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Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on Monday 20th May, 2013, at 6.00 p.m. at the Council House, Walsall.

Present

Councillor D.A. Anson (Mayor) in the Chair			
Councillo	r M. Nazir (Deputy Mayor)	Councille	or L.D. Jeavons
66	A.J.A. Andrew	"	T.J. Jukes
"	R.E. Andrew	"	P. Lane
"	T.G. Ansell	"	M. Longhi
"	M. Arif	"	Ms. R.A. Martin
"	I. Azam	"	Mrs. B.V. McCracken
"	D.J. Barker	"	J. Murray
"	O.D. Bennett	"	T.S. Oliver
"	M.A. Bird	"	G. Perry
"	C. Bott	"	K. Phillips
"	P. Bott	"	L.J. Rattigan
66	R. Burley	II.	J. Rochelle
"	B. Cassidy	"	E.B. Russell
"	K. Chambers	"	H.S. Sarohi
"	A.G. Clarke	"	K. Sears
"	J. R. Cook	"	Mrs. D.A. Shires
"	D. Coughlan	"	I. Shires
"	S.P. Coughlan	"	P.E. Smith
66	C.U. Creaney	"	R.M. Thomas
"	A. Ditta	"	C.D.D. Towe
"	B.A. Douglas-Maul	"	A. Underhill
"	J. Fitzpatrick	"	D.J. Turner

D.J. Turner J. Fitzpatrick S.F. Fitzpatrick S. Wade M. D. Flower F.J. Westley V. Whyte A.D. Harris L.A. Harrison V.G. Woodruff E.F. Hughes R.V. Worrall K. Hussain A. Young " Zahid Ali G. Illmann-Walker D. James

1. Election of Mayor 2013/14

It was **moved** by Councillor Worrall and seconded by Councillor Ditta:

That Councillor Mohammad Nazir be elected Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2013/2014.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Mohammad Nazir be elected Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2013/2014.

The Council adjourned to enable the Mayor to put on the robes and chain.

Councillor M. Nazir (Mayor) in the Chair

The Mayor read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Mayor thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon him.

2. Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2013/14

It was moved by Councillor P. Bott and seconded by Councillor C. Bott:

That Councillor Peter Edward Smith be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2013/2014.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Peter Edward Smith be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2013/2014.

3. Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on the 8th April and 7th May 2013, copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as correct records and signed.

4. Mayor's announcements

(a) Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor said that he had appointed the Reverend C. Gibson, St. Matthew's Church as his Chaplain.

(b) Mayor's Civic Service

The Mayor announced that a Civic Service would be held on Sunday 23rd June 2013 at 10.30 a.m. at St. Matthew's Church.

(c) Charities

The Mayor said that monies raised during his year of office would be donated to St. Giles Hospice, Acorn Children's Hospice and Midland International Aid Trust.

5. Presentation of badges to retiring Mayor and Mayoress

The Mayor presented badges to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor D.A. Anson and Mrs. K. Anson.

6. Vote of thanks to retiring Mayor and Mayoress

It was moved by Councillor Sarohi, seconded by Councillor Hussain and:

Resolved

That the Council thank Dennis Anson for the contribution he has made as Mayor of Walsall MBC to the people who live and work in the Borough and that Mrs. Anson be thanked for her services as Mayoress.

Councillor Anson replied.

7. Adjournment

It was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the Council adjourn until 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd May 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 6.45 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd May 2013

The Mayor reminded the meeting that 2 hours 15 minutes remained for business to be transacted.

8. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

9. **Petitions**

No petitions were submitted.

10. Formation of political groups

The report of the Chief Executive was circulated around the Council Chamber.

Resolved

That the receipt of returns from political groups be noted.

11. Members appointed to the Executive

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber.

It was **moved** by Councillor Oliver and duly seconded:

That in noting the appointment of members to the Executive, this Council resolves a vote of no confidence in the proposed Cabinet.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared lost – 27 members voting in favour and 29 against.

Resolved

That the following Cabinet responsibilities for the municipal year 2013/14 be noted:

Description of portfolio

Name of portfolio holder

1. Leader of the Council - overall responsibility for Council strategy, the corporate plan and the working smarter programme, communications and public relations, emergency planning, city region agenda, government relations and liaison with local MPs and West Midlands leaders. Local Strategic Partnership.

Councillor Bird

Description of portfolio

Name of portfolio holder

2. **Deputy Leader and Regeneration** – economic development, physical development, markets, property and asset management, Black Country Consortium, sub regional regeneration issues. Town and district centres. Planning policy and local development framework. Strategic housing role, housing partnerships, private sector housing, homelessness.

Councillor A. Andrew

3. **Business support services** – shared services, including ICT and procurement; business improvement.

Councillor Arif

4. **Children's services** - education services, schools meals commissioning, social services for children, safeguarding and promoting welfare of children, looked after children and corporate parenting, care leavers, interagency cooperation, involvement of children and young people, youth parliament, children's trust arrangements, youth offending services, youth service.

Councillor R. Andrew

5. **Public health and protection** - Public health, Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board, community safety, Safer Walsall Partnership, public protection.

Councillor Ali

6. **Community engagement and voluntary sector** - neighbourhood management, community engagement and consultation, community associations, voluntary and community sectors.

Councillor I. Shires

7. **Finance and personnel** - strategic and operational financial management, insurance, risk management, revenues and benefits, policy led budgeting. Financial regulations, audit, legal and constitutional services; human resources.

Councillor Towe

8. **Leisure and culture** - parks, leisure and culture services including the New Art Gallery, libraries, adult learning, sports, museums and twinning. Cemeteries and crematoria.

Councillor Harris

Description of portfolio

Name of portfolio holder

9. **Social care** - care services for older people and people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities and people with mental health needs, health partnership, community meals, supporting people, protection for vulnerable adults.

Councillor McCracken

Transport and environment – traffic and transportation, car parks, gateways and corridors, strategic transport and highways. Waste management, clean and green agenda, sustainability, pollution control, street cleansing.

Councillor Ansell

12. Appointments on Committees

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to Committees for the municipal year 2013/14:

Audit Committee

Councillors Chambers, Flower, J. Fitzpatrick, Hughes, Illmann-Walker, Murray, D. Shires.

Appointments Board

7 members (as notified to the Chief Executive for each meeting by the group leaders)

Employment Appeals A

Councillors Cook, Douglas-Maul, Harrison, Jeavons, Jukes, Martin, Nazir

Employment Appeals B

Councillors Bennett, Cook, Martin, Russell, Sarohi, Sears, Thomas

Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillors Ali, R. Andrew, Burley, James, Lane, D. Shires, Smith together with:

Executive Director, Neighbourhoods Executive Director, Adult Services Executive Director, Children's Services

Director of Public Health

5 Clinical Commissioning Group representatives

1 Healthwatch representative

Licensing and Safety Committee

Councillors Anson, C. Bott, Clarke, Cook, Douglas-Maul, S. Fitzpatrick, Harrison, Hussain, Murray, Rochelle, Sarohi, Sears, Whyte, Worrall

Planning Committee

Ward	Councillor
Aldridge Central & South	Rochelle
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood	Harris
Bentley & Darlaston North	Underhill
Birchills-Leamore	Jeavons
Blakenall	Thomas
Bloxwich East	S. Fitzpatrick
Bloxwich West	Westley
Brownhills	Wade
Darlaston South	P. Bott
Paddock	Ali
Palfrey	Ditta
Pelsall	Perry
Pheasey Park Farm	Bird
Pleck	Sarohi
Rushall-Shelfield	R. Andrew
Short Heath	Cook
St. Matthews	Arif
Streetly	Douglas-Maul
Willenhall North	I. Shires
Willenhall South	Creaney

Standards

Councillors A. Andrew, Azam, Burley, Hussain, Jeavons, Martin, Murray, Phillips, Underhill, Woodruff

Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Cassidy, Hughes, Jukes, Lane, Martin, Perry, D. Shires together with:

- 1 representative Lichfield Diocesan Education (voting)
- 1 representative Archbishop of Birmingham (voting)
- 3 parent governors (voting)
- 1 Primary Education teachers (non-voting)
- 1 Secondary Education teachers (non-voting)

Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Azam, Creaney, Douglas-Maul, Hussain, Illmann-Walker, Rattigan, Woodruff

Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors S. Coughlan, Douglas-Maul, Illmann-Walker, Longhi, Rochelle, D. Shires, Worrall

Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Bennett, Burley, Flower, James, Longhi, Russell, Woodruff

Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Anson, Azam, Barker, Flower, Harrison, Wade, Worrall

Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Barker, D. Coughlan, Douglas-Maul, Nazir, Oliver, Rattigan, Rochelle

13. Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber.

Resolved

That the following members be appointed Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for 2013/14:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Audit	Councillor Hughes	Councillor Illmann-Walker
Employment Appeals A	Councillor Douglas-Maul	Councillor Jeavons
Employment Appeals B	Councillor Bennett	Councillor Thomas

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor Ali	-
Licensing and Safety	Councillor Sears	Councillor Clarke
Planning	Councillor Perry	Councillor Bird
Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Cassidy	Councillor Martin
Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Woodruff	Councillor Creaney
Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor S. Coughlan	Councillor Rochelle
Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Longhi	Councillor James
Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Harrison	Councillor Azam
Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Oliver	Councillor-Douglas-Maul

14. Constitution and timetable of meetings 2013/14

The report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird, duly seconded and:

Resolved

- (1) That the amendments to the following parts of the Constitution as set out in the report be approved:
 - (a) Part 2 Articles of the Constitution
 - Article 4 Budget
 - (b) Part 3 Responsibility for Functions:
 - Scheme of delegations to Committees
 - Scheme of delegations to officers

- (c) Part 4 Rules of procedure
 - Council procedure rules
 - Financial rules
- (d) Part 5 Codes and protocols
 - The recording of decisions taken by officers under delegated powers
- (2) That the timetable of meetings for the municipal year 2013/2014 as set out in Appendix 3 of the report be approved.

15. Appointments on outside bodies and charities

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber and nominations were made as set out.

(a) Outside bodies

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to the undermentioned outside bodies for the municipal years 2013/14:

Local Government Association – General Assembly

Councillors Bird (2 votes), S. Coughlan, Douglas-Maul, Oliver

Local Government Association – Urban Commission

Councillors Douglas-Maul, Young

West Midlands Regional Employers Organisation

Councillor Bird

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillor Chambers (Prime member) Councillor Young (Deputy prime member) Councillor Douglas-Maul

West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority

Councillor Worrall (Prime member)
Councillor Ditta (Deputy prime member)
Councillor Clarke

West Midlands Joint Committee

Councillors Bird (voting), A. Andrew (non-voting), Oliver (non-voting)

Black Country Consortium

Councillor Bird

Black Country Museum Trust

Councillor Harris

Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee

Councillor Clarke
Councillor Illmann-Walker (deputy)

Forest of Mercia Advisory Group

Councillors Harrison, Phillips, D. Shires.

Groundwork West Midlands (Black Country) Local Trust

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick

New Horizons

Councillor Thomas and one officer.

River Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

Councillor Ansell
Councillor Westley (deputy)

Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Ltd.

Councillors A. Andrew, Russell, Towe

Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillors Rochelle, Russell

Walsall Community Transport

Councillor Whyte

Walsall Education Business Partnership

Councillors Towe, Thomas

West Midlands Superannuation Committee, Investment Advisory Sub-Committee and Joint Consultative Panel

Councillor Ali (voting), Councillor Chambers (substitute)

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillor Ali Councillor S. Coughlan

The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Ali be appointed the named substitute to the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the municipal year 2013/14.

Investigation of Air Pollution Standing Conference

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillor Harris
Councillor Illmann-Walker

The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Harris be appointed to the Investigation of Air Pollution Standing Conference for the municipal year 2013/14.

Joint Committee for Civil Parking Enforcement of Parking and Traffic Regulations

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillor Ansell Councillor Azam Councillor Hussain

The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That Councillors Ansell and Azam be appointed to the Joint Committee for Civil Parking and Traffic Regulations for the municipal year 2013/14.

Steps to Work (Walsall) Limited

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillor Ansell Councillor S. Coughlan

The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Ansell be appointed to Steps to Work (Walsall) Limited for the municipal year 2013/14.

Walsall and Wolverhampton Transport Users Advisory Committee

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillor Ansell Councillor Illmann-Walker

The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Ansell be appointed to Walsall and Wolverhampton Transport Users Advisory Committee for the municipal year 2013/14.

Walsall Housing Groups

The following nominations were received as set out in the list circulated:

Board Councillors Hughes, Wade, I. Shires

Bloxwich J. Fitzpatrick Willenhall D. Coughlan

The following nominations were made:

Aldridge Brownhills Councillor Bennett

Councillor Worrall

Central Walsall Councillor Arif

Councillor Russell

Darlaston Councillor Chambers

Councillor P. Bott

The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to Walsall Housing Groups for the municipal year 2013/14.

Board Councillors Hughes, Wade, I. Shires

Aldridge Brownhills Councillor Bennett
Bloxwich Councillor J. Fitzpatrick

Central Walsall Councillor Arif
Darlaston Councillor P. Bott

Willenhall Councillor D. Coughlan

Walsall Museum and Art Galleries Development Trust

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillor Harris Councillor Russell

The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Harris be appointed to the Walsall Museum and Art Galleries Development Trust for the municipal year 2013/14.

Walsall Society for the Blind

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillor Martin Councillor Jukes Councillor Westley

The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That Councillors Martin and Jukes be appointed to Walsall Society for the Blind for the municipal year 2013/14.

West Midlands (Metropolitan Area) Road Safety Partnership Board

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillor Ansell Councillor Wade

The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Ansell be appointed to the West Midlands (Metropolitan Area) Road Safety Partnership Board for the municipal year 2013/14.

(b) Charities

That the following members be appointed to the undermentioned charities for the municipal year 2013/14:

Harper, Marsh and Crumps Almshouses

Councillor Russell

Henry Boys Almshouses

Councillor S. Coughlan

Roger Hinton's Charity

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor

St. Giles Walsall Hospice

Councillor Phillips

(c) Advisory and statutory bodies

That the following members be appointed to the undermentioned advisory and statutory bodies for the municipal year 2013/14:

Adoption Panel

Councillor Thomas

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Councillors Barker, Lane, Phillips, Rochelle, Turner, Underhill (1 vacancy)

Walsall Admission Forum

Councillors Martin, Thomas

Fostering Panel

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillor Arif Councillor Creaney The nominations were put to the vote and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Arif be appointed to the Fostering Panel for the municipal year 2013/14.

16. Recommendation of Cabinet - Devolution through Area Partnerships

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor I. Shires and seconded by Councillor Bird:

That the Area Panels (Area Committees) be created as detailed in this report and that the Constitution be amended accordingly and that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed to the following panels as set out below to reflect the political make-up of those Area Panels in accordance with the process set out in paragraph 3.19(a) of the report now submitted:

Area Panel	Chair	Vice-Chair
Aldridge and Beacon	Councillor Towe	Councillor Rochelle
Brownhills/Pelsall/Rushall/ Shelfield	Councillor Perry	Councillor Worrall
Darlaston North/Bentley/ Darlaston South	Councillor Burley	Councillor Chambers
North Walsall	Councillor Oliver	Councillor Westley
Walsall South	Councillor Hussain	Councillor Russell
Willenhall North/Willenhall South/Short Heath	Councillor I. Shires	Councillor Barker

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried – 29 members voting in favour and 27 against and it was:

Resolved

That the Area Panels (Area Committees) be created as detailed in this report and that the Constitution be amended accordingly and that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed to the following panels as set out below to reflect the political make-up of those Area Panels in accordance with the process set out in paragraph 3.19(a) of the report now submitted:

Area Panel	Chair	Vice-Chair
Aldridge and Beacon	Councillor Towe	Councillor Rochelle
Brownhills/Pelsall/Rushall/ Shelfield	Councillor Perry	Councillor Worrall
Darlaston North/Bentley/ Darlaston South	Councillor Burley	Councillor Chambers
North Walsall	Councillor Oliver	Councillor Westley
Walsall South	Councillor Hussain	Councillor Russell
Willenhall North/Willenhall South/Short Heath	Councillor I. Shires	Councillor Barker

17. Recommendation of Health and Wellbeing Board – Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Ali, seconded by Councillor Bird and:

Resolved

That the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy be approved.

18. Statutory Scrutiny Officer

A report was submitted.

Resolved

That the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods be designated as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

19. Notice of motion – Social housing

A report was submitted.

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given, was **moved** by Councillor Oliver and duly seconded:

This Council notes

- the recent Treasury Select Committee report (Budget 2013) comments in relation to the government's Help to Buy housing scheme
- the shortfall in new social housing being built since the extension of the Right to Buy legislation in the 1980 Housing Act.

And therefore calls upon both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition Government and the opposition Labour Party:

- to recognise the lead role which can and should be played by local authorities to co-ordinate and help finance this longstanding and increasing shortfall in the availability of and access to affordable housing
- to commit to greater public investment in the construction of social and affordable housing in the borough of Walsall, both for rent and for market sale, so as to provide homes for our citizens and to give a real boost to the local economy.

At this point in the meeting it was **moved** by Councillor Bird, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That Council procedure rules be suspended to enable the business of the meeting to be completed.

Amendment moved by Councillor I. Shires and duly seconded:

That the following be added at the end of the motion:

 Any help towards this end should be aimed at improving the energy efficiency of new build whether it be for sale or social housing.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote, declared carried and it was:

Resolved

This Council notes

- the recent Treasury Select Committee report (Budget 2013) comments in relation to the government's Help to Buy housing scheme
- the shortfall in new social housing being built since the extension of the Right to Buy legislation in the 1980 Housing Act.

And therefore calls upon both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition Government and the opposition Labour Party:

- to recognise the lead role which can and should be played by local authorities to co-ordinate and help finance this longstanding and increasing shortfall in the availability of and access to affordable housing
- to commit to greater public investment in the construction of social and affordable housing in the borough of Walsall, both for rent and for market sale, so as to provide homes for our citizens and to give a real boost to the local economy.
- any help towards this end should be aimed at improving the energy efficiency of new build whether it be for sale or social housing.

20. Notice of motion – Unemployment in Walsall

A report was submitted.

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given, was **moved** by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Bird:

That given the higher than national average level of unemployment in Walsall, the on-going pressure on benefits and the drive to get those on benefits back to work, this Council commits to looking into legally acceptable ways and means of the Council as an employer, giving employment opportunity priority to unemployed people who live in the Borough of Walsall for appropriate job vacancies, also commits to using its influence on Agencies that provide workers for Walsall Council services to do likewise and finally commits to using its influence to encourage private sector employers to do likewise.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That given the higher than national average level of unemployment in Walsall, the on-going pressure on benefits and the drive to get those on benefits back to work, this Council commits to looking into legally acceptable ways and means of the Council as an employer, giving employment opportunity priority to unemployed people who live in the Borough of Walsall for appropriate job vacancies, also commits to using its influence on Agencies that provide workers for Walsall Council services to do likewise and finally commits to using its influence to encourage private sector employers to do likewise.

21. Notice of motion – Walsall bus station toilets

A report was submitted.

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given, was **moved** by Councillor Worrall and duly seconded:

This Council call upon CENTRO to operate the Walsall bus station toilets as a free facility for all users and not to impose charges.

Amendment moved by Councillor Smith and duly seconded:

Walsall Council finds it unacceptable that Centro, the West Midlands Transport Authority has made a decision to impose charges on users of its Walsall Bus station toilets, without any apparent consultation with either the general public, bus station users or the 3 Walsall Councillors (Councillors Worrall, Ditta and Clarke) who sit on the Transport Authority (which has a membership of 18 Labour Councillors, 8 Conservative Councillors and 1 Liberal Democrat Councillor) and therefore this Council calls upon Centro to operate the Walsall bus station toilets as a free facility to all users and not to impose charges and further requests Walsall Council's 3 Councillor representatives on the Transport Authority to make the strongest representatives on this issue in support of Walsall Council's concerns.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote, declared carried and it was:

Resolved

Walsall Council finds it unacceptable that Centro, the West Midlands Transport Authority has made a decision to impose charges on users of its Walsall Bus station toilets, without any apparent consultation with either the general public, bus station users or the 3 Walsall Councillors (Councillors Worrall, Ditta and ıt Ш d rt)f

Labour Councillor Councillor) and the bus station toilets further requests W	n the Transport Authority (which has a membership of 18 cs, 8 Conservative Councillors and 1 Liberal Democraterefore this Council calls upon Centro to operate the Walsal as a free facility to all users and not to impose charges and alsall Council's 3 Councillor representatives on the Transport of the strongest representatives on this issue in support of concerns.
The meeting terming	nated at 9.05 p.m.
Mayor:	
Date:	20