

## **BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 24 June, 2010 at 6.30 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford.**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillors I.T.W. Fletcher (Speaker & Mayor), D.G. Allen, G. Ashcroft, D.W.D. Ashley, R.K. Austin, R. Aveley, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, D.R. Chaplin, R.G. Chaplin, E.A. Clare, N.A. Dugmore, J.A. Dixon, A.J. Eade (Leader), V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, G.M. Green, E.J. Greenaway, Y.C. Hicks, P.A.E. Homer, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, G.P. Hossell, S.M. Kelly, A. Lawrence, L. Lomax, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, A.A. Meredith, C.P.R. Mollett, R.A. Overton, F.R. Picken, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, J.M. Seymour, C.F. Smith, M.J. Smith, A.J. Stanton, E.M. Swift, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, V. Tonks, R.M. Tyler, H.J. Unwin, D.R.W. White, A.G.P. Williams, H.J. Williams and D.G. Wright

#### **20. PRAYERS**

Father Bill Fitzgerald, Priest of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Donnington, led Members in prayer.

#### **21. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Annual Council held on 20 May 2010, be confirmed and signed by the Speaker.

#### **22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors R.E. Groom, R.T. Kiernan, A.A. Mackenzie and J.C. Minor.

#### **23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors R.K. Austin, S. Bentley, S.P. Burrell, N.A. Dugmore, I.T.W. Fletcher, V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, E.J. Greenaway, M.B. Hosken, C.N. Mason, C.P.R. Mollett, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, C.F. Smith, A. Stanton, K.L. Tomlinson and H.J. Unwin declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (i), Appendix IV, Financial Out Turn Report 2009/10.

Councillors E.A. Clare and C.N. Mason declared a personal interest in agenda item 10, Change of Name of Lilleshall & Donnington Parish Council. Councillor D.R.W. White declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 10, Change of Name of Lilleshall & Donnington Parish Council.

#### **24. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **(a) Mayoral Engagements**

The Mayor briefly updated Members on his recent engagements. He particularly drew attention to his attendance at the Freedom of the Borough Ceremony on 29 May. Despite the weather it had been a magnificent day for the Borough.

**(b) Presentations/Awards**

i) The Mayor invited Miss Zoe Wales to speak to Members about the Children in Care Pledge. Speaking on behalf of herself and of other young people in care, she told Members that she was very appreciative of the Children in Care Pledge and in particular the commitment to listen to young people's views. She hoped that the pledge would help to further improve the lives of young people in care.

Councillor S.P. Burrell, Cabinet Member: Children & Young People, told Members that the pledge had been put together by the young people themselves. He looked forward to working with all those involved in order to help improve outcomes and prospects for children in care.

**25. REPORT OF LEADER**

Councillor A.J. Eade, Leader of the Council, told Members that, following reductions to the Revenue Support Grant, additional savings were required from the current year's budget. He told Members that the Council's savings package would include Members' allowances. A report had been commissioned and would be undergoing further scrutiny by the controlling group before a decision was made. Members' allowances would be discussed at an additional Council meeting which would look at the overall implementation of savings.

The South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the Telford & Wrekin Primary Care Trust were due to commence a consultation on the future provision of mental health services for Telford & Wrekin in July. The construction of modern in-patient facilities was welcomed, however, the model of service delivery, and in particular the reduction of available beds would need to be both safe and sustainable. Any consultation would need to be comprehensive and address all the concerns raised by this Council and not result in increased demand and consequent costs for the Council.

A seminar had recently been held, illustrating how the Telford Railfreight facility worked. The Leader, together with Councillor E.J. Carter, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Prosperity, had outlined the benefits of using the facility for local companies. As a result, Makita Manufacturing had subsequently agreed to ship out a consignment of over 2,000 power tools from the new facility at the end of June.

A letter had been received from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government confirming that the Corporate Area Assessment work would cease immediately. The Leader told Members that this would save

money on the cost of inspections and also on the significant officer time that went in to preparing for such inspections.

**26. CABINET DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Members received the report on the Cabinet decisions made since the last meeting of the Council on 29 April, 2010.

**27. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OUT-TURN REPORTS 2009/10**

**(I) Financial Out-Turn Report 2009/10**

Councillor S.M. Kelly, Cabinet Member: Efficient, Community Focussed Council, presented the report of the Head of Finance. The report sought Members' approval for the Revenue outturn position together with related virements, the capital outturn position and related supplementary estimates and slippage. The report also asked Members to note performance against income targets. He told Members that gross revenue budget for 2009/10 was £386m, the net budget, for reporting purposes, was just over £125m. The revenue outturn position was within budget with a final net underspend of £0.332m, which was a small improvement from the last monitoring report. Council Tax. Business Rates and Sales Ledger Income all ended the year with collection rates ahead of target. A question was addressed to the Leader of the Council, asking that consideration be given to deferring or cancelling some of the planned capital expenditure in the face of severe budget restrictions and an uncertain economic outlook. Councillor A.J. Eade, Leader of the Council told Members that capital expenditure was continually reviewed. He told Members that his administration was committed to doing all they could to deliver capital investment in to the Borough.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) that Members approve the Revenue outturn position and related virements in Appendix III for 2009/10 which is subject to audit by the Council's external auditors;**
- b) that Members approve the Capital outturn position and related supplementary estimates and slippage in Appendix IV as summarised in the report;**
- c) that Members note performance against income targets.**

**(ii) Treasury Management – 2009/10 Out-Turn and 2010/11 to date**

Councillor S.M. Kelly, Cabinet Member: Efficient, Community Focussed Council, presented the report of the Head of Finance. The report asked Members to note the contents of the report, the Council's response to the economic climate and performance against prudential indicators. Councillor Kelly asked Members to note that there was a typographical error in the

report, the figure for net indebtedness at 31 March 2010 as shown in the table on page 2 should have read (49.265) The corrected Treasury Management table is shown below:

	<u>31 March 2010</u>		<u>31 March 2009</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Rate</u>
	<u>£m</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>%</u>
Borrowing	<u>123.076</u>	3.86	<u>189.123</u>	4.03
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b><u>123.076</u></b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b><u>189.123</u></b>	<b>4.03</b>
Investments - in-house	54.000	4.51	84.507	6.02
- with external managers	<u>19.811</u>	1.27	<u>58.397</u>	6.24
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b><u>73.811</u></b>	<b>3.64</b>	<b><u>142.904</u></b>	<b>6.11</b>
<b>Net Indebtedness</b>	<b><u>(49.265)</u></b>		<b><u>(46.219)</u></b>	

**RESOLVED:**

- a) that Members note the contents of the report;
- b) that Members note the Council's response to the economic climate;
- c) that Members note the performance against prudential indicators

**28. NEW SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS/POLITICAL BALANCE**

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Head of Governance. The report sought approval for new Scrutiny arrangements and the necessary changes to the Council's constitution. The report also sought the appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice-Chairman to seven Scrutiny Committees and the appointment of a Chairman of the Scrutiny Assembly.

Councillor C.F. Smith, under section 12 (l) of the Council Procedure Rules, moved that the debate be adjourned as Members had only recently received the report. Councillor R.K. Austin seconded the motion. Following a vote the motion to adjourn the debate was defeated.

Councillor C.F. Smith moved an amendment to recommendation 2.1 of the report, which dealt with the number of Members for each of the proposed Committees. The proposed amendment to the recommendation read as follows:

*'That the membership of each of the 7 Council Priority Scrutiny Committees be as recommended by the Interim Scrutiny Committee on 8 June 2010.'*

Councillor R.K. Austin seconded the amendment. A robust debate followed and a recorded vote was requested. The votes were as follows:

For: (24)

Councillors D.G. Allen, G. Ashcroft, R.K. Austin, K.T. Blundell, E.A. Clare, G.M. Green, Y.C. Hicks, P.A.E. Homer, L. Lomax, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, R.A. Overton, F.R. Picken, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, C.F. Smith, M.J. Smith, E.M. Swift, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, V. Tonks, D.R.W. White, A.G.P. Williams, H.J. Williams.

Against: (26)

Councillors D.W.D. Ashley, R. Aveley, S. Bentley, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, D.R. Chaplin, R.G. Chaplin, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, J.A. Dixon, I.T.W. Fletcher, V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, E.J. Greenaway, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, G.P. Hossell, S.M. Kelly, A. Lawrence, A.A. Meredith, C.R.P. Mollett, J.M. Seymour, A. Stanton, R.M. Tyler, H.J. Unwin, D.G. Wright.

The amendment to recommendation 2.1 in the report (Appendix F) was defeated. A debate then followed on the proposed new Scrutiny arrangements. A number of Members expressed reservations over whether the proposals would make Scrutiny more effective. A number of Members were strongly in favour of the proposals, noting that they considered Scrutiny would operate more effectively than it had done previously. The recommendations were voted upon and it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- a) **That the membership of each of the 7 Council Priority Scrutiny Committees have a maximum membership of 6 members;**
- b) **that the nominations for the membership of each of the 7 Scrutiny Committees be approved, as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes;**
- c) **that the Chairman of each of the 7 Scrutiny Committees be approved, as set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes, and that Vice Chairmen be appointed at the first meeting of each Scrutiny Committee;**
- d) **that Councillor V.A. Fletcher be appointed Chairman of the Scrutiny Assembly;**
- e) **that the proposed changes to Part 4 – Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules, as shown at Annex C of the report, be approved;**
- f) **that the consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the new Scrutiny arrangements, as shown at Annex D of the report, be approved;**
- g) **that responsibility for the Statutory Health Scrutiny function, including the appointment of members and co-optees to any Joint Health Scrutiny arrangements be moved from the Adult Care & Support Scrutiny Committee to the Active Lifestyles – Leisure &**

**Culture Scrutiny Committee and paragraph 2.7 of Part 4 – Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules be amended accordingly;**

- h) that the voting scheme for co-opted members of the Joint Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Annex E of the report, be confirmed.**

**29. CHANGE OF NAME OF LILLESHALL & DONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Speaker presented the report of the Head of Governance which sought approval for the proposed change of Parish name to Lilleshall, Donnington & Muxton Parish Council. The Licensing Committee had approved publication of final proposals in April following the Community Governance Review of Lilleshall & Donnington.

**RESOLVED -**

- a) that delegated authority was granted to the Head of Governance to prepare and seal the required Re-organisation Order to affect the change in the current name of Lilleshall & Donnington Parish Council to Lilleshall, Donnington & Muxton Parish Council in accordance with Section 75, Local Government Act 1972;**
- b) that the Council published notification of the change of the Parish name and sent notification to the Secretary of State, to the Director General of the Ordnance Survey and to the Registrar General.**

**30. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

- i) Changes to Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules**

The Speaker presented the report (attached at Appendix H) of the Head of Governance which sought approval for a number of changes to the Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules within the Constitution. The recommendations contained within the report had been approved by Council Constitution Committee on 8 June 2010.

**RESOLVED –**

- a) that the changes to Part 4 – Section 6 (Financial Regulations) as shown in Annex A of the report be approved;**
- b) that the changes to Part 4 – Section 7 (Contract Procedure Rules) as set out in Annex B of the report be approved subject to the addition of the words “and Finance Manager” within the section in relation to the Special Exemptions from the Contract Procedure Rules for contracts between £5,000 and 50,000.**

### **31. MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Council noted the resolved minutes of the Plans Board for 21 April and 12 May 2010, of the Audit Committee of 30 March 2010, of the Licensing Committee of 30 March, 1 April, 15 April and 5 May 2010 and of the Standards Board of 25 March 2010.

### **32. QUESTIONS**

The following Questions were asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10:

1. Councillor H. Rhodes had submitted the following question:

“Could the Cabinet Member for Active Lifestyles please inform me what the take-up was for free swimming for under 19s and Over 60s in Telford and Wrekin and is he disappointed by the coalition government’s recent decision to cut this funding?”

Councillor S. Bentley, Cabinet Member: Active Lifestyles – Leisure & Culture agreed to provide a written answer.

2. Councillor C.F. Smith had submitted the following question:

Since April 2009 what has been the cost of the temporary repairs and pothole filling in Wombridge Road Trench?

Councillor A. Lawrence told Members that £5,500 had been spent since 2009 on that particular road.

In response, Councillor Smith asked if the work could be brought forward as the road was in poor condition and was a busy bus route.

Councillor A. Lawrence, Cabinet Member: Environment & Rural Area, said that he would discuss with the relevant officers and respond to Councillor Smith.

3. Councillor C.F. Smith had submitted the following question:

“In the 2010 General Highway Improvement Plan (Patching Lining and Signing). What works are proposed for the Wrockwardine Wood and Trench ward?”

Councillor A. Lawrence, Cabinet Member: Environment & Rural Area provided a written response to Councillor Smith.

4. Councillor R.K Austin had submitted the following question:

“Can the Leader confirm when we can expect the report of the 'Remuneration Panel' for consideration by Council, given that it should have been on the agenda at this Council meeting?”

Councillor A.J. Eade, Leader of the Council, stated that this would be on the agenda of an additional Council meeting in July which would deal with the overall implementation of savings.

In response, Councillor R.K. Austin asked whether the Leader would accept the findings of the Remuneration Report when it came before Council.

Councillor Eade replied that a view would be taken after careful consideration by the controlling group and a decision would be made at that time.

5. Councillor A.D. McClements had submitted the following question:

“Could the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People please confirm the figure that this coalition government is making in cuts to Children’s Services at Telford and Wrekin and the specific areas where these cuts are being made?”

Councillor S.P. Burrell, Cabinet Member: Children & Young People, agreed to provide a written answer.

In response, Councillor McClements asked whether the Cabinet Member would condemn the government’s cuts of £1.492 m

Councillor Burrell replied that the coalition government was taking necessary steps to reduce borrowing and he would not condemn this.

6. Councillor R.K Austin had submitted the following question:

“Can the Cabinet Member for CYP confirm that the BSF funding for Telford and Wrekin is assured for all the secondary schools in Telford & Wrekin?”

Councillor S.P. Burrell, Cabinet Member: Children & Young People, said that no budget cuts had been made affecting BSF since the change of government.

In response Councillor Austin asked if Councillor Burrell was sure funding for the Phoenix school project was sustainable?

Councillor Burrell said nothing had changed and that the project was both sustainable and deliverable.

**33. NOTICES OF MOTION**

No motions were received.

The meeting ended at 8.49 p.m.

**Speaker:** .....

**Date:** .....

## APPENDIX 1 MEMBERSHIP OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

<b>Adult Care &amp; Support Scrutiny Committee</b>	
Cllr R.G.Chaplin Cllr N.G. Dugmore Cllr V.A. Fletcher Cllr K.S. Sahota Cllr M.J. Smith Cllr K.L. Tomlinson	Conservative Conservative Conservative Labour Labour Lib Dem/Independent
<b>Efficient &amp; Community Focussed Council Scrutiny Committee</b>	
Cllr D.R. Chaplin Cllr L. Lomax Cllr A.D. McClements Cllr A.A. Meredith Cllr C.P.R. Mollett Cllr W.L. Tomlinson	Conservative Labour Labour Conservative Conservative Lib Dem/Independent
<b>Community Protection &amp; Cohesion Scrutiny Committee</b>	
Cllr D.G. Allen Cllr R.T. Kiernan Cllr A.A. Mackenzie Cllr A.A. Meredith Cllr K.L. Tomlinson Cllr H.J. Unwin	TAWPA Conservative Labour Conservative Lib Dem/Independent Conservative
<b>Housing, Regeneration &amp; Prosperity Scrutiny Committee</b>	
Cllr T.J. Hope Cllr R.A. Overton Cllr R.M.Tyler Cllr H.J. Unwin Cllr D.R.W. White Cllr H.J. Williams	Conservative Labour Conservative Conservative Labour TAWPA
<b>Active Lifestyles, Leisure &amp; Culture Scrutiny Committee</b>	
Cllr K.T. Blundell Cllr R.G.Chaplin Cllr V.A. Fletcher Cllr J.A. Francis Cllr C.N. Mason Cllr F.R. Picken	Lib Dem/Independent Conservative Conservative Conservative Labour Labour

## **Environment & Rural Areas Scrutiny Committee**

Cllr R. Aveley	Conservative
Cllr R.E. Groom	Lib Dem/Independent
Cllr T.J. Hope	Conservative
Cllr R.T. Kiernan	Conservative
Cllr C.F. Smith	Labour
Cllr E.M. Swift	Labour

## **Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee**

Cllr E.A. Clare	Labour
Cllr J.A. Dixon	Conservative
Cllr G.M. Green	Lib Dem/Independent
Cllr Y.C. Hicks	Labour
Cllr C.P.R. Mollett	Conservative
Cllr A.J. Stanton	Conservative

## APPENDIX 2 CHAIRMEN OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES & ASSEMBLY

<b>Scrutiny Assembly</b>
Cllr V.A. Fletcher
<b>Adult Care &amp; Support Scrutiny Committee</b>
Cllr R.G. Chaplin
<b>Efficient &amp; Community Focussed Council Scrutiny Committee</b>
Cllr C.P.R. Mollett
<b>Community Protection &amp; Cohesion Scrutiny Committee</b>
Cllr A.A. Meredith
<b>Housing, Regeneration &amp; Prosperity Scrutiny Committee</b>
Cllr H.J. Unwin
<b>Active Lifestyles, Leisure &amp; Culture Scrutiny Committee</b>
Cllr V.A. Fletcher
<b>Environment &amp; Rural Areas Scrutiny Committee</b>
Cllr T.J. Hope
<b>Children &amp; Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Cllr A.J. Stanton