

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 16TH APRIL, 2012 AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillor Evans (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs Ameson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Ahmed, Ali, A Aston, Mrs M Aston, Attwood, Banks, Barlow, Mrs Billingham, Blood, Body, Burston, Caunt, Cotterill, Miss Cowell, Crumpton, G H Davies, M Davis, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Faulkner, A Finch, K Finch, Foster, Mrs Greenaway, Hanif, Mrs D Harley, P Harley, Ms Harris, Hill, Islam, James, J Jones, L Jones, Mrs Jordan, Kettle, Knowles, Lowe, Mrs Martin, Miller, Mottram, Ms Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Mrs Ridley, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rogers, Ryder, Mrs Shakespeare, Southall, Sparks, Stanley, Taylor, A Turner, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, Vickers, Mrs Walker, Waltho, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson, Mrs M Wilson, Ms Wood, J Woodall, Wright and Zada; together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

WEBCAST OF COUNCIL MEETING

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 24.5, the Council gave its consent to this meeting being recorded and broadcast on the Internet.

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Miss Arshad, J D Davies and Mrs Simms.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Attwood – Minute No. 51 of Stourbridge Area Committee (relating to the proposed May Day Party at Mary Steven's Park) - Personal and prejudicial interest in view of his directorship of a firm involved with the provision of facilities for the event, namely S and B Events Ltd.

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Minute No. 51 of Stourbridge Area Committee (relating to the proposed May Day Party at Mary Steven’s Park) – Personal and prejudicial interest as Chairman of the Friends of Mary Steven’s Park.

Councillor Lowe – Minute No. 47 of Stourbridge Area Committee (Capital Clinical Commissioning Group of the National Health Service) – Personal interest in view of his employment with UNISON and their involvement with the proposed changes in clinical commissioning.

Councillor Body – Minute No. 58 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget relating to Homer Hill Park) – Personal and prejudicial interest as Chairman of Homer Hill Friends Group.

Councillor Crumpton – Minute No. 58 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget relating to Homer Hill Park) – Personal and prejudicial interest as a Member of Homer Hill Friends Group.

Councillor Taylor – Minute No. 58 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget relating to Leasowes) – Personal interest as a Member of the Friends of Leasowes Park Group.

Councillor K Turner – Minute No. 50 of Halesowen Area Committee (Emergency Services Issues) – Personal interest as a Member of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillor K Turner – Minute No. 58 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget relating to Hasbury and Cradley Rotary Club and the Halesowen Golf Club) – Personal interests as a Member of the Club and as an associate of the Principal Professional.

Councillor Vickers – Minute No. 58 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget relating to Leasowes) – Personal interest as a Member of the Friends of Leasowes Park Group.

Councillor J Woodall – Minute No. 58 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget relating to Leasowes) – Personal interest as a Member of the Friends of Leasowes Park Group.

The Mayor (Councillor Evans) and Councillor K Turner – Minute No. 40 of the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee (Annual Review of the Dudley Borough Economic Development Strategy, 2011/12 – 2013/14 in respect of any reference to Dudley Zoological Gardens) – Personal interests as Trustees of Dudley Zoo.

Councillor Body – Minute No. 28 of the Environment Scrutiny Committee (Housing Service) – Personal interest as a close relative had been made homeless.

Councillor Attwood – Minute No. 40 of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Personal interest in view of his governorship of St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, Stourbridge.

Councillor Hanif – Minute No. 41 of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Personal interest in view of his Lay Membership of the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust.

Councillor C Wilson – Minute No. 71 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application No. P11/1603 – Unit 17A Gainsborough Trading Estate, Rufford Road, Oldswinford) – Personal and prejudicial interest as he had worked for the applicant in the past.

Councillor Ali – Minute No.111 of the Cabinet (Health and Adult Social Care Bill and its Implications for Dudley MBC) – Personal and prejudicial interest in view of his employment with Sandwell Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Lowe – Minute No. 111 of the Cabinet (Health and Adult Social Care Bill and its Implications for Dudley MBC) – Personal interest in view of his employment with a Trade Union having Members in the National Health Service and Public Health Services.

Councillor Crumpton – Personal interest in all agenda items referring to schools in view of the employment of his sister as a supply teacher in Dudley schools.

Councillor C Wilson – Minute No. 64 of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (Development of New Health Facilities in Lye and Pensnett) – Personal interest as the Chairman of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Barlow – Minute No. 64 of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (Development of New Health Facilities in Lye and Pensnett) – Personal interest as a Member of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Ms Harris – Minute No. 64 of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (Development of New Health Facilities in Lye and Pensnett) – Personal interest as a Member of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Mrs Faulkner - Any references to matters relating to the Dudley Group of Hospitals - Personal interest as an appointed Governor - Dudley Group of Hospitals Foundation Trust.

Councillor Wright - Any references to matters relating to Midland Heart - Personal interest as a tenant of Midland Heart.

Councillor M Davis - Any licensing matters affecting the Stourbridge Academy, Stourbridge - Personal and prejudicial interest due to his personal association.

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

Councillor Southall - Minute No. 49(1) of Stourbridge Area Committee (Capital Budget - approval of the grant for the sum of £1,000 to Stourbridge Cricket Club) - Personal interest as a Social Member of the Club.

Councillor Southall – Minute No. 49(4) of Stourbridge Area Committee (Capital Budget - approval of the grant for the sum of £651 to Stourbridge Glassboys' Under 8's Football Team) - Personal interest as the Club was affiliated to an organisation of which he was a Council Member, namely the Birmingham County Football Association.

Councillor Caunt – Agenda Item No. 5(b) and Minute No. 107 of the Cabinet (reference to Stourbridge Area Action Plan) - Personal interest as Chairman of the Trustees of Stourbridge Navigation Trust.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on 27th February and 5th March, 2012, be approved as correct records and signed.

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MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Councillor Angus Adams

The Mayor referred in sympathetic terms to the sudden death of Councillor Angus Adams on 10th April, 2012. The Council observed a period of silence as a token of respect to his memory. The Mayor and individual Members paid personal tributes to the dedicated public service and achievements of Angus Adams.

(b) St George's Day Celebrations

The Mayor reported on the St. George's Day celebrations and events in Stourbridge Town Centre on 21st April, 2012.

(c) Mayor's Ball

The Mayor thanked everyone who attended and contributed to the Mayor's Ball on 23rd March, 2012. The event had raised approximately £2,000 for the Mayor's Charity fund.

(d) Councillors Not Seeking Re-election

The Mayor reported that Councillors J D Davies and Mrs Faulkner were not seeking re-election on 3rd May, 2012. Tributes were paid to the dedicated public service given by those Members and the Council expressed its best wishes for the future. Councillor Mrs Faulkner responded accordingly.

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That current progress with the 2011/12 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 Capital Programme be amended to include the additional costs of £15,000 for the Lister Road depot improvements, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted.
 - (3) That the Transforming our Workplace project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report now submitted.
 - (4) That the refurbishment of Ward House be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report now submitted.
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STOURBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN (AAP) – PUBLICATION STAGE

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Stourbridge Area Action Plan be approved in order that the document can be published, subjected to consultation and, along with representations received, be submitted to the Secretary of State.

- (2) That the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, be authorised to agree any minor changes to the document prior to its submission to the Secretary of State.
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DUDLEY BUSINESS LOAN FUND

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That an investment of £500,000, over a two-year period (2012/13 to 2013/14), be made to Black Country Reinvestment Society (BCRS), to create a local business loan fund to support small businesses in Dudley Borough and that this investment be matched by a further £500,000 of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) monies to create a business loan fund of £1 million.
- (2) That the Director of the Urban Environment and Director of Corporate Resources, or their nominated representative(s), be authorised to enter into negotiations and sign a formal contract with BCRS in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Finance.
- (3) That the capital element of the investment be included in the Capital Programme.
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PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

A report of the Development Control Committee was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor C Wilson, seconded by Councillor Wright and

RESOLVED

That the amended protocol for Public Speaking at the Development Control Committee, as set out in the Appendix to the report now submitted, be approved and incorporated into the Council's Constitution.

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.

Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest concerning the temporary closure of Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, Councillor Attwood left the meeting during a discussion arising from Delegated Decision Sheet No. 29. He re-joined the meeting following the response given by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture.

As this was the last ordinary meeting of the Council in the 2011/12 municipal year, the Mayor thanked all Members for their support during the year. He expressed best wishes to those Members who were seeking re-election on 3rd May, 2012.

The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

MAYOR