

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

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

PRESENT: -

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

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Billingham, Casey, Duckworth, Hale, Lowe, Partridge, Roberts, Mrs Simms, C Wilson and M Wilson.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Wright – Minute No. 88 of the Development Control Committee (Plan No. P13/0316 – Rear of 34 Linnet Close, Halesowen and Plan No. P13/0260 – 20 Ferndale Park, Pedmore) - Non-pecuniary interests as the applicants were personally known to him as friends.

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Minutes of the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee – Non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Friends Group for Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common and in relation to her involvement with the Project Implementation Team – Heritage Lottery Bid for Mary Stevens Park.

Councillor Hanif – Minutes of the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee – Non-pecuniary interest as an attendee at meetings of Friends of Parks Groups.

Councillor K Turner – Note 7 of the Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum (Funding Application – Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of his involvement with the organisation.

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 worked as a supply teacher.

Councillor A Aston – All matters relating to West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) – Pecuniary interest as an employee of WMAS.

Councillor Boleyn – Minute No. 10(iv) of the Development Control Committee – Plan No. P12/0619 - Former Stuart Crystal Works - Pecuniary interest in view of employment as Secretary to the Trustees of British Glass Foundation.

Councillor Body - Agenda Item No. 5(b) (Capital Programme Monitoring and Other Budget Issues) – reference to Changing Rooms at Homer Hill Park, Cradley - Non-pecuniary interest as the Chair of the Friends of Homer Hill Park.

Councillor Vickers - Minute No. 40 of the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board – reference to Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and any references to mental health issues - Non-pecuniary interest as a stakeholder governor in the Trust.

Councillor Miller - Delegated Decision No. 60 – New Instrument of Government for Fairhaven Primary School - Non-pecuniary interest as Chairman of Governors.

18 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 16th May, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Environment Zone – Roberts Primary School

The Mayor reported that the Environment Zone, based at Roberts Primary School, had achieved the Keep Britain Tidy Group Green Flag status as part of the Eco-Centres Award. Following remarks by Councillor Crumpton, the Mayor presented the award to Mr G deSathmary and the Council expressed congratulations to all concerned regarding this achievement.

(b) Dr John Gilbert, Margaret Bowkley and George Davies

The Mayor referred in sympathetic terms to the recent deaths of Dr John Gilbert (Baron Gilbert of Dudley), former Councillor Margaret Bowkley and Councillor George Davies. The Council observed a period of silence as a token of respect to their memory. Members of the Council then paid individual tributes.

(c) Lister Road Golf Day

The Mayor reported that the Lister Road Golf Day on 24th May, 2013 had raised £135 for the Mayor's Charity Fund.

(d) Armed Forces Day

The Mayor expressed thanks to everyone involved in organising and supporting Armed Forces Day on 30th June, 2013.

(e) Forthcoming Events

The Mayor reported that:

- The Charity Cricket Match between Members and Officers had been postponed due to inclement weather on 28th June, 2013. A new date would be arranged in due course.
- The Annual Charity Football Tournament would be at Redhill School on 15th August, 2013.
- The Great Black Country Run would take place through Halesowen on 22nd September, 2013.
- A 'Spotlight' on Disability event would be held at Dudley Town Hall on 22nd October, 2013.
- The Civic Carol Service would be held on 18th December, 2013 at the Church of St Thomas, Dudley (Top Church).

20 COUNCIL PLAN 2013/16

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council Plan 2013/16 be endorsed and that the alignment of Cabinet priorities to Council Plan and Directorate Strategic Plans be noted.

21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING AND OTHER BUDGET ISSUES

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the 2013/14 General Fund revenue budget be amended to reflect:
 - the receipt of £0.511m of Council Tax Support Transitional Grant, as referred to in paragraph 5 of the report now submitted;
 - the net saving of £0.170m resulting from economies of scale in the provision of support services to Public Health, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted.
- (2) That a 50% Empty Homes Premium be implemented from 1st April, 2014 to properties that have been unoccupied for more than two years, as referred to in paragraph 7 of the report now submitted.
- (3) That the current progress with the 2013/14 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted, be noted.
- (4) That the budget for Disabled Facilities Grants be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report now submitted.
- (5) That up to £370,000 (subject to final negotiations on land value) be allocated to support the Cradley Extra Care Housing development and that this expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report now submitted.
- (6) That the additional Integrated Transport Authority capital funding be used to increase the Integrated Transport programme, and that the Capital Programme be amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report now submitted.
- (7) That the capital schemes to be funded from the disposal of the Gornal Wood Cemetery Lodge be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report now submitted.
- (8) That the construction of permanent changing rooms at Homer Hill Park, Cradley, be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report now submitted.
- (9) That the expenditure of £6.7m on the Dudley Market Place project be included in the Capital Programme, subject to approval of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report now submitted.

- (10) That the Corbyn Road site be retained for use as a base for a joint Children's Safeguarding Unit and frontline social work teams; that £945,000 of the forecast sale proceeds from the disposal of the Cradley High site be reallocated to contribute to the new Old Park school capital project; and that the cost of refurbishment of the Corbyn Road site of £1,300,000 (to be funded from 14-19/Special Educational Needs capital grant) be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 16 of the report now submitted.
- (11) That the loft conversion at a foster carer's property be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report now submitted.
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22 REVIEW OF HOUSING FINANCE

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Waltho, seconded by Councillor Hanif and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2013/14, as referred to in paragraphs 5 to 11 and Appendix 1 to the report now submitted, be approved.
- (2) That the revised Public Sector Housing capital programme for 2013/14 to 2017/18, as referred to in paragraphs 12 to 19 and Appendix 2 to the report now submitted, be approved.
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23 FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2013/14

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Hanif and

RESOLVED

That the Food Service Plan for 2013/14 be approved and adopted.

24 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 7.40 p.m.

MAYOR