

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH APRIL 2011
AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY**

PRESENT:-

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

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ahmed, Attwood, Hanif, Mrs D Harley, Mrs Roberts, Tyler, Waltho, Mrs M Wilson and Ms Wood.

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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:

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Minute No. 95 of Stourbridge Area Committee – Personal and Prejudicial Interest in view of her Chairmanship of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common.

Councillor K Turner – Minute No. 82 of Halesowen Area Committee – Personal Interest as a Member of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillor K Turner – Minute No. 90 of Halesowen Area Committee – Personal Interest as a Director of Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen and the Vice-Chairman of Age Concern Halesowen.

Councillor Burston – Minute No. 89 of Halesowen Area Committee – Personal Interest in view of him being employed by CENTRO.

Councillors Ali and K Finch – Minute No. 87 of Central Dudley Area Committee – Personal Interest as Members of Dudley Regeneration Partnership Board.

Councillors Crumpton, Mrs Dunn and Vickers – Minute No. 49 of the Select Committee on Children’s Services – Personal Interest as Members of the Appeals Panel (Children’s Services Transport).

Councillor Ms Harris – Minute No. 52 of the Select Committee on Children’s Services – Personal Interest in view of her being a School Governor.

Councillor Vickers – Minute No. 54 of the Select Committee on Children’s Services – Personal Interest as Chairman of the Management Committee of the Short Stay School Service.

Councillor Barlow – Minute No. 76 of the Development Control Committee – Planning Application No. P10/1429 (The Crown Centre, Stourbridge – Demolition of Existing Crown Centre and Multi-Storey Car Park and Construction of New Large Retail Store) - Personal and Prejudicial Interest as a Member of Stourbridge Institute Social Club and he had also publicly commented on and expressed views on the application.

Councillor Ryder – Minute No. 76 of the Development Control Committee – Planning Application No. P10/1652 – Hillcrest School and Community College, Simms Lane, Netherton - Personal and Prejudicial Interest in view of his son attending the School.

Councillor Wright – Minute No. 81 of the Development Control Committee – Planning Application No. P11/0138 - Jubilee Works, 91 – 95 King William Street, Amblecote - Personal and Prejudicial Interest in view of the applicant being known to him as a personal friend.

Councillor K Finch – Minute No. 26 of the Licensing and Safety Committee – Personal and Prejudicial Interest as a resident in the area affected by the Order referred to in the Minute.

Councillors Adams, Ali and L Jones – Minute No. 92 of the Cabinet – Personal Interest as Members of the Dudley Regeneration Partnership Board.

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

Councillor Burston - Agenda Item No. 5(b) – references to those aspects of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan involving input from the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority - Personal interest on account of employment with CENTRO.

Councillor Burston - Minute No. 80 of North Dudley Area Committee - Transport issues - Personal interest on account of employment with CENTRO.

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

Councillor Southall - Minute No. 92 of Stourbridge Area Committee (Capital Allocations - Specific reference to two football teams/clubs receiving monies for kit and equipment) - Personal interest as these may be affiliated to the Birmingham County Football Association of which he was a Council member.

Councillor Southall - Minute No. 84(6) of North Dudley Area Committee (Delegated Capital Budget - specific reference to a grant to Gornal Athletic Football Club) - Personal interest as the Club may be affiliated to the Birmingham County Football Association of which he was a Council member.

Councillor J R Davies - Minute No. 20 of the Appeals Panel (Children's Services Transport) - Home to School Transport Appeal – XD - Personal and prejudicial interest as the applicant was a relative.

Councillor J R Davies - Delegated Decision No. 8 - Approval of the Grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau for 2011/12 - Personal interest as colleagues worked in that organisation.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 28th February and 7th March and of the extraordinary meeting held on 22nd March, 2011 be approved as correct records and signed.

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MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Sycamore Adventure

The Mayor announced that the Sycamore Adventure had received a Civic Trust Award and the Mencap ME2 Award in recognition of services provided for children and young people in Dudley. Following remarks by Councillor Mrs Walker, the Mayor presented awards to representatives of the Sycamore Adventure.

(b) St George's Day Celebrations

The Mayor referred to the celebration of St. George's Day on 23rd April, 2011 and the events taking place in Dudley Town Centre.

(c) Charity Concert

The Mayor referred to the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir Charity Concert taking place on 11th May, 2011 at St Mary's Church, Kingswinford.

(d) Councillors Not Seeking Re-election

The Mayor reported that Councillors Mrs Blood, J R Davies and While-Cooper were not seeking re-election on 5th May, 2011. Tributes were paid to the dedicated public service given by those Members and the Council expressed its best wishes for the future.

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Millward, seconded by Councillor L Jones and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the New Homes Bonus funding for 2011/12 be allocated to support private sector housing grants, and that the Capital Programme be amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report now submitted.
 - (2) That the contribution of £94,000 to West Mercia Housing Group in respect of the affordable housing development at Middlepark Road, Russells Hall be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report now submitted.
 - (3) That the reduction in cost of the new Archive and Local History Centre be noted and the Capital Programme amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report now submitted.
 - (4) That the Sedgley Hall Farm Park brook course stabilisation project be approved and included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted.
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WEST MIDLANDS LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP3) - TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT AND PROPOSED TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12 – 2014/15

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That LTP3 be supported.
- (2) That the 2011/12 to 2014/15 block allocations be included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 19 - Table 4 of the report now submitted, and that for the Integrated Transport (IT) Block allocation the Cabinet Member for Transportation in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to approve the distribution of block allocations to headings.
- (3) That the approval of schemes within the funding block headings of the IT Block for 2011/12 to 2014/15 be agreed by the Director of the Urban Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transportation.
- (4) That budget virements as required between block headings contained within block allocations for 2011/12 to 2014/15 be agreed by the Director of the Urban Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transportation.
- (5) That a Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council bid and a joint Integrated Transport Authority/Metropolitan Local Authority bid for funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund be endorsed.

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 6.57 p.m.

MAYOR