

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL**  
**AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2014**  
**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, A Aston, Attwood, Baugh, Mrs Billingham, Bills, Blood, Body, Boleyn, Branwood, Burston, Casey, Caunt, Cotterill, Cowell, Crumpton, Elcock, Evans, K Finch, Foster, Hale, Hanif, Harley, Hemingsley, Herbert, Hill, Islam, James, J Jones, L Jones, Jordan, Kettle, Lowe, J Martin, Miller, Mottram, Ms Nicholls, Partridge, Perks, Ridley, 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, Wright and Zada, together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

**PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

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62      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Arshad, Duckworth, Harris, Marrey, Mrs P Martin and Woodall.

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63      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillors Hemingsley and Mrs Simms – Minute No. 17(1) of the Kingswinford North and Wall Heath/Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community Forum (Area Grants) – Non-pecuniary interests in relation to the funding application submitted by the Friends of Wordsley Park - as Members of the Committee.

Councillor Tyler – Minute No. 17(1) of the Kingswinford North and Wall Heath/Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community Forum (Area Grants) – Non-pecuniary interest in relation to the funding application submitted by Dawley Brook Supporters Association (Scout and Guides) in view of his wife being President of the Himley Division Guide Association.

Councillor Russell – Minute No. 28(1) of the Belle Vale/Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum (Community Forum Funding) – Non-pecuniary interest in relation to the funding application submitted by Hasbury Community Association as a Director on the Board of the Association.

Councillor Boleyn – Minute No. 26 of the Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee (Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report) – Non-pecuniary interest due to her employment by the Trustees of British Glass Foundation.

Councillor Zada – Minute No. 76 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Applications P14/0042 and P14/0043 – 43 Halesowen Road, Netherton) – Non-pecuniary interest as he knew the applicant.

Councillor Vickers – Minute No. 62 of the Cabinet (Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2014/15) – Non-pecuniary interest as the Chair of the Tenterfields Children’s Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Evans – Minute No. 62 of the Cabinet (Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2014/15) – Non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Advisory Board of the Queen Victoria Children’s Centre.

Councillors Evans and Sparks – Minute No. 77 of the Cabinet (Dudley Town Centre Regeneration) and associated matters - Non-pecuniary interests as Directors of Dudley Zoo.

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 – Any references to matters affecting West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) – Pecuniary interest as an employee of WMAS.

Councillors A Finch, M Aston and K Finch – Agenda Item No. 5(a) – Capital Programme Monitoring (Priory Park Improvements) – Non-pecuniary interests as attendees at meetings of the Friends of Priory Park.

Councillor Miller – Delegated Decision Summary 14 (New Instrument of Government for Glynne Primary School) – Non-pecuniary interest as a School Governor.

Councillor Burston – Minute No. 79 of the Cabinet (Rail Devolution) – Non-pecuniary interest due to employment with CENTRO.

Councillor S Turner – Any references to matters concerning Dudley College – Pecuniary interest in view of employment as a Lecturer.

Councillor Mrs Simms – Issues relating to Looked After Children – Non-pecuniary interest in view of working with independent foster carers who had Dudley children placed with them, through employment with St Christopher’s Fellowship.

Councillor Zada – Issues relating to Children, Young People and Families – Non-pecuniary interest as an employee of Black Country Partnership NHS Trust.

Councillor Boleyn – Any references to the British Glass Foundation – Pecuniary interest in view of her employment as Secretary to the Trustees.

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64 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2014, be approved as correct records and signed.

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65 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Sycamore Adventure - Old Park Farm Estate, Dudley

The Mayor reported that the Sycamore Adventure had received a National Playwork Award. Following remarks by Councillor Crumpton, the Mayor presented the award to representatives of the Sycamore Adventure and the Council expressed congratulations to all concerned regarding this outstanding achievement.

(b) Charity Cricket Match – 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2014

The Mayor reported that the Members and Officers Charity Cricket Match would be held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 at 6.00pm at Stourbridge Cricket Club.

(c) St George's Day Events – 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

The Mayor reported on the St George's Day celebrations and events in Brierley Hill Town Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.

(d) Mayor's Ball

The Mayor thanked everyone who had attended the Mayor's Ball and contributed to the Mayor's Charity Fund.

(e) Councillors Not Seeking Re-election

The Mayor reported that Councillors Burston, Ms Nicholls, Mrs Walker, C Wilson and Woodall were not seeking re-election on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2014. 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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66 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That current progress with the 2013/14 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variance.
- (2) That in respect of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, expenditure of £500,000 plus the value of any associated Homes and Communities Agency Grant be added to the public sector housing capital programme over 5 years, and that the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to acquire properties suitable for Mortgage Rescue on behalf of the Council, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.
- (3) That subject to the application for funding being successful the Schools Energy Efficiency project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report.
- (4) That the recommendations of the Cabinet concerning Dudley Town Centre Regeneration, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report, be approved.

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67 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD 2013/14

A report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board was submitted.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board thanked members and officers for their support in implementing the revised scrutiny arrangements during 2013/14.

It was moved by Councillor Ridley, seconded by Councillor Lowe and

RESOLVED

That the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for 2013/14 be received and noted.

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68 NOTICE OF MOTION

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12, Councillor K Turner had given notice of a motion on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.

The following motion was moved by Councillor K Turner and seconded by Councillor Mrs H Turner.

“This Council agrees to formation of adoption of Scrutiny and Statutory Committees to be chaired by opposition members, providing effective debate and response to Cabinet for their recommendations to Council.

We further agree that no Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to Chairman or Vice-Chairman of any Scrutiny or Statutory Committees.

We all agree that our principal aims in accepting election is to serve our constituents and these actions will demonstrate our true commitment.”

It was moved by Councillor L Jones, duly seconded and

RESOLVED

That the question be now put.

Councillor K Turner exercised his right of reply to the debate pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.9.

The original motion was thereupon put to the vote and lost.

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69

#### 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 7.10 p.m.

MAYOR