

## **DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

### **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL** **AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2011** **AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Evans (Mayor)

Councillors Adams, Ahmed, Ali, Miss Arshad, A Aston, Mrs M Aston, Attwood, Banks, Barlow, Mrs Billingham, Blood, Body, Burston, Caunt, Cotterill, Miss J Cowell, Mrs M Cowell, G H Davies, J D Davies, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Faulkner, A Finch, K Finch, Ms Foster, Mrs Greenaway, Hanif, Mrs D Harley, P Harley, Ms Harris, Hill, Islam, James, J Jones, L Jones, Kettle, Knowles, Lowe, Miller, Ms Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Mrs Ridley, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rogers, Ryder, Mrs Shakespeare, Mrs Simms, Southall, Sparks, Stanley, Taylor, A Turner, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, Vickers, Mrs Walker, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson, Ms Wood, J Woodall, P Woodall, Wright and Zada; together with the Chief Executive, the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police (for Minute No. 23 below) and other Officers.

#### **PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

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#### 19 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Ameson (Deputy Mayor), Crumpton, M Davis, Mrs Jordan, Mrs P Martin, Mottram, Waltho and Mrs Wilson.

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#### 20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following in respect of the matters indicated:

Councillors Caunt and Mrs Westwood – Minute No. 4 of North Dudley Area Committee (Highway Minor Capital Works Programme) - personal and prejudicial interest in so far as it related to the road where they lived.

Councillor Mrs Aston – Minute No. 38 of the former Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care (Quality Accounts 2010/11) – personal interest as her son was employed by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Councillor J D Davies – Minute No. 39 of the former Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care (Dudley Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board) – personal interest as a Board Member.

The Mayor (Councillor Evans) and Councillor K Turner – Minute No. 9 of the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee (New Heritage Regeneration Ltd.) – all references to Dudley Zoo and Castle - personal interests as Trustees.

Councillor Southall – Minute No. 90 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application Number P11/0270 – Greenhill Youth Centre with regard to organised football games being played on site by clubs affiliated to the Birmingham County Football Association) - personal interest as a Council Member on that body.

Councillor Southall – Minute No.11 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application Number P11/0466 – Kudos House) – personal interest as his daughter was employed by Dudley College.

Councillor Knowles – Minute No. 16 of Stourbridge Area Committee (School Crossing Patrol, Heath Farm Road, Stourbridge) – personal interest in view of his governorship of Gigmill Primary School.

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Minute No. 18 of Stourbridge Area Committee (Heritage Lottery Grant for Mary Stevens Park) – personal interest as Chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common.

Councillor Miller - Minute No.15 of Brierley Hill Area Committee (Highways Minor Works Capital Programme for 2011/12) – personal interest as a Governor of both the Glynne and Fairhaven Primary Schools.

Councillor Southall – Minute No. 8 of Brierley Hill Area Committee (Youth Issues – Funding obtained for a Football Coaching Project) – personal interest as a Council Member of Birmingham County Football Association.

Councillor Mrs Faulkner – All references to matters relating to the Dudley Group of Hospitals – personal interest in view of being an appointed Governor of Dudley Group of Hospitals Foundation Trust.

Councillor Burston – Minute No. 11 of North Dudley Area Committee (Relating to relocation of bus stops) and Minute No. 14(c) of Brierley Hill Area Committee (Relating to provision of bus service on Venture Way, Brierley Hill) – personal interests as an employee of CENTRO.

Councillor Body – Agenda Item No. 6(a) (Capital Programme Monitoring and Certain Revenue Issues – reference to parks and open space) – personal and prejudicial interest as the Chairman of the Friends of Homer Hill Park.

Councillor Body – Delegated Decision No. 55 (Relating to the bowling green at Homer Hill) – personal and prejudicial interest as the Chairman of the Friends of Homer Hill Park.

Councillor Wright – All references to any issues relating to Midland Heart – personal interest as a tenant of Midland Heart.

Councillor Ms Harris – Delegated Decision No. 36 (Creation of a new post of Unit Manager at Hawbush Primary School) – personal interest as a School Governor.

Councillors Mrs Aston, A Finch and K Finch – Agenda Item No. 6(c) (Review of Housing Finance – Reference to Community Energy Saving Programme) – personal interest as attendees at tenants and community meetings as Ward Councillors.

Councillor Mrs Aston – Minute No. 19 of North Dudley Area Committee (Reference to Age Concern, Sedgley) – personal interest as a Member of the Age Concern Committee.

Councillor Mrs Ridney – All references to the Virtual School and the Annual Report of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee – personal interest as the Chair of Governors of the Virtual School.

Councillor Caunt – Minute No. 120 of the Cabinet (Stourbridge Area Action Plan) – personal interest as Chairman of the Stourbridge Navigation Trust.

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21      MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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22      MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a)      Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) President’s Award

The Mayor announced that the Building Services Division in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services had received a further gold award in recognition of occupational health and safety, leading to the achievement of a special President’s award from RoSPA. Following remarks by Councillor A Turner, the Mayor presented the award to the Team Manager and the Council congratulated all the employees involved.

(b)      Royal Town Planning Institute - West Midlands Team of the Year Award

The Mayor referred to the success of officers in the Directorate of the Urban Environment in receiving the Royal Town Planning Institute West Midlands Team of the Year Award. Following remarks by Councillor Adams, the Mayor presented the award to the Assistant Director of the Urban Environment and the Council congratulated all the employees involved.

(c) Dudley Performing Arts – National Festival of Music for Youth Awards

The Mayor welcomed representatives of the Dudley Performing Arts advanced wind band to the meeting. The band had been successful in receiving the Outstanding Performance Award in the National Festival of Music for Youth. Following remarks from Councillor Mrs Walker, the Mayor presented the award to representatives of the band and the Council congratulated everyone involved in this outstanding achievement.

(d) Mayor's Charity Cricket Match – 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2011

The Mayor reminded the Council that the annual charity cricket match between Members and Officers would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2011 at Stourbridge Cricket Club.

(e) 'Desert Dash' Challenge

The Mayor reported that his attendant, Mike Crannage, would be undertaking the 'Desert Dash' Challenge during October, 2011 in aid of the Mayor's Charity. Sponsorship forms were available and all support was greatly appreciated.

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23 WEST MIDLANDS POLICE PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, Mr Chris Sims QPM, to the meeting.

Following opening remarks from Councillor Foster on the work of the West Midlands Police Authority, the Chief Constable gave a presentation to the Council on budgetary issues, local force performance in Dudley, issues relating to the future governance of policing and ongoing efforts to improve partnership working.

The Chief Constable then responded to individual questions from Members of the Council on specific local issues affecting Dudley.

At the conclusion of the questions, the Leader of the Council thanked the Chief Constable for his attendance and recognised the significant challenges faced by the Police and other partner organisations in the current climate.

In conclusion, Councillor Foster addressed specific comments made during the discussion. She also referred to details of key forthcoming events and indicated that further written information would be available to Members following the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

That the report and presentation be noted.

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24      CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING AND CERTAIN REVENUE ISSUES

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor L Jones, seconded by Councillor Wright and

RESOLVED

- (1)      That the withdrawal from the procurement via the Local Improvement Financial Trust (LIFT) of a Health and Social Care Centre in Lye, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report now submitted, be noted.
- (2)      That the expenditure on parks and open spaces funded from successful bids by “Friends of Parks” and other similar groups be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report now submitted.
- (3)      That the expenditure to be funded from the Short Break grant be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted.
- (4)      That the Area Committee capital budget allocations, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report now submitted, be approved.
- (5)      That the urgent amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraphs 8 to 10 of the report now submitted, be noted.
- (6)      That the 2011/12 General Fund revenue budgets be amended as set out in paragraph 11 of the report now submitted.

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25      ADOPTION OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA ACTION PLAN

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Wright and

RESOLVED

That the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan be approved and adopted.

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26      REVIEW OF HOUSING FINANCE

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor A Turner, seconded by Councillor Wright and

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval in principle be given to the continued use of all capital receipts arising from the sale of Housing Revenue Account assets for the improvement of Council homes (other than those specifically committed to support private sector housing).
- (2) That the revised Housing Revenue Account budget for 2011/12, as set out in paragraph 8 and Appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.
- (3) That the amendments to the Public Sector Housing Capital Programme for 2011/12 to 2015/16, as set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 and Appendix 2 of the report now submitted, be approved.

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27      ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The annual report of the Scrutiny Committee was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Dunn, seconded by Councillor Caunt and

RESOLVED

That the annual report be received and noted.

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28      ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The annual report of the Scrutiny Committee was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Kettle, seconded by Councillor Caunt and

RESOLVED

That the annual report be received and noted.

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29      ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ADULT EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The annual report of the Scrutiny Committee was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor K Turner, seconded by Councillor Caunt and

RESOLVED

That the annual report be received and noted.

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30      ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Blood and

RESOLVED

- (1)      That the amendments to the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy as contained in the revised Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report now submitted, be approved.
- (2)      That, in future, the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy be considered by the Audit Committee, and not the Standards Committee and that the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to arrange for any necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to facilitate this decision.

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31      QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

During questions asked under Council Procedure Rule 11, there were no decisions that the Leader, Cabinet Members or Committee Chairmen agreed to have reconsidered.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

MAYOR