



Jayne Topham
Town Clerk

Court House
Jury Street
WARWICK
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Tel: 01926 411694

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

22nd NOVEMBER 2017

MINUTES

Present: The Mayor, Cllr M Ashford, Cllr PS Birdi, Cllr Mrs L Bolton, Cllr Mrs C Cross, Cllr D Da Cruz, Cllr Mrs MA Grainger, Cllr G Guest, Cllr J Holland, Cllr Mrs M Littlejohn, Cllr T Morris.

Section A Council

204. Prayers

205. Apologies: It was resolved to accept the apologies from Cllr J P Bromley, Cllr R Eddy, Cllr R Edgington Cllr N Murphy, Cllr N Butler, Cllr Mrs J D'arcy WDC, Cllr Mrs P Williams WCC.

206. Declarations of Interest

Cllr PS Birdi & Cllr J Holland as County Councillors together with the Mayor & Cllrs M Ashford, Mrs MA Grainger and T Morris as District Councillors

207. Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13th September 2017 – it was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

208. Mayor's Announcements - The Mayor gave a half year report: His year so far had a military theme with the Kineton Freedom Parade celebrating their 75 anniversary, along with a 75 mile walk, which the Mayor devised and joining in on when he could. We had the Poppy Launch at St Mary's Church. The Mayor attend the Fusiliers Annual Church Parade, the Yeomanry held a reception to celebrate Centenary of HUI. The Lord Leycester hospital welcomed John Dawson, a new member of the Brethren followed by the formal installation of the new Master. The Mayor opened the Lord Leycester Care Home and supported the celebrations held by Volvo – celebrating 50 years. A successful twinning visit to Saumur was held and at the Mayor's own expense a visit to Warwick USA. The Mayor attended the Sea Scouts regatta, County Scouts AGM and Woodloes Scouts 40th Anniversary. The Mayor had great pleasure in opening the new Heathcote Primary School and attended various speech days and graduations. In the first half of the year there have been events that the Mayor has supported organised through the Rotary, Court Leet, Warwick in Bloom.

He has been litter picking, opened Fetes, Charity evenings, AGMs – along the way meeting so many great different people who make their contribution to Warwick Community Life.

For the Warwick Youth Charity, the Mayor had held a successful fashion show, a business lunch with guest speaker John Peters who inspired so many and his book sales of £2,400. The Mayor announced the date of his Civic Dinner next year and his intention to hold a walk with the youth of

Warwick to raise funds for their charities as well as his own.

209. Report from Police and Crime Commissioner – Philip Seccombe

Mr Seccombe thanked the Councillors for their invitation, given them an overview on the report on the Police and Crime plan.

A Strategy which main concerns are:

- 1) Improving services to victims of Crime, historic crime.
- 2) Equipping the Police properly. All Officers have equipment to enable them to take statements on site to save time. He would like the Courts to deal with crimes locally.
- 3) Helping businesses to protect themselves. Crime Advisers have been appointed, business and rural.
- 4) Prevention. Vulnerable people are the key concern.

Precept was frozen this year, using reserves. This is not able to be repeated for next year and budgets are being reviewed as we speak- pressures on funding is known.

Mr Seccombe explained his role and remit in detail. Work with Partner agencies and Audit committees were discussed.

Cllr J Holland thanked Mr Seccombe for attending – the question he wished to raise was around the Partial merge with West Mercia – could Mr Seccombe advise how this would affect us and whether we are better to be fully merged? Mr Seccombe responded that that he felt that residents in Warwick had a voice with the partial merge. The partial alliance has saved £60million if we had a full merger there would be little change to this therefore it is a good thing for Warwickshire to remain as we are.

Cllr T Morris – we are the County town and we do not have a police station. Mr Seccombe responded that you do have a SNT base, although not in the Town Centre. In his view it is better to have budget monies spent on more Officers rather than buildings in the current climate. Leek Wootton is due to be sold next year to save money.

Cllr PS Birdi – Retail crime is a concern and the retail radio service seem to have been abandoned, also how will all the development in the area effect policing and finally do the Police receive monies from the proceeds of crime– Mr Seccombe advised that Retail radio, although important wasn't something that he could fund due to budget cuts. CCTV is funded by WCC and is extremely important.

Development brings in more money for the Police which can in turn provide another SNT bases on large developments using S106. Proceeds of Crime is sporadic this is an area that is he is considering. HS2 presents challenges to policing.

Cllr M Ashford – residents are concerned about the lack of police presence in Warwick are Specials being recruited. Unless budgets are changed Officers will be cut further – this is an area that is being reviewed and its implications are being accessed. Lack of presence is noted but with more equipment Officers will be more visible and accessible. Warwick is a safer area and activity is being carried out away from the street i.e. in Schools. Volunteers, Specials are increasing and are key to the operation and have key skills.

Cllr Mrs MA Grainger thanked Mr Seccombe on his honest and informative presentation which will help Councillors with questions raised to them by residents in their own Ward.

210. Reports to be received from District or County Councillors.

Cllr N Butler WDC provided a report to Councillors which the Town Clerk read out:

Displacement Strategy: Warwick District Council's Executive has approved an emergency displacement plan for Linen Street car park in the event it needed to be closed for public use at short notice. Presently there is no suggestion from the monthly structural surveys that this is something that is likely to happen. Nevertheless, Officers are progressing planning applications and discussions as required to facilitate this displacement plan.

For your information I confirm the agreed emergency plan is as follows: -1. Residents (Martinique Square/Woolpack/Print works) – displaced to West Rock car park 2. Season Ticket Holders – displaced to St. Mary's Land Area 2 and Sainsbury's car park (if necessary), with a small number retained at West Rock. 3. Short Stay Pay and Display Users – displaced to St. Mary's Land Area 3 car park, St. Nicholas Park and Sainsbury's car park. 4. Long Stay Pay and Display Users – displaced to St. Mary's Land Area 2 car park.

Alternative parking options are necessary on race days where parking at St. Mary's Land is unavailable for public use. Contingency options include the centre of Warwick Racecourse, St. Nicholas Park and Myton Fields.

Long-term Plans: The preferred option for redeveloping Linen Street or re-providing the parking elsewhere has yet to be finalised. We are in discussions with Sainsbury's to see if they would be able to accommodate decked parking on their existing car park and are continuing to explore other options.

Car Parking Strategy for the District: This has been published and is in the public consultation phase until mid-December

St Mary's Lands Masterplan: The implementation phase of the masterplan has started. Progress so far: -

- The relaying of the footpath along Gog Brook from the Hampton Road has been completed
- The wooden fence that runs from the Saltisford entrance of the racecourse has been moved back to the racecourse rail. This has opened a large tract of green space to the public and allow direct access to Jubilee Wood from the Saltisford entrance. The final piece of work here is to remove a section of the metal fence at the Saltisford entrance to allow public access at that point.
- The repairs to the roof at RCW and improvements to the toilets which will then be open to the public are almost complete
- Work has started on the new entrance to the racecourse
- Discussions continue regarding the cycle route through the racecourse. It was hoped that these should have been finalised by now but unfortunately this is not the case.
- At the last meeting Cllr Butler had advised that the initial safety audit on the proposed additional parking spaces in Bread & Meat Close highlighted many points that needed to be addressed. WCC have approved the amended plan. Another meeting with the residents of B&M Close is to be scheduled soon.
- WDC continues to engage with the public over the masterplan and a very successful, well attended public meeting was held on 25th September to allow questions on the Masterplan and a briefing for all Warwick Councillors on the current situation has been scheduled for 7th December

Lepers' Hospital: WDC officers have made significant progress with a feasibility study into the options for bringing the Lepers' Hospital site (now comprising The Master's House and St Michael's Chapel) back into use. Led by Warwick District Council a project team comprising West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, BHB Architects, Historic England, Waterloo Housing Group, St Basil's (a youth charity), Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Homelife (an extra-care housing provider) is producing a viability appraisal which it is hoped will lead to funding from The Homes & Community Agency, WCC and this Council to bring forward a supported housing scheme.

A draft report will be considered by the team in December with a final report being considered in January 2018. Whilst the site brings with it many challenges, officers are cautiously optimistic that a solution can be achieved. I will of course keep you informed of progress.

Cllr J Holland made comment on the cycle path proposals for St Mary's Lands. He also advised that he is attending a site visit with the Consultant at the Leper Hospital and hopes that a long-awaited solution can be made.

Cllr J Holland and Cllr PS Birdi reported from the County Council.

Cllr J Holland raised concerns about the future of St John's Museum- as the County Town the Military museums should be kept in Warwick, Councillors were asked to become involved to keep St John's open. The outcome of the Children's centres consultation was reviewed, and he also raised the fact that Warwickshire has the lowest level of funding for pupils in Schools.

Cllr PS Birdi advised that his training was nearing completion. He advised that he chaired a successful Community forum and encouraged Councillors to advise of groups that may require funding to come forward – dates for the next forums will be sent to the Town Clerk.

211. Reports of Plans Committee

To receive and adopt the Reports of the Plans Committee meeting held on 5th October & 2nd November 2017.

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the planning meeting held on the 5th October & 2nd November 2017. Proposed by Cllr M Ashford and seconded by Cllr J Holland.

212. Reports of Committees

To receive and adopt the reports of the following committee's:

Finance & Policy 11th October 2017 - proposed by Cllr G Guest and seconded Cllr Mrs D DaCruz

Community & Culture 9th November 2017 -proposed by Cllr Mrs M Littlejohn and seconded Cllr T Morris

Economic & Tourism 4th October 2017 – proposed by Cllr J Holland and seconded by Cllr Mrs M Littlejohn. Cllr Mrs MA Grainger discussed the consultation for Car Parking and proposed that she work with the Town Clerk to complete a Town response – all were in agreement.

Allotments 13th November 2017 – proposed by Cllr Mrs L Bolton and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Cross

It was resolved to accept the minutes for all the above committees.

213. To answer member's questions -

Cllr T Morris – thanked the Town Clerk and her team for a successful Remembrance Service and shared his disappointment, when processing back to the Court House to be met by a large artic, over the required 7.5 tonne weight limit a discussion followed and the Town Clerk agreed to write to the Police again regarding enforcement.

Cllr Mrs M A Grainger asked for the Town Clerk to contact Whitnash Town Council – In Whitnash they have had "stumps" installed on verges to stop cars parking - Cllr Grainger would like to know what the procedures are followed for this as there is an ongoing issue at the Woodloes.

Cllr M Ashford – raised the ongoing issue of the Shires, being described as being in Leamington and not Warwick – Town Clerk to write to the owners of the shopping centre.

The Mayor wished for thanks to be minuted to the Town Clerk and the Team for a very successful Remembrance Day.

Section B General Purposes

214. Public Question Time

At July's meeting I asked a question under Public Question Time and I was told it was noted. This same question was asked by a member of the public at September's meeting but no response to this question has been forthcoming.

"Has our Town Council discussed and supported all these new proposals as a Council, in particular the potential new hotel, proposed parking opposite Bread and Meat Close, because of safety issues, and the competition for a name change?"

Cllr Mrs MA Grainger responded that:

As far as I am aware I have already explained to the questioner that it is not necessary for us to ratify something that is not our report. Our members have been fully involved in the Working Party, since the start, which has been responsible for producing the Master Plan.

Councillors were given the opportunity to raise any concerns at Full Council meetings.

Note: At the September meeting - a response was given by the Mayor, to this question, as per Minutes.

215. Boundary Commission - Parliamentary review - Local Government review

Cllr Mrs MA Grainger reminded Councillors that the Town Clerk spoke at the Boundary Commission review – are Councillors in agreement that we write to support the decision to keep Warwick whole and Leamington together. All agreed.

Local Government review is looking at individual wards and as soon as the detail is available we can review this.

216. Grant application – Corp of Drums £3,250

Cllr Mrs M Littlejohn explained the background to the grant application. This was discussed in Community & Culture. Quotes received have raised questions which Cllr Littlejohn will discuss direct with the Corp of Drums. This item will therefore be deferred until full information is available.

Signed..... Dated.....