

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

15th November 2016

At a meeting of Rugby Borough Council held on 15th November 2016.

PRESENT:

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

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Birkett and Mistry.

27. MINUTES

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 20th September 2016 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

28. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the Council that she had recently received a plaque from the Warwickshire Special Constabulary to commemorate 185 years of the service. The volunteers gave many hours of dedicated service. Several members of the Special Constabulary has given over 10 years' service and the Community Safety Partnership was currently looking into an appropriate award in recognition of their long service.

The Mayor reminded the Council that November was Mouth Cancer Awareness Month, with 16th being 'Wear Blue' Day. The slogan for the awareness was 'a visit to the dentist could save your life' and the Mayor urged Members to promote awareness of this campaign. The Oral Health Foundation, one of the Mayor's charities, was selling blue ribbon pin badges in support of the campaign, which were available from the Mayor for a donation.

29. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

(a) Councillor Ellis asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stokes:

How many Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership meetings has the Leader attended since taking up office?

Councillor Stokes replied as follows:

Attendance at external meeting is not recorded. However, I am grateful for the question as the councillor will be aware that the LEP was formed with only two seats going to the five Warwickshire districts. After leading the lobbying along with other district leader colleagues, I am pleased to say that a paper will go before the LEP later this month where a decision will be considered to allow each district leader a full seat and vote on the board.

Councillor Ellis then asked if the Leader of the Council sent a deputy or representative if he was unable to attend.

Councillor Stokes stated that the Council was represented at the LEP through the Shadow Economic Prosperity Board. The Council had been fully represented at all meetings of the Board by either himself or a nominated representative.

(b) Councillor Ellis asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stokes:

Can the Leader confirm that the Rugby Hall of Fame will be installed and operational at no cost to this Council ?

Councillor Stokes replied as follows:

Every councillor has had full access to view papers which included details of all costs associated with the Hall of Fame. There has never been a commitment that there would be 'no cost to this council'.

I would advise Cllr Ellis to re-visit these documents should he require further details.

Councillor Ellis then asked if the licensing agreement for the Hall of Fame had been signed and, if so, when.

Councillor Stokes stated that this was an operational matter which he could not answer.

(c) Councillor Ellis asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stokes :

Does the Leader undertake any work or dealings for Cavendish Solutions in his office at the Town Hall ?

Councillor Stokes replied as follows:

No.

(d) Councillor Roodhouse asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stokes:

When will the Corporate priorities for the Council be published and when will they be consulted upon?

Councillor Stokes replied as follows:

The review of the council's corporate priorities was started in 2015 but subsequently put on hold when it became apparent that there was a need to restructure the SLT along with re-aligning the services and portfolios.

Once the restructuring of the Council's senior management was completed to align with the four new Portfolios, the corporate priorities were picked up again by the Cabinet and Senior Management Team over the summer. More recently Portfolio Holders have been working closely with their Heads of Service to finalise the key focus and narrative within each Portfolio to produce an overall Strategy.

Consultation with group leaders and members will start this calendar year with a public consultation taking place in early 2017.

Councillor Roodhouse then asked if the corporate priorities would be published before or after the budget setting process.

Councillor Stokes stated that they would be published before budget setting.

(e) Councillor Sandison asked the Environment and Public Realm Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs Parker :

2017 marks the 85th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Borough of Rugby. This event was celebrated by the Borough when the Duchess of York , the then Queen Mother of Queen Elizabeth II opened the bandstand and children's play area at Rugby Recreation Ground in Whitehall Road .

What is the Borough doing to mark this anniversary. ? Will this include repairs and enhancements in what is locally known as Whitehall Rec and bandstand?

Councillor Mrs Parker replied as follows:

As Cllr Sandison has previously been advised on a number of occasion the Whitehall Recreation Ground capital scheme was deferred when the budget was set in February until the coming financial year (17/18).

The scheme was listed in the draft capital programme that was reported to Cabinet on 31st October.

There are already a number of external contributions that have been secured for investments in Whitehall Recreation Ground, and we are still hoping to get other external grants / donations too.

The draft capital bid will eventually have details for each element of the scheme (play, park, skate, paths, war memorial, bandstand, etc.) so Council will be able to make informed choices at the correct time on which elements it wants to invest in. In these times of financial austerity we do have to make

difficult choices about where and on what we spend the tax payers money, ultimately though it may be a choice between play facilities, paths, the bandstand or something else as the reality is that our finances are limited.

There are currently no plans for any specific civic event, although we may be able to link something to a celebration at the completion of any enhancement scheme.

Councillor Sandison then asked if, in the event of a repair and enhancement scheme being approved, consideration would be given to the installation of a commemorative plaque or green badge at the bandstand to record the historic element to the borough.

Councillor Mrs Parker stated that, if such a scheme was approved, she would welcome the installation of a commemorative plaque or something similar and extended an invitation to Councillor Sandison to work with her on such a project.

30. REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE - 19th OCTOBER 2016

RESOLVED THAT - the report be confirmed and adopted.

31. RUGBY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN - PUBLICATION DRAFT CONSULTATION UPDATE – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Council considered an additional report of the Executive Director concerning the Rugby Borough Local Plan publication draft consultation.

Councillor Mrs Timms moved and Councillor Stokes seconded that :

The Council undertake an additional six week period of public and stakeholder consultation running from 30th November 2016 until 11th January 2017.

Councillor Sandison then moved and Councillor Roodhouse seconded the following amendment to the proposal :

Delete all after consultation and insert.

In light of the ongoing technical work on key infrastructure requirements regarding highways, education and health provision Council requests a separate consultation exercise to be carried out in early spring of 2017 based on further evidence to be provided by partner agencies. Consultation will be for an additional 6 week period.

Following discussion the Mayor put the amendment to the vote and by a show of hands of 10 for and 30 against the Mayor declared the amendment lost.

Following further discussion the Mayor put the substantive motion to the vote and declared it carried.

RESOLVED THAT - the Council undertake an additional six week period of public and stakeholder consultation running from 30th November 2016 until 11th January 2017.

32. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

The Mayor considered it advisable and convenient to deal with the Notices of Motion set out at item 7(a) and (c) on the agenda at the meeting. Following discussion on the previous agenda item the Motion set out at item 7(b) had been withdrawn.

(a) Councillor Ms Edwards moved and Councillor Mrs O'Rourke seconded the following motion set out at item 7(a) of the agenda.

"The Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little/no/personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time.

The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

The Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements."

Following discussion the Mayor put the Motion to the vote and declared it carried.

(b) Councillor Roodhouse move and Councillor Douglas seconded the following motion set out at item 7(c) of the agenda.

“Council calls upon the leader to review cabinet’s decision to suspend the green bin organic recycling service for three months and report back to the first available scrutiny meeting in November.”

Following discussion the Mayor put the Motion to the vote and declared it lost.

33. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

34. 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 committee’s reports adopted at this meeting.

35. 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 as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

36. VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY REQUESTS 2016/17

Council considered the private report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer.

RESOLVED THAT - the report be confirmed and adopted.

MAYOR