

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of a meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 24 January, 2013 at 6.30 p.m. at The Place, Oakengates, Telford.

PRESENT:

Councillors K.R. Guy (Mayor), S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, F.M. Bould, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, E.A. Clare, D.G. Davies, S. Davies, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, C.B.A. Elliott, 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, A.S. Jhavar, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, J. Loveridge, A.A. Mackenzie, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, W.A.M. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray, R.A. Overton, F.R. Picken, G.C.W. Reynolds, S.A.W. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota (Leader), R.G. Scammell, J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith, A.J. Stanton, B.J. Thompson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.R.W. White.

58. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of Council Meeting held on 22 November 2012, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors R.K. Austin and M.J. Smith.

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Dugmore declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – Financial Monitoring 2012/13.

61. LEADER'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Leader's Report

The Leader paid tribute to Borough councillor Brian Duce who had passed away recently following a short illness. Councillor Duce had served as a Borough councillor since May 2011 and had also been Chairman of Great Dawley Parish council. He had been a hardworking and supportive colleague as well as a good friend who would be sadly missed by all those who knew him. Staff accommodation moves were now complete and the old Civic offices site had been vacated, leading to efficiency savings of £2m per year. The council continued to suffer from government 'damping' which meant that the council did not receive much needed funding. The council would continue to lobby for a fair deal for the Borough. Government benefit changes would take effect early in 2013 and would adversely affect those people in the Borough who were least able to afford extra costs. Gritting teams had been hard at work during the recent harsh weather and volunteer snow wardens had provided valuable help

to local communities. The work of snow wardens was a good example of the council working co-operatively with local communities. In December the council had signed the Armed forces community covenant at the Abraham Darby Academy. The covenant would help to forge closer links with and to help support the local armed services community.

The council's Licensing committee had recently considered the recommendations of the independent inspector in to an application for village green status for land at Station Road, Newport. The committee had endorsed the inspector's recommendations that there was no valid case to register this land as a village green. The Leader supported and respected the independent process and believed that the recommendations had vindicated the council's commitment to maximise the use of the Borough's assets for the benefit of all residents of the Borough.

62. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Mayoral Engagements

The Mayor told members that he had attended a number of excellent events over the Christmas period. He drew members' attention to the forthcoming Holocaust Memorial Day and to the Park run on 16 February. Looking further ahead, he was particularly looking forward to the 'from here to maternity' walk which was due to take place in May.

63. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

64. 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 22 November, 2012.

Councillor V.A. Fletcher, referring to Cabinet item 2.1.2 Telford & Wrekin Crisis Help Network, asked about provision for 18-25 year old homeless people who were in need of crisis loans. Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative council, replied that crisis loans had been abolished by the current government but that his colleague councillor C.B.A. Elliott may be able to offer further information on this issue. Councillor N.A. Dugmore, referring to Cabinet item 2.1.7, Telford Town Centre – Car parking for employees, asked how employees would be compensated for the costs of car parking. Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, replied that proposals were currently being finalised on staff parking arrangements. Councillor A.J. Eade, referring to Cabinet item 2.3.2, Service & Financial Planning 2013/14-15/16, asked why the £21m capital receipt for Newport was not identified as a significant risk within the budget. Councillor McClements replied that balancing capital receipts was part of the normal budget process. There were risks in all

decisions the council made but that the administration was determined to fight for the best interests of all people of the Borough. Councillor I.T.W. Fletcher, referring to item 2.1.6 of the Cabinet report, Building schools for the future, asked if plans to build a secondary school in Priorslee had progressed further. Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children Young People & Families, replied that this matter was currently in negotiation.

65. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

10 January 2013 Cabinet

i) Financial Monitoring 2012/13

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Head of Finance, Audit & Information Governance which sought approval for slippage, virements and new allocations which were identified at Appendix 3 of the report.

RESOLVED -That the slippages, virements and new allocations identified at Appendix 3 of the report be approved.

66. SETTING OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2013/14

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance and Chief Financial Officer which determined the council tax base for general and special fund purposes for the financial year 2013/14.

RESOLVED-

- a) That the calculation of the tax base for 2013/14 as shown at paragraph 6.6 and Appendix 1 of the report be approved;**
- b) That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914), the amount calculated for Telford & Wrekin Council Tax Base for 2013/14 for its Special Fund Area shall be as per the appropriate amounts detailed in Appendix 1 for the Parishes listed in paragraph 6.7 of the report.**

67. MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Council noted the resolved minutes of Boards and Committees:

Licensing Committee	20 November
Plans Board	14 November, 29 November and 12 December
Standards Committee	13 December

Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee 16 October
Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee 5 November & 11 December
Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee 11 & 23 October
Scrutiny Management Board 14 September & 16 November

68. 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 K.S. Sahota, Leader of the Council.

In the light of the financial difficulties facing the council can Cabinet members assure us that any commercial contracts their area has entered in to are effective and good value for the authority and can you confirm that effective monitoring processes are in place?

Councillor Sahota replied that he was confident that effective processes were in place to monitor contracts.

- b) Councillor Fletcher then asked a further question of Councillor H. Rhodes, Cabinet Member: Transport & Community Protection.

Following the granting of permission and building of the Aldi and Wickes stores on the old Holyhead Road near to the Greyhound roundabout have there been any reported traffic incidents in that area relating to access and egress from the site?

Councillor Rhodes replied that the council only received information on accidents relating to personal injury and that data on any 'near misses' was not available.

- c) Councillor Stephen Bentley asked the following question of Councillor Charles Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development.

Would Councillor Smith please confirm his commitment to the Council's Co-operative values and briefly explain those values?

Councillor Smith confirmed his commitment to the Council's Co-operative values and gave a brief explanation of those values

69. NOTICES OF MOTION

None received.

The meeting ended at 7.04 pm

Mayor:

Date: