

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2011 AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY

PRESENT: -

Councillor Evans (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs Ameson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Adams, Ahmed, Ali, Miss Arshad, A Aston, Mrs Aston, Attwood, Banks, Barlow, Mrs Billingham, Blood, Body, Burston, Caunt, Cotterill, Miss Cowell, Mrs M Cowell, Crumpton, G H Davies, J D 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 Ridney, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rogers, Ryder, Mrs Shakespeare, Mrs Simms, Southall, Stanley, Taylor, A Turner, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, S. Turner, Vickers, Mrs Walker, Waltho, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson, Ms Wood, J Woodall, P 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 broadcast live on the Internet.

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

49 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Sparks and Mrs M Wilson.

50 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 Hanif and Lowe – Minute No. 28 of Stourbridge Area Committee (Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust) – Personal interests in view of Lay Membership of the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust and as an employee of Unison, respectively.

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Minute No. 32 of Stourbridge Area Committee (Capital Allocations) – Personal interest in view of her husband having been the original project manager in respect of the application from the 15th Stourbridge (Norton St Michael's Scout Group).

Councillor Burston – Minute No. 35 of Halesowen Area Committee (Regeneration of Cradley/Windmill Hill) – personal interest in references to partnership arrangements and negotiations as an employee of Centro.

Councillor Burston – Minute No. 39 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget) – personal and prejudicial interest as his wife was employed by Halas Homes and he had been involved in fund raising.

Councillor K Turner - Minute No. 39 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget) – personal interest relating to the Halesowen Golf Club application in view of him being a friend and associate of the Principal Professional.

Councillor K Turner - Minutes Nos. 29 (Emergency Services Issues) and 39 (Delegated Capital Budget) of Halesowen Area Committee - personal and prejudicial interests as a Member and Deputy Group Leader of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and relating to the application made by Stourbridge and Halesowen Age Concern as the Director of Stourbridge and Halesowen Age Concern and the Chairman of Halesowen Branch.

Councillor Hill – Minutes Nos. 37 (Earls High School Foundation – Final Accounts) and 38 (Earls High School Foundation Trust) of Halesowen Area Committee – personal interests as a School Governor.

Councillor James – Minutes Nos. 37 (Earls High School Foundation – Final Accounts) and 38 (Earls High School Foundation Trust) of Halesowen Area Committee – personal interests as a School Governor.

Councillor James – Minute No. 39 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget) - personal and prejudicial interest in the application made by Halesowen in Bloom as a Member of that Committee.

Councillor J Woodall – Minute No. 39 of Halesowen Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget) – personal interest in the application made by the Halas Ministry as a member of Halesowen Parish Church of St John the Baptist.

Councillor Mrs Ridley – Minute No.17 of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (reference to Newbridge House) – personal interest as the property was located in her ward.

Councillor Crumpton – Minute No. 20 of the Appeals Panel (Children's Services Transport) – personal interest as a relative worked as a supply teacher at schools in the Borough.

Councillor Southall – Minute No. 41 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P11/0270 - Greenhill Youth Centre, 221A Long Lane, Halesowen) – Personal interest as a Council Member of the Birmingham County Football Association.

Councillor C Wilson – Minute No. 41 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P11/1035 - 35 Field Lane, Oldswinford, Stourbridge) - personal and prejudicial interest as he knew the objectors.

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Minute No.17 of the Tree Preservation Orders Committee (Plan No. P11/0902 – Boundary Shared with 40 Hungerford Road and 148A Norton Road) - personal interest as a relative was a tree surgeon and had worked on the hedge in 2010.

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Minute No.22 of the Tree Preservation Orders Committee (Revocation of Tree Preservation Order) - personal interest as a relative was a tree surgeon and had previously worked in the area concerned.

Councillors Ali, Crumpton, Foster and Lowe – Minute No 54 of the Cabinet (Implementation of Single Status Grading and Pay Review) - personal interests in view of their employment and/or membership of the trade unions referred to.

Councillor Crumpton – Minute No.51 of the Cabinet (Localised Council Tax Rebate Scheme in England – Consultation) - Personal interest in view of his employment with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

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

Councillor Wright – Any references 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 Crumpton – All matters affecting schools – personal interest as a relative worked as a supply teacher.

Councillor Foster – Minutes of the Halesowen Area Committee and any references to fire station closures – personal and prejudicial interest in view of her employment with West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor A Aston – Any references to West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) – personal interest as an employee of WMAS.

Councillor Vickers – Agenda Item No. 6(a) (Capital Programme Monitoring and Other Budget Issues – Reference to improvements to the Grange Road Subway Halesowen) – personal interest as a ward Councillor and due to his close involvement with the Environment Agency in the planning and sourcing of the Local Levy Funding, as part of his duties as the Black Country Council's Representative on the Flood and Coastal Committee.

Councillor K Turner – Agenda Item 6(a) (Capital Programme Monitoring and Other Budget Issues) - personal interest in all references to Castle Hill Regeneration as a Trustee of Dudley Zoological Gardens.

Councillor Burston – Minute No. 30 of North Dudley Area Committee (references to Bus Services in North Dudley) – Personal interest on account of employment with Centro.

51 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October and of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 18th October, 2011 be approved as correct records and signed.

52 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Civic Carol Service

The Civic Carol Service would be held on 8th December, 2011 at All Saints Church, Sedgley.

(b) Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Charity Morning

This event would take place in the Mayor's Parlour on 9th December, 2011.

(c) Charity Christmas Raffle

The Mayor reported that tickets were on sale and expressed thanks for the support given to his Charity.

(d) Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day

The Mayor thanked everyone involved in the recent Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day arrangements.

(e) Mayor's Attendant

The Mayor placed on record his thanks to Mike Crannage who had successfully completed the Desert Challenge during October, 2011 in aid of the Mayor's Charity Fund.

53 PETITION – NEW BRADLEY HALL CARE HOME

Pursuant to the Council's Petition Scheme, a Petition for Debate containing in excess of 5,000 signatories was received and considered. The Petition was against the proposed closure of New Bradley Hall Care Home.

The Petition Organiser, Mr M Scott MBE, attended the meeting and addressed the Council.

Following the address by the Petition Organiser, the following motion was moved by Councillor L Jones and seconded by Councillor Wright:

“That the decision of the Cabinet at its meeting on 14th September, 2011, in so far as it relates to New Bradley Hall Care Home, be set aside pending a further report to the Cabinet on 7th December, 2011.”

Following a debate, pursuant to Council Procedure Rules, the motion was put to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED

That the decision of the Cabinet at its meeting on 14th September, 2011, in so far as it relates to New Bradley Hall Care Home, be set aside pending a further report to the Cabinet on 7th December, 2011.

54 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING AND OTHER BUDGET ISSUES

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That revenue budgets be amended to reflect the variances referred to in paragraph 5 of the report now submitted.
 - (2) That the recommendations of the Cabinet on staffing issues associated with the budget strategy for 2012/13, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted, be endorsed.
 - (3) That the works to the Grange Road Subway, Halesowen be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report now submitted.
 - (4) That the Castle Hill Regeneration Project be included in the Capital Programme, subject to confirmation of funding, as referred to in paragraph 8 of the report now submitted.
 - (5) That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report now submitted, be noted.
-

55 ANNUAL REPORT – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

A report of the Standards Committee was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

That the report and the action points set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 of the report now submitted be approved and adopted.

56 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES

A report of the Standards Committee was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

That the revised Code of Conduct for Employees, as set out in the Appendix to the report now submitted, be approved and adopted.

57 EARLS HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDTION TRUST

A report of Halesowen Area Committee was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

That the new Academy Trust be appointed as the sole corporate trustee of the Earls High School Foundation Trust Charity in place of the Council.

58 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 Mayor wished all Members and Officers a happy Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous new year.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.