

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL  
AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 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, Arshad, A Aston, Attwood, Baugh, Mrs Billingham, Bills, Blood, Body, Boleyn, Branwood, Burston, Casey, Caunt, Cotterill, Cowell, Crumpton, Duckworth, Elcock, Evans, K Finch, Foster, Hale, Hanif, Harley, Harris, Hemingsley, Hill, Islam, James, J Jones, L Jones, Jordan, Kettle, Lowe, Marrey, J Martin, Miller, Mottram, Ms Nicholls, Perks, Ridney, Roberts, Mrs Rogers, Russell, Mrs Shakespeare, Sparks, Sykes, Taylor, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, Tyler, Vickers, Mrs Walker, Waltho, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson, 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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47      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Herbert, Mrs P Martin, Partridge, Mrs Simms, Mrs M Wilson, Wood and Woodall.

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48      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillor Vickers – Minutes Nos. 12 and 13 of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (Revenue Budget Strategy 2014/15 and Scrutiny of Children's Centres – Feedback) – Non-pecuniary interest as the Chair of the Management Committee for Tenterfields Children's Centre.

Councillor Marrey - Minutes Nos. 12 and 13 of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (Revenue Budget Strategy 2014/15 and Scrutiny of Children's Centres – Feedback) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of his son being in respite care.

Councillor Mrs Walker - Minutes Nos. 12 and 13 of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (Revenue Budget Strategy 2014/15 and Scrutiny of Children's Centres – Feedback) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of her daughter's employment in Special Educational Needs.

Councillor Cowell – Minute No. 35 of the Audit and Standards Committee (Review of Current Corporate Risks and Corporate Risk Scrutiny) - Non-pecuniary interest as a Dudley Council Tenant.

Councillor Casey – Minute No. 48 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P13/0677 – 7 Straits Road, Lower Gornal) - Non-pecuniary interest as he knew the applicant.

Councillor Mrs Westwood – Minute No. 48 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P13/0677 – 7 Straits Road, Lower Gornal) - Non-pecuniary interest as she knew the owners and was also employed by them.

Councillor Wright – Minute No. 48 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P13/0677 – 7 Straits Road, Lower Gornal) - Non-pecuniary interest as he knew the applicant.

Councillor C Wilson – Minute No. 55 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P13/1317 – 38 Ferndale Park, Pedmore, Stourbridge) - Non-pecuniary interest as he knew the objector.

Councillor C Wilson – Minute No. 55 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P13/1448 – 8 Redlake Drive, Pedmore, Stourbridge) - Non-pecuniary interest as he knew the objector.

Councillor C Wilson – Minute No. 55 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P13/1453 – 36 Swindell Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge) - Non-pecuniary interest as he knew the objectors.

Councillor C Wilson – Minute No. 60 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P13/1340 – 98 Vicarage Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge) - Non-pecuniary interest as he was a friend of the applicant.

Councillor Taylor – Minute No. 60 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application P13/1781 – McDonalds, Bromsgrove Road, Halesowen) - Non-pecuniary interest as he had submitted a written objection prior to the meeting.

Councillor Casey – Minute No. 64 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Applications P13/1751 and P13/1758 – Dudley College) - Non-pecuniary interest as he had detailed discussions regarding the applications.

Councillor C Wilson – Minutes of the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee (Mary Stevens Hospice) – Non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of the Hospice.

Councillor Cowell – Minutes of the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee (Mary Stevens Hospice) – Non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of the Hospice.

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Minutes of the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee (Project Implementation Team – Heritage Lottery Bid for Mary Stevens Park and attendance at stakeholder meetings) - Non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Friends Group for Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common.

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 West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) – Pecuniary interest as an employee of WMAS.

Councillors A Finch, Mrs M Aston and K Finch – Agenda Item No. 5(c) - Deployment of Resources – Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital – Non pecuniary interests as members of North Priory Project Board.

Councillor 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 Mrs M Aston – Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (references to Children’s Centres) – Non pecuniary interest as a Member on the Committee for Priory Children’s Centre.

Councillor Taylor – Any references to Children’s Centres – Pecuniary interest as his daughter was employed in a Children’s Centre.

Councillors Evans and Caunt – Any references to Queen Victoria’s Children’s Centre – Non-pecuniary interest as members of the Advisory Board.

Councillor Caunt – Any reference to a grant application from Fellows, Morton and Clayton Ltd. – Non-pecuniary interest as Chairman of the Company.

Councillor Burston – Agenda Item No. 5(a) – Capital Programme Monitoring (Better Bus Area Fund) – Non-pecuniary interest due to employment with CENTRO.

Councillor Burston – Action Notes of Kingswinford North, Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community Forum (Reference to 205 bus route) - Non-pecuniary interest due to employment with CENTRO.

Councillor Burston – Action Notes of Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum (References to Halesowen bus lanes and CENTRO budget Savings) – Non pecuniary interest due to employment with CENTRO.

Councillor Burston – Action Notes of Brierley Hill and Brockmoor and Pensnett Community Forum (Reference to Tennyson Street bus diversion) – Non pecuniary interest due to employment with CENTRO.

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

Councillor Hanif – Agenda Item No. 5(a) – Capital Programme Monitoring (Better Bus Area Fund) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of involvement with CENTRO.

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49 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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50 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Death of Honorary Alderman Cyril Woodall MBE

The Mayor referred in sympathetic terms to the recent death of Honorary Alderman Cyril Woodall MBE. The Council observed a period of silence as a token of respect to his memory. Members of the Council then paid individual tributes.

(b) Mayor's Ball

The Council noted that the Mayor's Ball would be held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill.

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51 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 the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation for 2014/15 be noted and the associated expenditure funded from this and other available Housing capital resources be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
- (3) That the revised funding for the Tiled House Lane Residential Home project be approved, and the Capital Programme amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.

- (4) That it be noted that the programme to be funded from Adult Personal Social Services Capacity Grant this year includes £17,000 of expenditure on fire safety compliance work at Halesowen Library, and also that the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be authorised to allocate such funding for similar purposes, as appropriate, within the overall objectives of the grant allocations, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
- (5) That the revised project for provision of an MOT Testing Facility be approved, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.
- (6) That the project to renew all Pay and Display machines be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.
- (7) That the Better Bus Area project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.
- (8) That the Schools Basic Need allocations for 2015/16 and 2016/17 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report.
- (9) That the Schools Capital Maintenance allocation for 2015/16 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report.
- (10) That the Schools Devolved Capital allocation for 2015/16 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report.
- (11) That the Universal Infant Free School Meals allocation be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 16 of the report.
- (12) That the Prudential Indicators as required to be determined by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Local Government Act 2003, as set out in Appendix C to the report, be approved.
- (13) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2013/14 be approved as set out in paragraph 20 of the report.

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52 ADOPTION OF THE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS CODE OF CONDUCT –  
PLANNING MATTERS

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

**RESOLVED**

That the amended Members and Officers Code of Conduct for Planning Matters be approved and adopted.

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53 DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING CAPITAL

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2013/14 and the HRA budget for 2014/15, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (2) That the public sector housing revised capital budget for 2013/14 and the capital budget for 2014/15 to 2018/19, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- (3) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to bid for and enter into funding arrangements for additional resources to supplement investment in the public sector housing stock as outlined in paragraphs 25 and 26 of the report.
- (4) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety, be authorised to manage and allocate resources to the capital programme as outlined in paragraph 27 of the report.
- (5) That the continued use of all capital receipts arising from the sale of HRA assets (other than those specifically committed to support private sector housing) for the improvement of council homes, as set out in paragraph 27 of the report, be confirmed.

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54 DUDLEY BUSINESS INVESTMENT ZONE

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval be given to the creation of a Dudley Business Investment Zone at the Waterfront area of Brierley Hill from the start of the 2014/15 financial year.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration be authorised to determine the composition of the Management Board.

- (3) That the Directors of the Urban Environment and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Finance, be authorised to:
    - (a) Negotiate and enter into the required legal agreements for the Dudley Business Investment Zone.
    - (b) Create appropriate delegations for the financial administration of the Dudley Business Investment Zone.
    - (c) Update and amend the draft management framework.
    - (d) Amend the Council's discretionary rate relief policy to allow the reduction in business rates for businesses within the designated area for the Dudley Business Investment Zone, as detailed in the report.
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55 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

A report of the Audit and Standards Committee was submitted.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the treasury activities in 2013/14, as outlined in the report, be noted.
  - (2) That the Treasury Strategy 2014/15, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
  - (3) That the Treasurer be authorised to effect such borrowings, repayments and investments as are appropriate and consistent with the approved Treasury Strategy and relevant guidance.
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56 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 8.00 p.m.

MAYOR