

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of a meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 2 May, 2013 at 6.30 p.m. at Telford College of Arts & Technology, Wellington, Telford.

PRESENT:

Councillors K.R. Guy (Mayor), S. Bentley, F.M. Bould, E.J. Carter, E.A. Clare, D.G. Davies, S. Davies, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, R.C. Evans, I.T.W. Fletcher, V.A. Fletcher, G.M. Green, E.J. Greenaway, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, M.G. Ion, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, J. Loveridge, A.A. Mackenzie, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, W.A.M. McClements, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray, A.A. Meredith, R.A. Overton, F.R. Picken, J. Pinter, S.A.W. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota (Leader), J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith, M.J. Smith, A.J. Stanton, B.J. Thompson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.R.W. White.

83. LORD NORTHFIELD

Members observed a minutes silence in tribute to life peer Lord Northfield who had recently passed away. Councillor K.S. Sahota, Leader of the council, told the meeting that Lord Northfield had previously been Chairman of Telford Development Corporation between 1975 and 1987. His contribution to the development of the modern Telford had been immense.

84. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 March 2013, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors R.K. Austin, K.T. Blundell, S.P. Burrell, C.B.A. Elliott, A.S. Jhawar, J.C. Minor, G.C.W. Reynolds, R.G. Scammell, K.L. Tomlinson and W.L. Tomlinson.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

87. LEADER'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader paid tribute to the Mayor's excellent work during his year in office. The Leader told the meeting that his administration was focussed on a number of key priorities which would make Telford a destination for people to live and work and a town that would attract investment. At the same time, public spending cuts had meant that the council would need to continue to work hard to reduce dependence on grant funding.

He drew members' attention to the recent official reopening of Telford Ice Rink. The recent launch of the Telford Loyalty Card had been a great success. The card was a new way of helping residents to get more active, save money and also keep money in the local economy. The card was free and would save cardholders

money on activities at all Council leisure facilities. More than 80 local businesses had already signed up to the scheme and would offer a variety of discounts at shops and services across the borough.

88. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor told the meeting that the recent Mayor's Ball, held at Madeley Court Hotel, had been a huge success. £4.5k had been raised towards the Mayor's 'Caring for our future' appeal. The Mayor thanked all involved for their help and support.

Many apprentices, joined by mentors; colleagues; members of the senior management team; councillors and the Mayor, had taken part in cycling the distance from the Princess Royal Hospital to London – up to 170 miles in two days; using exercise bicycles provided by the Leisure Services team at Stirchley.

The bike ride had taken place outside Mark's & Spencer/Primark in Dean Street, Telford Town Centre to raise money for the Mayor's charity appeal.

He urged members to support the 'From here to Maternity' walk which was taking place on 10 May. The walk would cover a 17 mile route between the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital.

89. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No valid questions received.

90. 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 7 March, 2013.

Councillor E.J.Carter, referring to item 2.1.8 of the report on the Marches Local Transport Body asked Councillor H. Rhodes, Cabinet Member: Transport & Community Protection, if the body would link to the Strategic Rail Group and help to progress a direct rail link with London and the M54/M6 link. Councillor Carter, referring to item 2.2.8 of the report, also asked for an update on progress on Woodside centre. Councillor C.F. Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development replied that occupancy of shops in the centre had been slower than anticipated due to the current economic climate.

Councillor N.A. Dugmore, referring to item 2.2.5 of the report on changes arising from the Health & Social Care Act, asked what arrangements were in place to keep schools notified on public health issues. Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, replied that the Director of Children & Family Services and the Health & Wellbeing Board would work together with Head Teachers.

91. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET

Medium Term Council Plan and Community Strategy

The Leader of the council presented the report refreshed Medium Term Council Plan and new community strategy 'Shaping our Future: Our Journey to 2020' for review and approval. Members raised a number of questions and there was a brief debate. Following a vote it was

RESOLVED -that the Medium Term Council Plan and Community Strategy be approved.

92. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

(a) 16 April Council Constitution Committee – Changes to the Constitution

Councillor M.J. Smith, Chairman of the Council Constitution Committee, presented the recommendations from the meeting held on 16 April 2013 in relation to revisions to the Constitution. The recommendations were listed a) to c) on the agenda sheet. Attached to the agenda was the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection that had been considered by the Constitution Committee.

Councillor C.F. Smith moved an amendment to the report which had been tabled. The amendment was in five parts

- a) Council Rules, section 1, deleted reference to Speaker and replaced with Mayor
- b) Council rules , section 2, addition of point clarifying that the Mayor does not sit on any committees
- c) Rules of Debate, section 3.1, deletion of table footnotes and replacement with full written rules of debate.
- d) Terms of Reference for Plans Board and Appeals Committee remain unchanged until each body discusses any future changes and makes recommendations to Constitution Committee
- e) Additional Recommendation

That the Assistant Director Law, Democracy & Public Protection, be tasked with merging the Council rules from the original constitution document in to the new constitution document and that a further report be brought back to council for approval

The amendment was seconded by Councillor I.T.W. Fletcher. The amendments were agreed unanimously and the amended report was approved. It was

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the amended parts of the Constitution, subject to the amendments shown above, as shown at Appendices 1 to 4 of the report, be approved for implementation with effect from the Annual Meeting on 23 May 2013, subject to inclusion of any further minor changes**

- identified by the Monitoring Officer following consultation with the Chair of the Constitution Committee;
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to insert Access to Information Rules and notes on Key Decisions into the Constitution to reflect the legal position in respect of these matters;
 - (c) that authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Constitution Committee, to make further minor amendments that may be required to introduce the new Constitution, and ensure that it is loaded onto the internet as appropriate – including with any links or definitions that may be required to best explain the Constitution.
 - (d) That the Assistant Director Law, Democracy & Public Protection, be tasked with merging the Council rules from the original constitution document in to the new constitution document and that a further report be brought back to council for approval

93. UPDATE ON BOROUGH BOUNDARY REVIEW

Councillor R.J. Sloan, Chairman of the Boundary Review Committee, presented an update on progress of the review of ward boundaries by the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC). Councillor Sloan thanked the members of the committee and Councillor E.J. Greenaway together with officers for their work on the council's submission. The submission, for 33 wards represented by 55 councillors, had been unanimously agreed.

LGBC draft recommendations were due to be published on 18 June. These recommendations would provide a proposed warding pattern for further consultation. Maps of the council's proposed wards have been uploaded to the website and a link sent to councillors.

94. MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Council noted the resolved minutes of Boards and Committees:

Audit Committee	26 March
CYP Scrutiny	12 March
Constitution Committee	16 April
Licensing Committee	13 and 26 March
Plans Board	27 February, 20 March & 10 April
Scrutiny Management Board	18 January

95. QUESTIONS

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

- a) Councillor I.T.W. Fletcher asked the following question of Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families.

“Consultation in 2011-12 on the new Faith School resulted in the residents clearly stating that any access to the school should be directly off Castle Farm Way. Please state why the proposed access in your latest proposals is now off Teece Drive through the middle of extensive housing developments.”

Councillor Watling replied that he had not been able to find a reference to accessing the new school on the Celestica site from Castle Farm Way. At the time of the meetings, the proposed school site, which the previous administration was recommending, was to be off Salisbury Ave. The council had listened to the local residents and agreed that this was not the best site for the school. Officers had spent a huge amount of time finding and securing a more appropriate site for the School. The information session held in February showed the access to be along Teece Drive. This route had been selected as it would provide direct access to the new school and because it would keep to a minimum the effect on local residents. In addition and importantly, the landowner would not agree to a permanent vehicle access to the school across the Celestica site. As part of the scheme development, traffic surveys and modelling would be carried out and, if necessary, new road junctions would be designed to cope with additional traffic.

Councillor Fletcher asked if Councillor Watling would look at access across the Celestica site. Councillor Watling reaffirmed that the landowner would not agree to a permanent vehicle access to the school across the Celestica site.

96. NOTICES OF MOTION

a) Councillor M.B. Hosken moved, in accordance with Council procedure rule 11, the following motion:

“This Council regrets the decision to scrap one Civic Amenity site in the borough and reduce the opening hours of the remainder by two days every week which not only inconveniences residents across the borough but will ultimately have a detrimental impact on the environment and hinder attempts to increase recycling levels.

Consequently this Council calls on the Labour Administration to reinstate full opening of Civic Amenity Sites and investigate alternative cost saving measures”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor S.Bentley.

Following a debate during which a number of views were expressed it was moved and seconded that a recorded vote be taken. Upon the requisite number of Members signifying their support, a recorded vote on the motion as published was taken:

For (14)

S. Bentley, EJ Carter, NA Dugmore, AJ Eade, ITW Fletcher, VA Fletcher, EJ Greenaway, MB Hosken, RT Kiernan, A. Lawrence, A.A.Meredith, CRP Mollett, JM Seymour, A. Stanton.

Against: (28)

FM Bould, EA Clare, DG Davies, S.Davies, ARH England, NAM England, RC Evans, KR Guy, MG Ion, J Loveridge, AA Mackenzie, CN Mason, AD McClements, WAM McClements, LA Murray, RA Overton, FR Picken, J Pinter, S Reynolds, H Rhodes, KS Sahota, RJ Sloan, CF Smith, MJ Smith, BJ Thompson, CR Turley, PR Watling, DRW White

Abstention (1)

GM Green

Absent (1)

TJ Hope

The Mayor declared the motion defeated, and it was

RESOLVED – that the motion not be approved

The meeting ended at 7.52 pm

Mayor:

Date: