



## ***Walsall Metropolitan Borough***

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 7th March, 2005, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

### **PRESENT**

#### **COUNCILLOR M.A. BIRD (MAYOR) IN THE CHAIR**

##### **Councillor J.R. Cook (Deputy Mayor)**

“ A.J.A. Andrew  
“ T.G. Ansell  
“ D.A. Anson  
“ M. Arif  
“ A. Aslam  
“ C.M. Ault  
“ J.M. Barton  
“ L.A. Beeley  
“ A.G. Bentley  
“ Mrs. J. Beilby  
“ P. Bott  
“ M.R. Burley  
“ B. Cassidy  
“ K. Chambers  
“ A.G. Clarke  
“ R.J.H. Collins  
“ S.P. Coughlan  
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul  
“ A.E. Griffiths  
“ A.D. Harris  
“ L.A. Harrison  
“ E.F. Hughes  
“ A.D. Johnson  
“ H. Khan  
“ M. Longhi  
“ S.W. Madeley  
“ Ms. R.A. Martin  
“ Mrs. B.V. McCracken

##### **Councillor Mrs. C. Micklewright**

“ M. Munir  
“ J.G. O'Hare  
“ T.S. Oliver  
“ A.J. Paul  
“ G. Perry  
“ K. Phillips  
“ D.J. Pitt  
“ Mrs. E.E. Pitt  
“ M.G. Pitt  
“ I.C. Robertson  
“ R.S. Robinson  
“ J. Rochelle  
“ C.E.M. Rose  
“ T. Rowley  
“ B. Sanders  
“ K. Sears  
“ Mrs. D.A. Shires  
“ I. Shires  
“ C.D.D. Towe  
“ D.J. Turner  
“ W.T. Tweddle  
“ A. Underhill  
“ R.A. Walker  
“ H. Withnall  
“ V.G. Woodruff  
“ M. Yasin  
“ P.A. Young  
“ Zahid Ali

**84. Apology**

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Sarohi

**85. Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January, 2005, copies having been sent to each member of the Council be approved as a correct record and signed.

**86. Declarations of interest**

The Mayor asked the legal representative to explain to members how they should deal with their declarations of interest in relation to community associations which were dealt with in the Cabinet recommendation relating to the Corporate Revenue Budget 2005/6-2009/10.

Mr. Cox informed members that if their interests were personal, then they could stay in the meeting and speak and vote on this item, however, if their interest was prejudicial one they must leave the room during the discussion and voting on this item.

The following members declared their interest in the items indicated:-

Councillor Andrew	Collingwood CA Management Committee (personal non-prejudicial)
Councillor Rose	Frank F. Harrison CA (personal non-prejudicial)
Councillor Withnall	Chairman of Willenhall Community Centre (personal non-prejudicial)
Councillor Oliver	Employed by Palfrey CA (prejudicial)
Councillor Sears	Acorn Home Care (personal)
Councillor Burley	Collingwood CA (personal)
Councillor Robinson	Collingwood CA (personal)
Councillor Chambers	Park CA (personal)
Councillor Johnson	Darlaston CA (personal)

Councillor Coughlan	Willenhall CA (personal)
Councillor Mrs. McCracken	Park Hall CA (personal)
Councillor Beeley	Bloxwich Partnership (personal)
Councillor Tweddle	New Deal (personal)
Councillor Towe	Collingwood CA (personal)
Councillor Bott	Darlaston CA (personal)
Councillor Bentley	New Deal (personal)
Councillor Robertson	New Deal (personal)

#### **87. Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor thanked the organisations responsible for bringing along free trade goods to display before the commencement of the meeting and assured them that the awareness of the Council had been raised by this promotion.

#### **88. Petitions**

The following petitions were received:-

- (a) Councillor Anson – Alumwell Community Association
- (b) Councillor Cassidy – closure of Community Associations
- (c) Councillor Douglas-Maul – Streetly Community Assoc.
- (d) Councillor Phillips – “Little Pippins”, Green Rock Primary School
- (e) Councillor Robertson – Save Community Association
- (f) Councillor Sanders – Park Hall Community Association
- (g) Councillor D. Shires – Pool Hayes Community Association
- (h) Councillor Woodruff – Sneyd Community Associations
- (i) Councillor Robertson - Hardy Road/Beresford Road, Bloxwich – traffic calming
- (j) Councillor Underhill - St. Annes Road, Willenhall – traffic problems

- (k) Councillor Madeley - Slater Street, Darlaston – road traffic dangers
- (l) Councillor Clarke - Objections to planning application at 218/224 Chester Road, Streetly

**89. Questions by members of the public**

**Community Associations**

Daniel Hodgkiss asked the following question of Councillor Perry:-

“Why are you changing the rules regarding how community associations can spend the youth and community funding that the Council allocates to them?

What guarantees will we have that the money that is allocated will be spent on young people to tackle issues such as:

- Nothing to do for young people
- Racism
- Bullying
- Teenage pregnancy
- Education
- Drug abuse

Councillor Perry said that the Council was not changing the rules. The answer was in the question. We expect youth and community funding to be spent on providing the activities that it was given for. Currently, some Community Associations are spending the allocation on a mixture of activities. We now expect them to spend the youth funding solely on the provision of youth work and not on other activities.

This means that some Community Associations will need to refocus their spending and work with the Council to provide the quality of youth work that the young people of Walsall deserve. I accept that that will place pressure on community activities which is why the Cabinet agreed £250,000 of extra funding in next years budget to support these. If the resources are spent properly there is sufficient to provide excellent youth work in Walsall. We must do this.

Firstly and foremost, because the young people of Walsall deserve this and I am sure that the representatives of Youth Opinions Unit present at the meeting would agree with this.

Secondly Councillor Perry said that although the Ofsted report had not been published, he was aware that it had found the services provided in Walsall woefully inadequate and something must be done to change this.

Thirdly the Government guidelines on Transforming Youth Work required that spending be concentrated on 13–19 year olds, who are some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Councillor Perry concluded by emphasising that this was a major and difficult task for the Council and we are well aware of the impact that it could have on the current delivery of youth work. There are too many unqualified youth workers, some concern about child protection issues and in many cases a clear lack of real engagement with young people. The Council have to turn the youth service around in just over a year. That is bound to have an effect on how we deliver services and therefore on some Community Associations as part of the delivery model.

Perri Harris asked the following supplementary question:-

Can I be assured on the following points:-

- Will funding be linked to where young people are?
- Will young people have a say on how funding is allocated to the various areas?
- Can the funding for young people be reviewed in 12 months time and will we be kept informed of changes?

Councillor Perry replied yes, on all three points. He went on to say that Youth Opinions Unit would be fully engaged in any discussions and needs will be matched to expectations.

#### 90. **Question by members of the Council**

##### **Community Associations and Neighbourhood Resource Centres**

Councillor Robertson asked the following question of Councillor Perry:-

Could you list which Community Associations and Neighbourhood Resource Centres will realistically still open in 12 months time and which ones will have to close with no prospect of raising money to pay their lease costs and to include a list of other organisations using or leasing premises owned by this Council with the level of their current lease payments?

Councillor Perry said no. He went on to say that he could not see into the future.

Councillor Robertson asked the following supplementary question:-

Do you consider that this is a disgraceful answer and can you confirm that you are going to comply with national guidelines?

Councillor Perry answered that the Council will comply with national guidelines and re-iterated that he could give no guarantees on the future as the Council had no control over Community Association budgets.

91. **Recommendations of Cabinet**

(1) **Walsall Unitary Development Plan**

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Longhi, duly seconded and:-

**Resolved**

That the Walsall Unitary Development Plan Review be formally adopted.

(2) **Treasury management strategy**

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor O'Hare, duly seconded and:-

**Resolved**

That the 2005/06 treasury management strategy document set out in Appendix 1, the 2005/06 investment strategy document set out in Appendix 2 and the adoption of the Prudential Indicators set out in section 4.9 and in Appendix 3 be approved.

(3) **Capital Programme 2005/6 – 2009/10**

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor O'Hare, duly seconded and:-

**Resolved**

That the Capital Programme as set out in the following tables be approved:

<b>Mainstream Capital Programme 2005/6</b>	
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Estimated value £</b>
New Pupil Places	969,833
Prior Basic Need Commitments	917,961
Schools Access Initiative	531,934
Local Transport Plan (LTP)	4,738,000
Mental Health	122,392
Walsall Magistrates Court	215,800
Disabled Facilities Grant	347,000
Unfinanced Accruals	790,000
Corporate Contingency	250,000
Risk Management	100,000

Uninsured Property Damage	300,000
Private Sector Renovation Grants	3,000,000
Major Adaptations	4,897,000
Housing Benefit Capitalisation	1,031,000
Shop Maintenance – PMI	110,609
Implementation of the Local Taxation & Benefits System	380,000
Highway Maintenance	3,160,000
New Primary School in South Willenhall	344,225
Document Management System – Revenues & Benefits	81,200
Replacement Computer Systems – Revenues & Benefits	514,800
Access for Disabled (Buildings)	200,000
Asbestos Removal	100,000
Replacement of SOSCIS	80,000
Street Lighting PFI up to and including 2006/07	200,000
Environmental Regeneration Capital Programme	225,000
Quality Streets Programme	750,000
Environmental and Heritage Improvements to District Centres	250,000
Roof Repairs – Schools	200,000
Housing Market Renewal	350,000
Stock Condition Survey Private Sector	50,000
Walsall Arboretum Restoration Programme	10,000
New Build Short Breaks Unit	200,000
New Build Beacon View	100,000
New Build Fallings Heath	50,000
CCTV for Local History Centre	13,000
Meeting DDA Requirements	10,000
Civic Quarter – Phase 2	450,000
Alley Gating	250,000
Youth Service Building Refurbishment	100,000
Secondary School Re-development of Dining Facilities	310,000
Strategic Corridors and Gateways	150,000
Targeted Capital Elm Street/ Albion Road	350,325
Boiler Replacements – Schools	200,000
Travellers Site – Essential Works	350,000
Relocation of the School Library Support Service	40,000
Parks/Greenspace Improvement Strategy	100,000
Enforcement Strategy	210,000
Corporate Document Management System	500,000
Daw End Mine	3,000,000
School Building Repair & Infrastructure	2,000,000
Major Repairs to Non-Education Premises	3,000,000
Regenerating Walsall Programme	1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,600,079</b>

<b>Non mainstream Capital Programme – schemes funded from grant 2005/6</b>	
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Estimated value £</b>
Implementation of the Local Taxation & Benefits System	216,000
Baselines Black Country	35,000
Modernisation - Primary Schools	1,552,114
Modernisation – All Schools	2,006,995
Devolved Formula Capital	3,973,117
New Primary School – South Willenhall	1,376,900
Targeted Capital Elm Street/Albion Road	1,401,300
Improvement of Facilities at Local History Centre	14,000
Refurbishment of Local History Centre	50,000
Walsall Arboretum Restoration Programme	30,000
Playing Pitch Strategy	70,000
Football Foundation – Beechdale	450,000
Phase 5 Forest Arts Centre	139,061
Children's Capital Grant	83,000
Improving Information Grant	151,000
Safeguarding Children	222,000
Disabled Facilities Grant	520,000
Travellers Site Refurbishment	100,000
New Build Short Breaks Unit	400,000
New Build Beacon View	400,000
New Build Fallings Heath	175,000
Daw End Limestone Mine	15,000,000
New Deal for Communities (NDC)	2,300,000
Red Routes Programme	1,000,000
Bus Showcase Programme	1,000,000
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) 5	169,380
Town Centre Transport Package – Ring Road	6,900,000
ITP – PFI	2,980,000
Darlaston Strategic Development Area	9,600,000
Quality Street ERDF	1,300,000
Transforming Your Space	1,176,000
Lichfield Street HERS	100,000
Darlaston HERS	100,000
Environmental and Heritage Improvements to District Centres	418,666
Butlers Passage	50,000
Brownhills District Centre Regeneration	376,000
Bradford Street HERS	50,000
Bloxwich THI	250,000
Walsingham Street/Chuckery Green	5,000
Community Regeneration in Walsall	1,867,698
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,008,231</b>



Leasing programme 2005/6	
Directorate	Total budget £'000's
Lifelong Learning & Community Services	55
Regeneration, Housing & Built Environment	11,294
Social Care and Supported Housing	0
Corporate Core	198
TOTAL	11,547

#### (4) Corporate revenue budget 2005/6 – 2009/10

At this point in the meeting Councillor Oliver left meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor O'Hare and duly seconded:-

- (1) That the formal considerations of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in respect of the robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves as set out in section 4 and Appendix 9 of this report be noted and endorsed.
- (2) (a) That the net levies for outside bodies as follows be noted:

Levy	Amount (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,234,614
Environment agency	79,281

- (b) That approval be given to an opening working balance for 2005/6 set at a prudent level of £4,500,000 in line with the council's medium term financial strategy.
- (c) That the following opening cash limited budgets for 2005/6 be approved.

Budget	2005/6 Budget (£)
<b>Directorate Budgets:</b>	
Lifelong learning & community	215,596,833
Social care and supported housing	86,168,744
Regeneration, housing and built environment	35,122,002
Finance, law and performance	16,975,031
Corporate services	3,790,839
<b>Corporate provisions/contingencies etc:</b>	
Capital financing	14,102,776
Provision for increase in employers superannuation	785,000
Provision for single status / job evaluation	500,000

Contribution to insurance fund / environmental warranties	<b>400,000</b>
Central contingency	<b>337,000</b>
Review of balance sheet / corporate items	<b>173,228</b>
Use of balances to fund financial prudence	<b>-1,489,000</b>
Less: Capital Charges	<b>-42,306,481</b>
<b>Levies:</b>	
Passenger Transport Levy	<b>12,234,614</b>
Environment Agency Levy	<b>79,281</b>
<b>Walsall MBC Net Budget requirement</b>	<b>342,469,867</b>

(d) That the following statutory determinations be made (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992)

- a) **£580,384,528** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.
- b) **£237,914,661** being the aggregate income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
- c) **£342,469,867** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32 (4) as its budget requirement for the year.
- d) **£254,540,236** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (£84,113,812); Revenue Support Grant (£170,686,424); and the Collection Fund Deficit (£260,000).
- e) **£87,929,631** being the amount at (c) above, less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the Council Tax Base of 76,002, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(f) **Valuation bands**

Being amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the proportions set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act and calculated in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act of the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
£771.29	£899.84	£1028.39	£1,156.94
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
£1,414.04	£1,671.13	£1,928.23	£2,313.88

- (g) That the precept from the Fire & Civil Defence Authority and the Police Authority, issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below be noted:-

Precepting authority	Valuation bands			
Police	A	B	C	D
	£55.79	£65.08	£74.38	£83.68
	E	F	G	H
	£102.27	£120.87	£139.47	£167.36
Fire & Civil Defence	A	B	C	D
	£27.47	£32.05	£36.63	£41.21
	E	F	G	H
	£50.36	£59.52	£68.68	£82.41

- (h) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (f) and (g) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2005/6 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D
£854.55	£996.97	£1,139.40	£1,281.83
E	F	G	H
£1,566.67	£1,851.52	£2,136.38	£2,563.65

- (i) That notice be given of the council tax within twenty one days of it being set by publishing details of the same in the "Walsall Observer"; the "Express and Star" and "Evening Mail" being newspapers circulating in the Authority's area.
- (j) That the appropriate officers be instructed to take all necessary action in relation to council tax, community charge and national non-domestic rates, including, where appropriate, the signing of all documents, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.

**Amendment** moved by Councillor Withnall and duly seconded:-

- (1) Council are requested to approve one-off revenue funding of £150,000 in 2005/6 to provide transitional funding support to Community Associations in managing the revised funding arrangements.
- (2) Such funding to be provided from a minor re-phasing of the Daw End Mine scheme and non-education premises planned capital works funded from prudential borrowing.

(Note: The following advice from the Chief Finance Officer was given to members to inform consideration of this amendment:-

This proposed budget amendment has been discussed with the Chief Finance Officer and it is confirmed that it is possible to release £150,000 of revenue funding from the 2005/6 budget currently earmarked to cover the revenue implications of prudential borrowing in relation to the Daw End Mine and repairs to non-educational premises programme.

The 2005/6 revenue budget as set out in the reports before Council currently assumes a part year effect in respect of the drawdown date for borrowing to support schemes in the 2005/6 capital programme to be funded from unsupported borrowing (i.e. schemes funded from borrowing under the prudential code). Re-phasing of any aspect of this part of the programme would result in reduced debt charge costs (the costs of borrowing to support the financing of the schemes).

For every £1m expenditure on such scheme, re-phasing or delaying by one month would delay the need for borrowing by one month, resulting in c£8k of reduced debt charges per month.

It is proposed to fund the above amendment from the re-phasing of the £3m Daw End mine scheme to allow drawdown in January 2006 which would save c£100k. In addition, it is proposed to re-phase the programme repairs to non-education premises by 2 months, which would save £50k. This would mean the schemes would effectively commence part way through the financial year.

The criteria for the distribution of the funding has not been agreed be eligible CA's are likely to have to show that they are:

- Willing to work in partnership with the Council to help deliver its Vision 2008 to create a better Walsall, through local community development.
- Developing an approved robust business plan for the development of the CA that includes a mix of funding from a variety of sources, such as earned income and external funding, as well as the Council's contribution.
- In discussion with the Council to agree a new leasing arrangement, where applicable.

Given concerns expressed about the stability and business practices of some CA's, the Council is strongly advised to ensure any transitional and/or one-off funding such as this is allocated according to defined objective criteria such as those set out above.)

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

**For the motion -  
22 Members**

Cllr. Withnall  
“ I. Shires  
“ Anson  
“ Barton  
“ Bentley  
“ Burley  
“ Cassidy  
“ Chambers  
“ Cook  
“ Coughlan  
“ Johnson  
“ Madeley  
“ Phillips  
“ E.E. Pitt  
“ Robertson  
“ Robinson  
“ Rose  
“ Rowley  
“ D.A. Shires  
“ Underhill  
“ Woodruff  
“ Young

**Against the amendment -  
34 Members**

Cllr. Ansell  
“ Andrew  
“ Arif  
“ Aslam  
“ Ault  
“ Beeley  
“ Beilby  
“ Bird  
“ Clarke  
“ Collins  
“ Douglas-Maul  
“ Griffiths  
“ Harris  
“ Harrison  
“ Hughes  
“ Khan  
“ Longhi  
“ McCracken  
“ Micklewright  
“ Munir  
“ O'Hare  
“ Paul  
“ Perry  
“ D.J. Pitt  
“ M.G. Pitt  
“ Rochelle  
“ Sanders  
“ Sears  
“ Towe  
“ Turner  
“ Twedde  
“ Walker  
“ Yasin  
“ Zahid

**Not voting – 1 Member**

Cllr. Bott

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

**Resolved**

- (1) That the formal considerations of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in respect of the robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves as set out in section 4 and Appendix 9 of this report be noted and endorsed.
- (2) (a) That the net levies for outside bodies as follows be noted:

<b>Levy</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	<b>12,234,614</b>
Environment agency	<b>79,281</b>

- (b) That approval be given to an opening working balance for 2005/6 set at a prudent level of £4,500,000 in line with the council's medium term financial strategy.
- (c) That the following opening cash limited budgets for 2005/6 be approved.

<b>Budget</b>	<b>2005/6 Budget (£)</b>
<b>Directorate Budgets:</b>	
Lifelong learning & community	<b>215,596,833</b>
Social care and supported housing	<b>86,168,744</b>
Regeneration, housing and built environment	<b>35,122,002</b>
Finance, law and performance	<b>16,975,031</b>
Corporate services	<b>3,790,839</b>
<b>Corporate provisions/contingencies etc:</b>	
Capital financing	<b>14,102,776</b>
Provision for increase in employers superannuation	<b>785,000</b>
Provision for single status / job evaluation	<b>500,000</b>
Contribution to insurance fund / environmental warranties	<b>400,000</b>
Central contingency	<b>337,000</b>
Review of balance sheet / corporate items	<b>173,228</b>
Use of balances to fund financial prudence	<b>-1,489,000</b>
Less: Capital Charges	<b>-42,306,481</b>
<b>Levies:</b>	
Passenger Transport Levy	<b>12,234,614</b>
Environment Agency Levy	<b>79,281</b>
<b>Walsall MBC Net Budget requirement</b>	<b>342,469,867</b>

- (d) That the following statutory determinations be made (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992)
- b) **£580,384,528** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.
- c) **£237,914,661** being the aggregate income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
- d) **£342,469,867** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32 (4) as its budget requirement for the year.
- e) **£254,540,236** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (£84,113,812); Revenue Support Grant (£170,686,424); and the Collection Fund Deficit (£260,000).

- f) **£87,929,631** being the amount at (c) above, less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the Council Tax Base of 76,002, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(f) **Valuation bands**

Being amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the proportions set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act and calculated in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act of the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

A	B	C	D
£771.29	£899.84	£1028.39	£1,156.94
E	F	G	H
£1,414.04	£1,671.13	£1,928.23	£2,313.88

- (g) That the precept from the Fire & Civil Defence Authority and the Police Authority, issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below be noted:-

Precepting authority	Valuation bands			
<b>Police</b>	A	B	C	D
	£55.79	£65.08	£74.38	£83.68
	E	F	G	H
	£102.27	£120.87	£139.47	£167.36
<b>Fire &amp; Civil Defence</b>	A	B	C	D
	£27.47	£32.05	£36.63	£41.21
	E	F	G	H
	£50.36	£59.52	£68.68	£82.41

- (h) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (f) and (g) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2005/6 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D
£854.55	£996.97	£1,139.40	£1,281.83
E	F	G	H
£1,566.67	£1,851.52	£2,136.38	£2,563.65

- (i) That notice be given of the council tax within twenty one days of it being set by publishing details of the same in the "Walsall Observer"; the "Express and Star" and "Evening Mail" being newspapers circulating in the Authority's area.

- (j) That the appropriate officers be instructed to take all necessary action in relation to council tax, community charge and national non-domestic rates, including, where appropriate, the signing of all documents, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.

92. **West Midlands Local Government Association Planning Partnership**

**Resolved**

That the following change in representative on the West Midlands Local Government Association Planning Partnership for the remainder of the municipal year be noted:-

Councillor Withnall to replace Councillor Madeley.

93. **Notice of motion – “Fair trade” goods and supplies**

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

That this Council considers that, as a matter of policy, wherever best value can be demonstrated, goods and supplies for use by Council services, should be acquired from “Fair Trade” sources and that officers be instructed to consider the implications of such a policy for the Council’s current procurement arrangements and report back to Council before the end of the municipal year with recommendations on how such a policy can be implemented.

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

**Resolved**

That the Council procedure rule 9(a) be suspended to enable the meeting to continue beyond 9 p.m.

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

**Resolved** (unanimously)

That this Council considers that, as a matter of policy, wherever best value can be demonstrated, goods and supplies for use by Council services, should be acquired from “Fair Trade” sources and that officers be instructed to consider the implications of such a policy for the Council’s current procurement arrangements and report back to Council before the end of the municipal year with recommendations on how such a policy can be implemented.

The meeting terminated at 8.55 p.m.