

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2013
AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mottram (Mayor)
Councillor A Finch (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed, Ali, Mrs Ameson, Arshad, A Aston, M Aston, Attwood, Mrs Billingham, Bills, Blood, Body, Boleyn, Branwood, Burston, Casey, Caunt, Cotterill, Cowell, Crumpton, Duckworth, Elcock, Evans, K Finch, Foster, Hale, Hanif, Harley, Harris, Hemingsley, Herbert, Hill, Islam, James, J Jones, L Jones, Jordan, Kettle, Lowe, Marrey, J Martin, Miller, Ms Nicholls, Partridge, Perks, Ridney, Roberts, Mrs Rogers, Russell, Mrs Shakespeare, Mrs Simms, Sparks, Sykes, Taylor, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, Tyler, Vickers, Mrs Walker, Waltho, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson, M Wilson, Wood, Woodall, Wright and Zada; together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

78

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Davies and Mrs P Martin.

79

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members:

Councillor Zada – Minute No. 30 of the Audit and Standards Committee (Annual Audit Report in relation to Children's Services) - Non-pecuniary interest as a Governor at the Northfield Primary School and an employee of the Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust in respect of Children's Services.

Councillor C Wilson – Minute No. 67 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application No. P12/1588 - Heath House, Ounty John Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge) – Non-pecuniary interest as he knew the applicants.

Councillor Wright – Minute No. 67 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application No. P12/1447 Site of Former Cradley High School, Homer Hill Road, Cradley) - Non-pecuniary Interest as a tenant of Midland Heart (the applicant).

Councillor Wright – Minute No. 74 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application No. P12/1598 - Land between Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoological Gardens) – Non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of the Black Country Living Museum.

Councillor Zada – Minute No. 75 of the Development Control Committee – Non-pecuniary interest in any reference to the National Health Service as an employee.

Councillor Cowell – Minute No. 24 of the Licensing and Safety Committee (Alcohol Consumption in Public Places, Quarry Bank Area) – Non-pecuniary interest as a ward member for the area concerned.

The Chief Executive, Directors, Assistant Directors and the Treasurer – Minute No. 71 of the Cabinet (Pay Policy Statement) – Pecuniary interest in view of the financial information and employment terms and conditions referred to in the report submitted to the Cabinet meeting.

Councillor S Turner – Minutes of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee – References to his employer, Ian Austin MP.

Councillor Wright - Any references to Midland Heart - Non-pecuniary interest as a tenant of Midland Heart.

Councillor Crumpton - All matters affecting schools - Non-pecuniary interest as a relative works as a supply teacher.

Councillor A Aston - Any references to matters affecting West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) - Pecuniary interest as an employee of WMAS.

Councillor M Aston - Minute No. 35 of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (Reference to WMAS) - Non-pecuniary interest as her son is an employee of WMAS.

Councillor Body – Delegated Decision Summary No. 41 (Extra care development at the site of former Cradley High School – access route – Homer Hill Park and Trust) - Non-pecuniary interest as the Chair of the Friends of Homer Hill Park and access to the extra care home is on Homer Hill Park land.

Councillor Burston – Action Note No. 4 of Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews, Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Community Forum (Parking charges at Cradley Heath railway station) - Non-pecuniary interest on account of employment with CENTRO.

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on 25th February and 4th March, 2013, be approved as correct records and signed.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS(a) Chat Back – Diana Award

The Mayor reported that the Chat Back Group had recently received a national 'Diana Award'. Following remarks by Councillor Crumpton, the Mayor presented the award to representatives of the Chat Back Group and the Council congratulated the Group on this achievement.

(b) Death of former Brierley Hill MP - Sir Fergus Montgomery

The Mayor referred in sympathetic terms to the recent death of the former Brierley Hill MP, Sir Fergus Montgomery.

(c) St George's Day Events – 20th April, 2013

The Mayor reported on the St. George's Day celebrations and events in Dudley Town Centre on 20th April, 2013.

(d) Charity Bowls Match – 10th May, 2013

The Mayor reported on the Charity Bowls Match on 10th May, 2013 at 6.30 pm at Coseley Cricket Club.

(e) Charity Tandem Ride

The Mayor reported on the arrangements for a charity tandem ride at Halesowen Velodrome on 4th May, 2013.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Sparks, seconded by Councillor Ali and

RESOLVED

- (1) That current progress with the 2012/13 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted, be noted and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.

- (2) That the Council's redistributed Kickstart funding of £252,000 be reinvested through current Housing Assistance Grants schemes, and that this expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted.
 - (3) That the Cabinet Member for Housing, Libraries and Adult Learning, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to bid for and enter into an Energy Company Obligations funding arrangements, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report now submitted.
 - (4) That the Schools Grant allocations be noted, and the associated spend included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report now submitted.
 - (5) That the urgent amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report now submitted, be noted.
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83

QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

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

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

MAYOR