

WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6.30pm

Wednesday 21 October 2015

PRESENT: The Mayor (in the Chair)

Councillors M Ashford, Mrs L Bolton, J P Bromley, Mrs C Cross, S Cross, Mrs D Da Cruz, R Eddy, R Edgington, Mrs M Grainger, T Morris and J Holland.

204 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors G Guest, R Mann and N Murphy.

205 Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain Roger Garratt offered prayers.

206 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Holland declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Warwickshire County Councillor on a matter relating to the Draft Local Plan & Parking Charges.

Councillors M Ashford, S Cross, R Edington, Mrs M Grainger and T Mann declared a possible non pecuniary interests on matters relating to the Draft Local Plan, St Mary's Land and car park charges.

207 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 9 September 2015 were confirmed and then signed by the Mayor.

208 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported that she had met the Japanese Rugby Team at a welcome event held at Warwick Castle and thanked all who had attended her Civic Service and celebrations for the Queen as Britain's longest serving Monarch.

Abseiling the walls of Warwick Castle had raised some £5000 for Molly Olly's Charity and the opening of the Mop was a great success.

The Mayor reminded Members that in November all Councillors were invited to attend the Services of Commemoration on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day on 11 November. Councillors were also invited to Northgate Methodist Church Service on Sunday 22 November 2015.

The Mayor further announced that given the numbers of members of the public in attendance, the Council would now vary the order of the Agenda to allow Mr C Elliott, Chief Executive of Warwick District Council to address the Council on progress of the Draft Local Plan and to update the Council regarding St Mary's Lands. (Agenda Item 10)

It was also intended to bring forward item 11, Review of Car parking Charges, which were to be presented by Mr. G. Charlton, Contract Service Manager, from Warwick District Council.

The Mayor welcomed Mr C Elliott to the meeting and invited him to address the Council.

209 St Mary's Lands

Mr C Elliott thanked the Mayor and stated that the District Council Executive had identified the sensitive nature of any future possible development of St Mary's Lands and as a consequence the Executive intended that work on St Mary's Lands, which was a key project for the District Council would adopt the following actions:

- (i) The Commissioning of a review of the overall strategy and the regeneration of a Development Master plan and Management plan.
- (ii) The support of the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the revitalisation of Racing Club Warwick Football Club (RCWFC).
- (iii) Consideration of a detailed proposal to improve the drainage of the football pitches as part of the capital programme for 2016/2017.
- (iv) Identify a site for a children's playground on land adjacent to RCWFC as part of the St Mary's Land Development Masterplan.
- (v) To revisit the agreed funding from the Corps of Drums.
- (vi) Land Lords consent for improvement works to the Racecourse to funded by the Jockey Club.

The Executive of Warwick District Council had therefore agreed to commission a total review of the District Councils previous strategy, which had proved not to find favour with the community, along with the Regeneration Masterplan & Management Plan by Plincke Landscapes who had undertaken the review in the early 2000's.

The review work would be overseen by the St Mary's land Working Party.

Additionally the District Council were to clear derelict & dangerous buildings on RCWFC site and to make good the ground and fence the area. In further support of RCWFC the District Council would consider the provision of matched funding for improvement works and in this connection would seek to advise on submissions for grant funding.

Discussions with RCWFC had demonstrated that RCWFC were ready to extend the community provision for the area and operate as a community hub.

Warwick District Council were also to release £50,000 to Warwick Corps of Drums for improvement works to the Corps Headquarters.

So far as the Racecourse was concerned a planning application was to be submitted for improvements as a jumps Racecourse.

210 Draft Local Plan

The Chief Executive reported that following the proposal from the Inspector that the plan as submitted should be withdrawn, the District Council had approached the Inspector with the view of the Plan being placed in suspension to allow for the District Council to respond to the

need to identify additional sites to reflect Coventry City Councils unmet housing needs and the allocation included in the Draft Local Plan for 'windfall' developments.

To this effect the District Council were working with other Warwickshire District Councils and Coventry City Council to identify how Coventry's unmet housing demand could be resolved. An early reply was anticipated from the Inspector following correspondence from the Leader of the District Council confirming that the District Council were committed to meeting identified housing needs in Warwickshire and Coventry.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Executive for his presentation and confirmed that the Town Council endorsed the District Councils strategy for St Mary's Lands and looked forward to consultation regarding additional possible housing sites to meet Coventry's unmet housing demand, but anticipated that all sites were likely to be in closer proximity to Coventry than the Town of Warwick.

211 Review of Car Park Charges

Mr Gary Charlton, Contract Services Manager, Warwick District Council attended the meeting to consult on proposals regarding increases in Car Park Charges throughout the District.

Mr G Charlton reported that the District Council needed to invest substantial funds in maintaining and improving Car parks despite Central Government financial restraints and consequently the District Council sought to increase Car Park income to generate some £200,000 additional income.

In Warwick, an additional £49,109 increase was envisaged which was to be made up of the removal of lower band charges (£25,161) and increase in all day charges (£23,948)

The increase of income from the removal of lower band charges would introduce a minimum of £2.00 charge in respect of Castle lane, Linen Street, Priory Road, The Butts and West Rock Car parks, thus resulting in the loss of 321 short stay spaces for shoppers and other short stay users visiting the Town Centre.

The current proposal would leave only 72 short stay spaces at New Street & Westgate car parks and the Town Council did not accept that either St Mary's Lands car parks or St Nicholas Park car park provided short stay spaces for town centre visitors and shoppers.

The Town Council considered that the loss of short stay car park spaces would not be able to be offset against short stay or on street parking, which currently was not able to meet town centre car parking needs and would therefore directly have a negative impact for the town centre retail businesses.

The Town Council therefore request that the District Council reassess the charging proposals regarding introducing 2 hour minimum £2.00 car park charges but would fully support proposals for charges in line with proposal for Abbey End & Square West car parks in Kenilworth.

However, the Town Council confirmed their support for the proposed increase in 'all day' parking.

Section A - Council

212 Reports of the Plans Committee

It was moved by Councillor Mrs M Grainger and duly seconded that the minutes of the Plans Committee held on 6 October 2015 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and adopted.

213 Allotments Committee & Annual Meeting

It was moved by Councillor M Ashford and duly seconded that the minutes of the Allotments Committee held on 14 September 2015 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and adopted.

214 Community & Cultural Committee

It was moved by Councillor Mrs C Cross and duly seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2015 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and adopted.

215 Finance & Policy Committee

It was moved by Councillor Mrs M Grainger and duly seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2015 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and adopted.

216 Economic Tourism Committee

It was moved by Councillor S Cross and duly seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2015 be received and adopted.

217 Common Seal

RESOLVED: That the Common Seal of the Warwick Town Council be affixed to such deeds and documents as may be necessary to implement the Council's decisions.

218 Member's Questions

Saumur Twinned Town

Councillor Mrs M Grainger asked if the Mayor would send a letter of congratulations to Saumur on their inclusion as a stage venue for next year's Tour de France and the Mayor indicated that she would be pleased to write.

219 Public Questions

St Nicholas Park public notice boards

Mrs L Bromley expressed concern at the poor condition and lack of care of the public notice boards in St Nicholas Park. An additional concern was that the notice boards were not easily available to local residents & Societies.

In view of the concerns Mrs L Bromley asked if the Town Council would approach the District Council and Mayor agreed.

Myton School – Mural

Mr R West enquired if the Town Council were aware that the mural, painted by internationally renowned artist Alan Sorrell, for the opening of Myton School (formerly Okens School) by Elizabeth the Queen Mother had been boarded over.

The mural represented Alan Sorrells last and most extensive mural and represented the four seasons.

The Town Council agreed to approach the Chairman of the Governors to determine the reasons for this well-known mural to be concealed and express concern that the oil painting could be damaged by the action taken at the school.

Signed Dated