



Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 17th September 2018 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor M. Longhi (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor P. Bott (Deputy Mayor)

“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ O. Butler
“ K. Chambers
“ B. Chattha
“ A.G. Clarke
“ S.J. Cooper
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ C.U. Creaney
“ A. Ditta
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ M. Follows
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ A.J. Hicken
“ K. Hussain
“ D. James

Councillor L.D. Jeavons

“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ A. Kudhail
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ A.S. Nazir
“ S.L. Neville
“ G. Perry
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ W. Rasab
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ S. Samra
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ I. Shires
“ G. Singh Sohal
“ M.A. Statham
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill
“ S. Wade
“ M. Ward
“ V.J. Waters
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

37. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2018 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

38. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

39. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

40. **Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- (1) Councillor Follows – Road Safety at Cresswell Crescent
- (2) Councillor Worrall – Weight Restriction for Barns Lane and part of Westgate.
- (3) Councillor Chattha – Requesting enforcement action at the derelict Brown Jug pub in Short Heath including a request for Cabinet to secure a Compulsory Purchase Order.

41. **Questions**

There were no questions from members of the public or members of the Council.

42. **Audit Committee**

The Council noted that Audit Committee reduced the number of meetings from 7 to 5 per year and that the Constitution will be amended at the appropriate time.

43. **Membership of Health and Wellbeing Board**

A report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew:

(1) That with immediate effect, the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board be as follows:

- Chairman - To be a nominee of the controlling administration
- 1 elected member not from the controlling administration
- Cabinet portfolio holder for Adult Social Care
- Cabinet portfolio holder for Children's Services
- Cabinet portfolio holder for Public Health
- Executive Director Adult Social Care
- Executive Director Children's Services
- Director of Public Health
- 2 Clinical Commissioning Group representatives
- 1 representative of Health watch Walsall
- 1 representative of WM Fire Service
- 1 representative of WM Police
- 1 representative of "One Walsall"
- 1 representative of NHS England
- 1 representative of the Walsall Hospitals (NHS) Trust
- 1 representative of the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust
- 1 representative of the Housing sector

(2) That a member be appointed not from the controlling administration.

(3) To note that Councillor M. Longhi will continue as Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board for the remainder of the municipal year.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared lost – the voting at the request of several members of the Council being recorded as follows:

For the motion – 29 members

Cllr: Bird
Allen
Andrew
Butler
Chattha
Clarke
Cooper
Craddock
Douglas-Maul
Ferguson
Follows

Against the motion – 30 members

Cllr: S. Coughlan
Shires
Barker
C. Bott
P. Bott
Burley
Chambers
D. Coughlan
Creaney
A. Ditta
S. Ditta

Harris	J. Fitzpatrick
Harrison	S. Fitzpatrick
Hicken	Gultasib
Kudhail	Hussain
Longhi	James
Martin	Jeavons
Murray	Jones
Neville	Jukes
Perry	Nawaz
Rattigan	A. Nazir
Rochelle	M. Nazir
Samra	Robertson
Sears	Russell
Sohal	Sarohi
Statham	Underhill
Towe	Ward
Waters	Wade
Wilson	Worrall
	Young

44. West Midlands Combined Authority and Walsall MBC

Resolved

That the current position and plans for the future be noted.

45. Portfolio holder briefings

(a) Adult social care

A report was submitted.

Councillor Martin, portfolio holder for adult social care gave a presentation.

Members asked questions in relation to the presentation which were responded to by Councillor Martin.

(b) Regeneration

A report was submitted.

Councillor Andrew, portfolio holder for regeneration gave a presentation.

Members asked questions in relation to the presentation which were responded to by Councillor Andrew.

46. **Notice of motion – Police funding**

The following amended motion, notice of which had been duly given was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan and seconded by Councillor Jeavons:

Following the speech by Sajid Javid on 23 May 2018 where he acknowledged the police were under pressure as violent crime has increased and the changing terror threat. He said I am listening and I get it.

This Council calls on Sajid Javid and the government to fund more police on our streets following a fall of nearly 20,000 officers over the last 10 years across 43 forces.

Any monies allocated from this request be distributed pro-rata to all 43 forces and be ring fenced to fund front line Police officers.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried – the voting at the request of several members of the Council being recorded as follows:

**For the motion –
60 members**

Cllr: Bird
S. Coughlan
Shires
Allen
Andrew
Barker
C. Bott
P. Bott
Burley
Butler
Chambers
Chattha
Clarke
Cooper
D. Coughlan
Craddock
Creaney
A. Ditta
S. Ditta
Douglas-Maul
Ferguson
J. Fitzpatrick
S. Fitzpatrick
Follows
Gultasib
Harris

Harrison
Hicken
Hussain
James
Jeavons
Jones
Jukes
Kudhail
Longhi
Martin
Murray
Longhi
A. Nazir
M. Nazir
Neville
Perry
Rasab
Rattigan
Robertson
Rochelle
Russell
Samra
Sarohi
Sears
Sohal
Statham
Towe
Underhill
Ward
Wade
Waters
Wilson
Worrall
Young

and it was:

Resolved (Unanimous)

Following the speech by Sajid Javid on 23 May 2018 where he acknowledged the police were under pressure as violent crime has increased and the changing terror threat. He said I am listening and I get it.

This Council calls on Sajid Javid and the government to fund more police on our streets following a fall of nearly 20,000 officers over the last 10 years across 43 forces.

Any monies allocated from this request be distributed pro-rata to all 43 forces and be ring fenced to fund front line Police officers.

47. **Notice of motion – Air quality**

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved (Unanimous)

This Council recognises that clean air has made a huge contribution to improving the health of people in the Borough over the last thirty or forty years.

This Council notes that vehicle emissions affect the cleanliness of the air in the Borough.

The Council further notes that an estimated 40,000 people die each year in the UK as a result of poor air quality, those with asthma or lung problems being particularly affected.

Council notes that significant progress has been made in prioritising pedestrian access, cycling routes and public transport improvements in recent years.

Council is concerned however, that despite these and other planned improvements, poor air quality is a growing issue in some hotspots in the Borough.

Council calls on the Cabinet to develop plans to promote improvements to air quality in the Borough.

Council also calls on Government to take its responsibilities for improving air quality seriously, including for example, improving “pinch points” on major strategic roads that cause congestion, and investing in transferring the movement of freight from road to rail wherever possible.

48. **Notice of motion – Reducing plastic waste**

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved

This Council notes with concern:

- That 300 million tons of new plastic is made each year, half of which is for single use plastic such as packaging and convenience foods. In many cases, such as plastic straws, takeaway food containers and coffee cups, there are practical alternatives available that are either reusable or sustainable.
- That in 2016, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimated that by weight, there could be more plastic in our oceans than fish, as soon as 2050.

As plastics are durable and strong they will stay in our environment for up to an estimated 600 years. (Columbia University)

- That marine plastic leads to coastal/offshore dead zones, entanglement, death through ingestion, toxic transfer and, once degraded into micro plastics, contamination of the food chain – including our own. We are quite literally eating the plastic that has ended up in our seas.

Council welcomes:

- The significant increase in recycling achieved in the Borough in the last decade, through improvements to doorstep recycling.
- Policy adopted in 2017 in support of Deposit Return Schemes, and the significant reduction in plastic waste that such schemes could achieve.
- The success of the “Plastic Bag Levy”.

This Council therefore commits that Walsall will play its full role in helping to reduce plastic waste, specifically:

- That the Council will undertake an audit, within existing resources, of single use plastics used by the authority, seek to replace with sustainable or reusable alternatives where practicable.
- That the Council will play its role in helping to educate members of the public about plastic waste, specifically by including information for members of the public on reducing plastic waste in both online and written materials.
- That the Council will use its membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority to work towards increasing the amount of plastic product that can be recycled through doorstep and other recycling.
- To write to our members of Parliament and the European Parliament, and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging them to consider legislation and regulations which will reduce the amount of single use plastic used by society.
- To use the links we have with businesses in Walsall to encourage them to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced and specifically to write to each of our major supermarkets asking them to consider introducing a “plastic free aisle” in their Walsall store(s) on a trial basis.

The meeting terminated at 7.55 p.m.