change Manager had recently been designated a West Midlands 'Green Leader' by Sustainability West Midlands, in part thanks to her role in the Council's Crematorium energy recovery project. The Council joined the Mayor in congratulating Miss John on the award of this accolade.

c) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council she had undertaken a number of engagements in her civic capacity including her own Civic Service at St. Stephen's Church, the MacMillan Coffee Morning at the Town Hall and the presentation of the Silver Award for the Heart of England in Bloom at Matchborough First School.

d) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included her own Civic Dinner the following week and the Local Democracy Day events at the Town Hall that coming Thursday.

Urgent Business

The Mayor advised that she had not accepted any items of urgent business.

61. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader's announcements were considered under the following headings:

a) North Worcestershire Lifeline Service

The Leader advised Members that the North Worcestershire Lifeline Service had recently been inspected by the national regulator and had been highly praised for the service it provided. The regulators were delighted to see the pride that the staff took in the service and stated that the service was of the highest standard. Staff were congratulated by Members for their achievements.

b) Britain in Bloom Awards

The Leader was delighted to advise the Council that Redditch had been presented with a gold award by the judges for the Britain in Bloom competition. The Leader detailed for Members the comments made by the judges following their visit, the itinerary for which had included such locations as the Arrow Valley Country Park and Southcrest Woods. Again, staff were congratulated for the hard work they undertook on a daily basis to keep the town looking so attractive.

62. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions had been received.

63. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No motions had been received.

64. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 13th September and 5th October 2011.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 13th September 2011 be received and all recommendations adopted, subject to:**

in respect of Minute 78 (ICT Policies) it being agreed that the policies be reviewed after a period of six rather than twelve months; and

- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 5th October 2011 be received and all recommendations adopted, subject to:

in respect of Minute 97 (Hewell Road Pool – Disposal) it being noted that a further report be submitted to the Executive Committee in due course in respect of the play area on this site.

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Jinny Pearce declared a personal and prejudicial interest in view of her involvement with a VCS group who might be making applications for grant funding and took no part in the discussion or voting on this item.)

65. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

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

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 26th September 2011 be received and adopted, subject to:

in respect of Minute 15 (Internal Audit - Interim Monitoring Report 2011/12) it being noted that the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Bill Hartnett, undertook to speak to Officers in respect of the targets set out in the Internal Audit Annual Audit Plan and a planned meeting in that regard; and

- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th September 2011 be received and adopted.

66. LGA INLAND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT GROUP - NOMINATION

The Council considered a request from West Midlands Councils for a nomination for a representative to fill a vacancy on the Local Government Association Inland Flood Risk Management Group.

RESOLVED that

Councillor Michael Chalk be the Council's nominee for the vacant position on the LGA Inland Flood Risk Management Group.

67. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no Urgent Business decisions under the Council's urgency procedures for consideration at this meeting.

68. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.02 pm
and closed at 8.12 pm

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MAYOR, in the Chair