



Minutes of the **EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Friday 26th April 2019 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
“ B. Chattha
“ A.G. Clarke
“ S.J. Cooper
“ D. 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

“ T.J. Jukes
“ 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
“ 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

111. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chambers, S. Coughlan, Jones, Kudhail, Jones and Rochelle.

112. Declarations of interest

Councillor D. Coughlan declared a pecuniary interest in Item 5 – Palfrey Community Association.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

Councillor D. Coughlan, having declared an interest in item 5, left the room at this juncture.

114. Palfrey Community Association

A report was submitted.

The Mayor thanked all members for attending the extraordinary meeting of Council to discuss the issues concerning Palfrey Community Association and the potential impact of this on the local community. He confirmed that the meeting had been requisitioned by 5 members of the Council in accordance with the Council's constitution and that he had requested the Chief Executive to call the meeting.

The Mayor reminded members that the meeting was taking place in the pre-election period and therefore they should avoid making any political statements in the course of the debate. He explained that there had been significant publicity in relation to this matter both in the local newspapers and on social media and advised members to be aware that they only had limited protection from an action for defamation for any comments they may make in the chamber under the general defence of qualified privilege. Furthermore, the Council also needed to ensure that, during debate, it did not prejudice any future options that may be considered in relation to Palfrey Community Association, which was independent of the Council, going forward. He requested members to avoid speculation and refer to facts only.

The Mayor confirmed that he would call the Leader first to commence the debate, followed by the Leaders of the opposition groups and then further elected members should they wish to speak. In addition, he advised that the normal Council rules regarding speaking, as set out in the Council's constitution, applied to the meeting.

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

- (1) That the Council notes the current situation with regard to Palfrey Community Association and requests Council officers to continue to appropriately support and provide advice to those staff of Palfrey Community Association in looking for alternative employment, and also those parents seeking alternative nursery provision.
- (2) That the Council will endeavour to do its utmost to recover any outstanding monies in any ongoing process involving all creditors.

There followed comments from several members together with further advice from the Monitoring Officer.

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

Resolved

- (1) That the Council notes the current situation with regard to Palfrey Community Association and requests Council officers to continue to appropriately support and provide advice to those staff of Palfrey Community Association in looking for alternative employment, and also those parents seeking alternative nursery provision.
- (2) That the Council will endeavour to do its utmost to recover any outstanding monies in any ongoing process involving all creditors.

The meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.