

# MINUTES OF COUNCIL

24 APRIL 2018

## PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Garcia), Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Allen, Mrs Avis, Brader, Mrs Bragg, Butlin, Cade, Mrs Crane, Miss Dumbleton, Ms Edwards, Gillias, Leigh Hunt, Keeling, Miss Lawrence, Lewis, Lowe, Mahoney, Mrs Nash, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Pacey-Day, Mrs Parker, Poole, Mrs Roberts, Roberts, Ms Robbins, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Sandison, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Srivastava, Stokes, Mrs Timms and Ms Watson-Merret.

## 71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Brown, Cranham, Douglas, Mistry, Dr Shera and Williams.

## 72. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 27 February 2018 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

## 73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 7(a) of Part 1 - Ansty Parish Council - Cllrs Mrs Garcia, Gillias and Mrs Timms (non - pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being named in the report.

Item 7(b) Localism Act - Pay Policy Statement. The Executive Director declared an officer interest on behalf of Chief Officers present.

## 74. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Council that following the last meeting she had received a reply to her letter regarding the initiative to pardon convicted suffragettes from the Government's Minister for Women, Victoria Atkins MP.

The Minister had confirmed that the Government would be taking into account a number of options when considering this issue.

The Minister had also confirmed that the Government had set aside £5 million to celebrate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act. This money would support projects that raise awareness of this milestone and would help to inspire people to build a diverse political system that reflects the nation it serves.

## 75. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

**(a) Councillor Roodhouse asked the following question of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stokes:**

“Over the last 2 years how many unauthorised encampments have taken place in regard to Travellers and how much has this cost the Council?”

**Councillor Stokes replied as follows:**

“Council officers are involved in responding to illegal encampments on our own land, supporting Warwickshire County Council in dealing with illegal encampments on their land, and also taking action against land owners who allow illegal encampments that significantly affect local residents.

Council officers do not at present keep detailed records of costs, but do record information such as court fees, legal costs, bailiff (enforcement officer) costs, weight of waste disposed of and officer time. A more comprehensive system is currently being developed.

Based on 2017/2018, the total number of illegal encampments which were responded to is 35 at a total cost of approximately £25,000 - £35,000 per annum.

2017/18 was unusual in that officers took action against a private landowner, where we successfully defended an appeal and recovered costs. The cost of this was £7,000 including legal fees, and should be considered as part of the costs requested.”

**(b) Councillor Mrs New asked the following question of the Environment and Public Realm Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs Parker:**

“Could the Portfolio Holder explain why the Council has not yet implemented a direct debit scheme for paying the green bin charge? I have had several complaints regarding the time it takes to get through on the phones and the length of time it takes to get a sticker. Having a direct debit payment option would help to alleviate this problem.”

**Councillor Mrs Parker replied as follows:**

“Under the current chargeable green waste scheme, an annual direct debit would require the addition of two new processes, one of which adds difficulty for the Council and one of which adds difficulty for the customer.

Firstly, an annual direct debit would require the council to check that a direct debit payment had been completed, prior to each permit being issued. This would represent a significant additional administrative burden.

Secondly, for security and data protection reasons the Council cannot handle payments directly, meaning that the Council does not hold customer payment details. To create an annual direct debit scheme would require a process whereby the customer creates one account with the Council and a separate account with the payment handler. This would add unnecessary confusion and process from the customer perspective.

The feasibility of an annual direct debit scheme will be reviewed prior to the launch of the 2019/20 chargeable green waste scheme.”

Councillor Mrs New then asked that when the scheme was reviewed could consideration be given to the implementation of a direct debit scheme for paying green bin charges. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that this would be considered.

## **76. REPORT OF CABINET – 9 APRIL 2018**

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report be confirmed and adopted.

## **77. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **(a) Ansty Parish Council**

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (Part 1 - agenda item 7(a)) concerning the proposed appointment of the three Ward Councillors to act as members of Ansty Parish Council for a temporary period.

Councillor Gillias moved and Councillor Poole seconded that in order to make these interim arrangements more robust the County Councillor for the area, Councillor Adrian Warwick, also be appointed to the Parish Council for the interim period.

On putting the proposal to the vote the Mayor declared it carried.

**RESOLVED THAT** - Cllrs Mrs Garcia, Gillias and Mrs Timms together with County Councillor Warwick be appointed to act as members of Ansty Parish Council until elections have been held to fill such vacancies that will render the Parish Council quorate or after six months beginning the date on which the Order is signed, whichever is the earlier, whereupon such appointments and this Order shall cease.

### **(b) Localism Act – Pay Policy Statement**

Council considered the report of the Executive Director, as Head of Paid Service (Part 1- agenda item 7(b)) concerning this Council's annual pay policy statement.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the new pay policy statement shown at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted with immediate effect.

### **(c) The high-rise blocks in Rugby – potential repair or regeneration**

Council considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 7(c)) concerning the potential repair or regeneration of the high-rise blocks of flats in Rugby.

**RESOLVED THAT** -

(1) the decanting of tenants from Biart Place commence with immediate effect, in order to facilitate either redevelopment or repairs to the site;

(2) the Head of Communities and Homes be given delegated authority to administer a compensation package to tenants, not exceeding £10,000 per eligible household in respect of the development of the Biart Place high-rise blocks;

(3) the implementation of a points scoring system, to prioritise decant moves from Biart Place, as outlined in section 13 of this report be approved;

- (4) negotiations progress with adjacent land-owners to assist with additional land assembly to permit a wider developable footprint;
- (5) negotiations progress with the leaseholder at Biart Place, with a view to purchasing their property, primarily through negotiation, and if needs be, the Compulsory Purchase Order route;
- (6) negotiations progress with the licensees of telecoms equipment on the roofs of the blocks to terminate their lease;
- (7) works progress to inform either a new development scheme or a repairs scheme for the consideration of Council in Summer 2018;
- (8) work progress to inform options for Rounds Gardens, once the base position is established, with a further report be submitted for the consideration of Council in Summer 2018;
- (9) supplementary budgets be approved in respect of:
  - (i) decanting of £870,000 (this assumes maximum take-up of the £10,000 per eligible household as outlined in section 14 of this report), in respect of Biart Place, to be met from HRA capital resources;
  - (ii) additional surveys, structural modelling and design, of £170,000, to be met from HRA capital resources;
  - (iii) security guard presence at Biart Place and Rounds Gardens, until March 2019, leasing of private sector properties for use as temporary accommodation and associated staffing costs, totalling £1,351,500, to be met from HRA revenue resources;
  - (iv) establishing a guarantor / indemnity reserve of £160,000 to mitigate potential losses arising from the increase in private sector allocations, to be met from HRA revenue resources; and
- (10) a reallocation of the 2017/18 budgeted HRA voluntary debt repayment of £4.992m to HRA revenue balances and subsequent impact on revenue (interest) costs be built into forthcoming budgets.

## **78. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

## **79. 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 Committees' reports adopted at this meeting.

**80. 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 item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**81. PRIVATE REPORT OF CABINET – 9 APRIL 2018**

**RESOLVED THAT** – the private report be confirmed and adopted.

**MAYOR**