

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

19 JULY 2022

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Ms Watson-Merret), Councillors Mrs Allanach, A'Barrow, Mrs Brown, Eccleson, Edwards, Gillias, Harrington, Mrs Hassell, Miss Lawrence, Lawrence, Lewis, Mrs Livesey, Lowe, Mistry, Moran, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Picker, Poole, Rabin, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Srivastava, Mrs Timms, Ward, Ms Watson-Merret, Dr Williams and Willis.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Crane, Daly, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Ellis, Mrs Garcia, Mrs Maoudis, Mrs Parker, Ms Robbins, Mrs Roberts, Roberts, Sandison and Slinger.

11. FORMAL ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

It was proposed by the Mayor (Councillor Ms Watson-Merret), seconded by Councillor Lowe and

RESOLVED THAT – in view of the extreme weather conditions, for health and safety reasons the business of the meeting be adjourned to be considered at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26 July 2022 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Rugby.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26 July 2022 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Ms Watson-Merret), Councillors Mrs Allanach, Mrs A'Barrow, Mrs Brown, Daly, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Eccleson, Edwards, Gillias, Harrington, Mrs Hassell, Miss Lawrence, Lawrence, Lewis, Ms Livesey, Lowe, Mahoney, Ms Maoudis, Mistry, Moran, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Picker, Poole, Ms Robbins, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Sandison, Srivastava, Mrs Timms, Ward, Dr Williams and Willis.

Note: *It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and*

RESOLVED THAT - *due to the lengthy agenda and possible amendments, paragraphs 13.6 (g) and (h) of Part 3A of the Council Standing Orders be suspended. This would result in no second vote being taken if an amended motion was carried. The amended carried motion would take the place of the substantive motion with no further vote being taken.*

12. REVISED LIST OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence for the adjourned meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Crane, Ellis, Mrs Garcia, Mrs Parker, Rabin, Roberts, Mrs Roberts and Slinger.

13. MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 26 April 2022 and the annual meeting held on 19 May 2022 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 7(e) of Part 1 – Section 106 and Grant Funding Capital Projects and Rugby Gymnastics Club – Councillor Lowe (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of his sons being members of Rugby Gymnastics Club).

Item 1(b) of Part 2 – Rugby First Review - Councillor Lowe (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being unpaid director of Rugby First).

Item 7(g) of Part 1 – Town Centre Working Parties Update - Item 7(g) of Part 1 – Town Centre Working Parties Update – Councillors Miss Lawrence, Ms Robbins and Srivastava (non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being members of Rugby Dunsmore Rotary Club).

Item 7(d) of Part 1- Additional Resources Major Projects and Economic Development - Councillor Roodhouse (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a director of Healthwatch Warwickshire).

Item 1(b) of Part 2 - Rugby First Review – Councillor Picker (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being unpaid director of Rugby First).

Item 8(d) of Part 1 – Notice of Motion - Councillor Edwards (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of his work with Voiceability and social care assessments).

Item 8(e) of Part 1 – Notice of Motion - Councillor Moran (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of ownership of a car park outside of the town centre).

Item 1(a) of Part 2 – Councillor Mrs O’Rourke (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of a family member being an employee of the Council).

Item 8(a) of Part 1 – Notice of Motion - Councillor Mrs O’Rourke (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being an employee of the National Health Service (NHS)).

The Executive Director and all Chief Officers present left the meeting for item 1(f) in Part 2 of the agenda relating to salary benchmarking review.

15. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Mayor was delighted to announce that the Council's Planning team had won an award for its work at Houlton.

Together with colleagues at David Lock Associates and Urban & Civic, the team won the "best project" category at the Royal Town Planning Institute's West Midlands awards for its work on Houlton School. This comes on the back of another award the team picked up a few weeks ago, when it won Best Use of Heritage in Placemaking at the Planning Awards, for the same project.

The Houlton School project restored the Grade II listed Rugby Radio Station, making it publicly accessible and creating a sustainable, distinctive and state-of-the-art school. The public/private partnership approach between our planning team, the developers and their agents has created an iconic education facility in the heart of the new community – on time and on budget. The Mayor congratulated everyone involved.

(b) The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay visited Rugby last Thursday during its final journey through England. During its time in Rugby, the relay visited Caldecott Park and Rugby School and experienced the community sports activities in the park.

Members of the public got involved with the activities and celebrations and lined the route as the baton made its way through Rugby town centre, shortly after 3pm. The Mayor thanked all officers involved in supporting the event.

This was one of a number of summer activities that would take place to support our town centre. Following the success of Rugby Summertime last year, the Council is also looking forward to the return of the outdoor cinema, the Play Day, and Rugby-on-sea.

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Mrs Naomi Issitt submitted the following question to the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, Councillor Roberts:

"Can Rugby Borough Council repeat its call for residents, schools, business and communities to install external defibrillators and can the Council install new defibrillators in council-owned spaces – and can Council say what actions they are taking to identify and place new defibrillators across areas of high public footfall and council-owned spaces including parking areas, public parks, and leisure facilities?"

Councillor Roberts, Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, provided the following response:

“Rugby Borough Council supports the campaign to develop the provision of community defibrillators across the borough and recognises the importance of appropriate publicly available equipment. The Council wrote to all Rugby borough businesses, sport and community organisations, with two key asks:

1. To register any existing community defibrillators on The Circuit to ensure the ambulance service has the correct up to date information in case of emergency.
2. To consider installing a community defibrillator on their premises and where information and potential funding support could be resourced.

The Council has a number of sites where it has supported community organisations install new community defibrillators including Caldecott Park and Whinfield Recreation Ground. The Council is keen to work with community organisations to extend the database of community defibrillators and will continue to review future opportunities and we will repeat our call to the local community.”

17. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

A. Councillor Slinger asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

“Has the Council considered using various powers available to it, such as Article 4 Directions, to limit the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) where there is a high concentration of HMOs in certain streets or wards, and what was the outcome of any deliberations?”

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, replied as follows:

“The Council recognises that there has been an increase in the number of HMOs in recent years and that they are concentrated in certain streets and/or wards in the Borough. A report was commissioned for the cross-party Planning Services Working Party (PSWP), which was undertaken by consultants, to assess the number of HMOs, their geographical location and options for managing the spread in order to inform future planning policies for HMOs.

The findings of the study and the recommendations were presented to the PSWP on 13 January 2022. This study concluded that HMOs provide a specific type of low-cost housing to meet a need within the Borough. The use of Article 4 Directions, in specific areas was not considered justified, as the number of HMOs are not high enough to justify a high level of harm which is required by Government to impose such a sanction. Furthermore, the introduction of an Article 4 Direction could leave the Council open to compensation from homeowners and in itself would not adequately deal with the problem. HMOs for 6 persons or more already require planning

permission. The imposition of an Article 4 Direction would only mean that those HMOs under 6 persons would also require planning permission and would not prevent their existence. In highly sustainable locations, adjacent to the town centre, there would be no sustainable planning grounds to refuse such applications if they were made.

PSWP therefore considered that the introduction of a radius based policy or a proximity based policy e.g no more than x% within a specific area should be the approach adopted by the Council. Such a policy would need to be introduced in a new Local Plan. Policies cannot be introduced by a Supplementary Planning Document because no SPD can be produced without a relevant policy being included within the Local Plan. The existing Local Plan does not have a policy relating to HMOs as the number of HMOs in the Borough was significantly less when the evidence for the Local Plan was produced in 2017/18.

Following the publication of the ONS figures on population growth, officers are working on a revised Warwickshire wide Housing and Employment Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which will in turn inform the type of review needed to the existing Local Plan. A revised Local Development Scheme to reflect the type of review and the timescales for this review will be produced in the Autumn.

In the meantime, officers across the Council are currently reviewing available evidence to determine if a recommendation should be made to Council for selective or additional licensing for this type of private sector housing in some of the wards with the highest numbers of HMOs. However, this is unlikely to restrict numbers, but would ensure, if there is evidence to justify it, they meet required standards regarding quality, maintenance and some behaviour. It should be noted that in the borough the licenced HMOs are some of the highest standard private sector housing in the borough as they are regularly inspected.”

B. Councillor Mistry asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

“Why has the Council not yet met the requirement under ‘Local Plan Policy DS2 - Additional Gypsy and Traveller residential pitches required 2017-2032 (source: Rugby Borough Local Plan 2011-2031, adopted June 2019) of 61 pitches for this community (there is a deficit of 41 places), what steps does the Council plan to take to meet the target, and when does the Council anticipate meeting the target?”

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, replied as follows:

“At the Examination in Public (EIP) for the now adopted Local Plan the Inspector required a Development Plan Document for Gypsies and Travellers to be produced which would allocate land to meet the identified need. The EIP also required other documents to be produced by the Council including a Supplementary Planning Document for South West Rugby and the establishment of an agreed schedule of infrastructure contributions for SW Rugby. Work on the SPD was prioritised and following its adoption, work

commenced on the background evidence required to produce a Development Plan Document (DPD for Gypsies and Travellers.

At Cabinet on 27th June an update to the Local Development Scheme was approved that set out the timetable for the production of the DPD, which is available on the Council's website. The published timetable is in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Acts and includes the requirement to submit the document to the Secretary of State and to hold a further Examination in Public before the DPD can be adopted in September 2024."

C. Councillor Roodhouse asked the Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs Crane:

"Could the Portfolio Holder confirm the present status of Rugby's Local Strategic Partnership?"

Councillor Mrs Crane, Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications Portfolio Holder, replied as follows:

"The review of the LSP forms part of the service plan for the Communities and Projects Team, with proposals to be submitted for Members to consider by the end of December 2022."

D. Councillor Roodhouse asked the Operations and Traded Services Portfolio Holder, Councillor Miss Lawrence:

"How an area looks is important to residents and grass cutting is one of the high-profile activities that this Council undertakes regarding having pride in your area. Could the Portfolio Holder confirm the following:

1. How is the Council informing residents about the quality standards used for grass cutting?
2. Does the Council publicise the performance measures used for this service?
3. The Council is committed to tackling climate change. What actions are being taken regarding the machinery that is being used such as the blowers that are used to spread the clippings onto the road?"

Councillor Miss Lawrence, Operations and Traded Services Portfolio Holder, replied as follows:

"Information about how we manage grassland is published on the council's website under the pages for Urban Meadows.

This section explains what we are do, what sites will look like and the benefits of this different approach to the wildlife. We have a mosaic of different grassland management techniques and each site is considered within its own right.

We have identified that more seasonal information will help residents understand what they can expect and when. This includes site-specific signage, which is located at sites where we leave grass to grow longer, and proactive communications. We are looking to expand this approach across more sites in time for next year's main growth season and have included this on our communications calendar.

The Council publishes performance measures for grounds maintenance within the regular Finance and Performance report that is considered by Council.

We continue to explore alternative fuel options for all equipment as we transition to a zero/low carbon fleet. Electric options are available for small machinery such as blowers and mowers and vehicles that are less than 7.5 tonnes because of the mileage and weight that the batteries can carry. There are alternative low carbon options for larger fleet such as hydrogen, but these technologies are all in their infancy and currently very expensive. We will continue to monitor all of the options closely and prior to purchasing any new fleet."

E. Councillor Roodhouse to ask the Deputy Leader of the Council/Regulation and Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Poole:

"Could the portfolio holder give the number of rat reports that the pest control officer has had to deal with over a 12-month period and if it is increasing?"

Councillor Poole, Deputy Leader of the Council/Regulation and Safety Portfolio Holder, to reply as follows:

"The last full year was 2021/22 and we had 172 rat reports that our pest control officer responded to. This compares to 186 in 2020/21 and 162 in 2019/20 which suggests the numbers are relatively stable."

F. Councillor Mistry to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

"Has a developer has been contracted to redevelop the Rounds Gardens site, and if so, what is their identity?"

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:

"We are making good progress on the Rounds Gardens site. All tenants have been found alternative homes that meet their needs and we have purchased the remaining private leaseholder interest.

We are now ready to award a contract for the deconstruction programme so that work can start in late 2022.

There has been no developer contracted to develop out the site. The Council is continuing to progress this aspect of the project, including very positive and constructive discussions on the overall options for the site.

We will bring a further report to Council before any contract is awarded on the building out of the homes and upon the conclusion of current discussions.”

G. Councillor Mrs Brown to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

“What, if any, plans does the Council have to integrate the redevelopment of Rounds Gardens with the future redevelopment of the Cemex and other town centre sites?”

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:

“All the various Town Centre Council owned land and property assets and any development proposals are recognised as being critical to the success of the Town Centre Strategy. Their integration is a vital part of the formulation of our Town Centre Regeneration Plan and our asset and redevelopment plans and proposals.

Though Rounds Garden is a separate redevelopment site, both of the project teams managing the Rounds Gardens development and Town Centre Strategy recognise the synergy between the two projects and the importance of a quality development at Rounds Gardens bringing benefits to the wider regeneration of the Town Centre.

The Rounds Gardens team and Town Centre Strategy team continue to maintain regular contact and share iterations of emerging ideas and plans.”

18. REPORT OF CABINET – 27 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED THAT – the report of Cabinet be approved and adopted.

56. REPORT OF OFFICERS

(a) Transformation Programme and Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan 2022/23

Council considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 7(a)) concerning the Council’s transformation programme and Corporate Strategy delivery plan for 2022/23.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan 2022/23 shown at Appendix 1 be approved;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Executive Director to update the Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan during the year;

- (3) the fixed term project, data and finance analyst posts be created and added to the establishment; and
- (4) £0.249m from the Transformation reserve be allocated to fund the posts for the period of employment.

(b) Delivering the Corporate Strategy 2021-2022

Council considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 7(b)) concerning the delivery of the Council's Corporate Strategy during 2021/22.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the performance and achievements in the delivery of the Corporate Strategy during 2021/22 be noted; and
- (2) all officers of the Council be thanked for their commitment to delivering a Council fit for the future.

(c) Levelling Up/Devolution Deal/UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Council considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 7(c)), together with a supplementary report, concerning an update on Levelling Up, Devolution Deal for Warwickshire and UK Shared Prosperity Funding for Rugby.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) Group Leaders work with their groups to identify;
 - a) any additional Levelling Up objectives
 - b) any other Devolution Deal themes
 - c) devolved power / funding asks for the devolution deal;
- (2) the UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocations as proposed within the report for each of the three years across the three investment areas be approved;
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Executive Director and the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Investment to make further amendments to the funding split as may be required; and
- (4) the procurement of new festive lighting for the town centre, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(d) Additional Resources – Major Projects and Economic Development

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 7(d)) concerning proposed additional resources within the Major projects and Economic Development team at the Council.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the permanent Senior Economic Development officer post be added to the staffing establishment;
- (2) the three year fixed term Senior Economic Development Officer post be added to the staffing establishment;
- (3) the General Fund manages the additional staffing cost of £14,540 within existing staffing budgets;
- (4) the permanent funding of the permanent Senior Economic Development Officer be funded via the 2023/24 budget setting process; and
- (5) the residual year 3 funding required for the fixed term post be met from the 2023/24 budget setting process.

(e) Section 106 and Grant Funding Capital Projects and Rugby Gymnastics Club

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer for Leisure and Wellbeing (Part 1 – agenda item 7(e)) concerning requests for the use of Section 106 funding and grant funding for projects including Rugby Gymnastics Club, Whitehall Recreation Ground, Apple and Sorrel Grove Play Areas, Park Connector Network and Riverside improvements.

RESOLVED THAT – the following capital budget requests for 2022/23 be approved:

- (1) £255,650 for Whitehall Recreation Ground to be fully funded through Section 106 income;
- (2) £100,000 for Apple & Sorrel Drive play area and footpaths to be fully funded through external income from FCC Community Action Fund and enter into funding agreement for the scheme;
- (3) £51,000 for Riverside Improvements to be fully funded through Section 106 income;
- (4) £150,000 for the Parks Connector Network scheme for Freemantle & Cornwallis to be funded through Section 106 income of £125,000 and external funding from Green Shoots of £25,000; and
- (5) £130,000 for the Rugby Gymnastics Club for indoor sports provision, to be fully funded through Section 106 income.

(f) Homes England Grant Allocation for Biart Place

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer for Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 7(f)) concerning the allocation of grant funding of £6.8m from Homes England for the delivery of the Biart Place project.

RESOLVED THAT - the Homes England grant funding be allocated to the financing of the Biart Place capital project.

(g) Town Centre Working Parties update

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 7(g)) concerning the findings and associated action plans of the five Town Centre Working Groups focussing on events, public realm, business support, the market and safety.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the content of the report be noted subject to reference to Rugby Rotary Club being amended to read, “Rugby Dunsmore Rotary Club” and reference to the Caldecott Music Festival being amended to read, “Rugby Dunsmore Rotary Music Festival”;
- (2) items 1a to 1 e as shown in Appendix 1 be approved totalling £38,000, to be funded from the Town Centre Improvement Fund as identified by the Public Realm Working Group;
- (3) items 2a and 2b as shown in Appendix 1; Bicentenary of The Game be noted and a separate report brought back to Members with full costings for consideration for approval;
- (4) items 3a and 3b as shown in Appendix 1; Town Centre Lighting, be noted and a separate report brought back to Members with full costings for consideration and approval;
- (5) the Priority 2 actions be noted and a separate report be brought back to Members once reviewed by Officers;
- (4) a series of town centre events totalling £55,000, to be funded from Economic Development (£15,000) and Town Centre Improvement (£40,000) budgets to support the town centre economy and encourage residents and visitors into the town centre, be approved; and
- (5) the Democratic Services team be thanked for their hard work and efforts to arrange the number of meetings required for each town centre working group in a timely manner.

(h) IT and Digital Services Strategy

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer for Digital and Communications (Part 1 – agenda item 7(h)) concerning a proposed IT and Digital Services Strategy for 2022-24.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the IT and Digital Services Strategy for 2022-24, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted; and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer for Digital and Communications to make any non-material amendments.

(i) Review of Taxi Licensing Fees

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer for Regulation and Safety (Part 1 – agenda item 7(i)) concerning a review of taxi licensing fees.

RESOLVED THAT - the proposed taxi licensing fees, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be approved for adoption, taking effect from and including 1 August 2022.

(j) Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers – Making of the Wolvey Neighbourhood Plan

Council considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 7(j)) concerning an urgent decision taken under delegated powers with regard to the making of the Wolvey Neighbourhood Development Plan.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

(k) Review of Public Spaces Protection Order

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer for Regulation and Safety (Part 1 – agenda item 7(k)) concerning a review of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs).

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Controls, based on the evidence following consultation, the PSPO be renewed for a further 3 years;
- (2) Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Intoxicating Substances, based on the evidence following consultation, the PSPO be renewed for a further 3 years; and

- (3) Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Newbold Quarry Nature Reserve, based on the evidence following consultation, the PSPO be renewed for a further 3 years.

(l) Additional Resources – Electoral Services

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 7(l)) concerning proposed additional resources for the Electoral Services team within the Council.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the creation of a fixed term post for the period of 14 months for an Electoral Services Assistant be approved and the post be added to the establishment as detailed within the report;
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer of Legal and Governance to implement the fixed term post and such delegation shall include any non-material changes to the job; and
- (3) a salary budget of £26,110 be approved for 2022/23 for the new post, to be funded from existing service earmarked reserves or other savings within the service, as detailed within the report.

(m) Member and Officer Working update

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 7(m)) concerning progress with regard to Member and officer working.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Member and Officer protocol, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance to make any non-material amendments.

19. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

Council considered the following Motions, notice of which had been given pursuant to Standing Order 11.

- (a) Councillor Ms Livesey moved and Councillor Mrs O'Rourke seconded the motion as set out below.

“The Labour Group, like so many Rugby residents, is very concerned about the West Midlands Ambulance response times.

This concern has been heightened following the recent publication of an article in The Times which quoted the Director of Nursing for WMAS as saying the service was in a catastrophic state and could collapse at any time. The impact of such an event would be extremely serious for residents of Rugby and beyond.

We would like this matter to be referred to Scrutiny Committee with the following recommendation:

The Leader of the Council to undertake the following;

- write directly to the Secretary of State for Health to advise us as to what plans have been put in place to avoid the collapse of WMAS and how will they improve ambulance response times;*
- write to the leader of WCC to ask what emergency planning is in place locally to cover this eventuality and mitigate any adverse effects on the population of the borough of Rugby;*
- write to the Chief Executive and the Director of Nursing of WMAS to ask what plans they have in place to ameliorate current performance and to mitigate against the potential collapse of the service;*
- write to the WMAS Public Governors for Coventry and Warwickshire to ask what steps they are taking to ensure the safety of residents and to represent their interests in discussion on the future of the service and steps to take in the event it collapses.*
- Write to the Director of Public Health Warwickshire to ask what steps are being taken to protect the residents of Rugby in the event the WMAS collapses.*
- We also call on the Leader of the Council to write directly to the Chief Executive of UHCW to ask if there are any delays in the discharge assessments process provided by Warwickshire County Council for Rugby patients at UHCW? What steps are being taken to speed this up so that patients can be admitted to A&E from ambulances and they are freed up to attend other emergencies, thus reducing the risk of WMAS collapsing, while ensuring patient safety.*

We also ask that once responses are received Scrutiny Committee considers the matter further and decides a way forward which may include inviting relevant organisations to attend a meeting.”

Further to the proposer and seconder speaking and in accordance with paragraph 11.2(d) of Council Standing Orders, the motion stood referred to Scrutiny Committee.

(b) Councillor Sandison moved and Councillor Roodhouse seconded the motion as set out below.

“This Council recognises the enormous contribution that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has made to public life and public service over the last 70 years and supports a lasting legacy in her honor in Rugby. The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre attracts some 60,000 visitors per month and many other residents benefit from the two bowling clubs, athletics track and other facilities like the fields in trust and recently refurbished bandstand. The new circular

route also incorporates a healthy living route to the Hospital of St Cross to access health related services.

This council makes an application to dedicate the route through Rugby Recreation Ground (Whitehall Rec) to the Hospital of St Cross and Trevor White Drive to Her Majesty and that it be known as the Queen Elizabeth II Walk, in line with other public walks in Rugby. Should the application prove to be successful an invitation to the Royal household for a formal opening be considered.”

Further to debate, the Mayor put the motion to the vote and declared it carried.

(c) Councillor Roodhouse moved and Councillor Mrs New seconded the motion as set out below.

“Local Authorities have a duty for the health and wellbeing of their citizens. A recent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment report 0- to 5-year-olds highlighted Rugby Borough as having the highest rate of childhood injury admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries it is higher than both Warwickshire and England.

Reducing unintentional injuries in and around the home among children under 5 years of age Public Health England paper advises local authorities through targeting the reduction of the five causes of unintentional injuries, namely choking, suffocation, strangling, falls, poisoning, burns & scalds and drowning.

Rugby’s figures have got worse over time not better which should not be allowed to continue. Council resolves to:

- 1. Establish a small group of elected members to work with Officers and Public Health in bringing forward an action plan to remedy the situation; and*
- 2. Request that the Executive Director and Leader establishes a lead officer and Portfolio Holder for this issue.”*

Councillor Lowe moved and Councillor Poole seconded the following amendment (highlighted in **bold**):

“Local Authorities have a duty for the health and wellbeing of their citizens. A recent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment report 0- to 5-year-olds highlighted Rugby Borough as having the highest rate of childhood injury admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries it is higher than both Warwickshire & England.

*Reducing unintentional injuries in and around the home among children under 5 years of age Public Health England paper advises local authorities through targeting the reduction of the five causes of unintentional injuries, namely choking, suffocation, strangling, falls, poisoning, burns & scalds and drowning. Rugby’s figures have got worse over time not better which should not be allowed to continue. Council resolves to **write to the Chair of Warwickshire***

County Council’s Health and Wellbeing Board requesting they prioritise carrying out work with relevant partners to bring forward an action plan to address this situation.”

Further to debate, the Mayor put the amendment to the vote and declared it carried.

(d) Councillor Srivastava moved and Councillor Mrs Brown seconded the motion as set out below.

“A recent survey undertaken by the LGA for the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, illustrates the huge everyday challenges adult social care continues to face and the impact those challenges have on people who need care.

More than half a million people are waiting for adult social care assessment.

Could the leader of this Council write to the County Council and obtain a position statement from Warwickshire County Council, clarifying how many adults await Social Care assessments in Rugby, and an estimate of how long it takes, on average, for an assessment to be completed. This is so that Rugby residents are well informed of the situation regarding access to Social Care in Rugby.”

Further to debate, the Mayor put the motion to the vote and declared it carried.

(e) Councillor Moran moved and Councillor Mrs O’Rourke seconded the motion as set out below.

“This motion calls on the Council to;

- A. Support our town centre businesses by Immediately removing parking charges from Council owned town centre car parks for an initial period of one year, with immediate effect.*
- B. To engage through officers with local businesses with a view to looking at the options to extend opening hours of the John Barford Car Park to support the night time economy.”*

Further to debate, the Mayor put the motion to the vote and declared it lost.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

21. COMMON SEAL

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and

RESOLVED THAT - the Common Seal be affixed to the various orders, deeds and documents to be made or entered into for carrying into effect the several decisions, matters and things approved by the Council and more particularly set out in the reports adopted at this meeting.

22. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT – under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

23. PRIVATE REPORT OF OFFICERS

(a) Leisure and Wellbeing Structure

Council considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing (Part 2 – agenda item 1(a)) concerning a proposed restructure within the Leisure and Wellbeing service of the Council.

RESOLVED THAT – the recommendation, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(b) Rugby First Review

Council considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 2 – agenda item 1(b)) concerning an external review of Rugby First.

RESOLVED THAT –

(1) delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director to commission an external review in relation to Rugby First as detailed within this report; and

(2) a Member Working Group be established to oversee this review.

(c) Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers – Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Terms and Conditions

Council considered the private report of the Executive Director (Part 2 – agenda item 1(c)) concerning an urgent decision taken under delegated powers with regard to the terms and conditions for the Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing team.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Deputy Executive Director, Chief Officer for Operations and Traded Services, and Waste Services Manager be thanked for their managing the recent work pressures within the service area.

(d) Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers – Waste and Recycling Services – Fived Term Posts

Council considered the private report of the Executive Director (Part 2 – agenda item 1(d)) concerning an urgent decision taken under delegated powers with regard to fixed term posts within the Waste and Recycling Services team.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Waste and Recycling team be thanked for their hard work and commitment during the recent extreme heat.

(e) Resourcing the Asset Maintenance Team to support the decarbonisation of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties

Council considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 2 – agenda item 1(e)) concerning proposed additional resources in the Council's Asset Maintenance team to deliver the Council's Corporate Strategy objectives in terms of reducing the carbon footprint of the council housing stock by 2027.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the proposed additional resources for the Asset Maintenance Team, as outlined in section 2.0 of the report be approved and the post of the Decarbonisation Projects Officer be added to the establishment;
- (2) a supplementary revenue budget of £24,210 be approved in 2022/23 for the net increase in salaries for the Asset Maintenance Team, to be financed from Housing Revenue Account climate reserve; and
- (3) the permanent funding be provided through the 2023/24 budget setting process.

(f) Salary Benchmarking Review

Council considered the private report of the Deputy Executive Director (Part 2 – agenda item 1(f)) concerning a benchmarking review of salaries paid to the Executive Director and for allowances for statutory duty holders.

RESOLVED THAT – the recommendation, as detailed in the report, be approved.

MAYOR