



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 10th January, 2022, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Town Hall, Walsall.

Present

Councillor R. Burley (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor B. Allen

“ A. Andrew
“ H. Bashir
“ M.A. Bird
“ O. Butler
“ B. Chattha
“ A.G. Clarke
“ S.J. Cooper
“ D. Coughlan
“ C. Creaney
“ S.K. Ditta
“ S. Elson
“ G. Flint
“ M. Follows
“ N. Gandham
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ A.J. Hicken
“ A. Hussain
“ K. Hussain
“ D. James
“ P. Kaur

Councillor E. Lee

“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ F. Mazhar
“ J. Murray
“ S. Nasreen
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ K. Pedley
“ G. Perry
“ W. Rasab
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ S. Samra
“ K. Sears
“ G. Singh Sohal
“ P. Smith
“ C.A. Statham
“ M.A. Statham
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill
“ V.J. Waters
“ J. Whitehouse
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

53. **Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of councillors Ali, C. Bott, P. Bott, Gultasib, Jeavons, Johal, Murphy and A. Nazir.

54. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 8th November, 2021 and Extra Ordinary meeting held on 17th November, 2021 , copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record.

55. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Rattigan declared an interest in item 13 – Notice of Motion – Bus Lane Restriction, Wolverhampton Street

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

57. **Mayor's announcements**

Death of former Councillor, John Whistance.

The Mayor referred to the death of former Councillor John Whistance a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from 1980 to 1987. Councillors P. Smith, Bird and Nawaz paid tribute to John Whistance, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved:

That this Council have heard with deep regret of the death of former Councillor John Whistance, a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from 1980 to 1987 and places on record their appreciation of his services to the borough over a period of many years and expresses its condolences to his family at this sad time.

58. **Petitions**

The following petition was submitted:

- Councillor Elson – Improving Road Safety on Poole's Lane, Lichfield Road, Littleton Road and Brereton Road

59. **Questions by members of the Public**

None

60. **Questions by members of the Council**

None

61. **Recommendation of Audit Committee**

Appointment of External Auditors

The report to Audit Committee on 22 November, 2021 was submitted.

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

Resolved

To accept the Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA) invitation to 'opt in' to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2023.

62. **Recommendations of Cabinet**

(a) Treasury Management

The report to Cabinet on 15 December, 2021 was submitted.

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

Resolved

That the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2021/22 including prudential and local indicators be noted.

(b) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The report to Cabinet on 15 December, 2021 was submitted.

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

Resolved

That the Council approves the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 and detailed in Appendix 2 to the report (appended), adopting the principles approved by Cabinet in September. Taking account of recent changes

in the provision of welfare support nationally and having given regard to the equality impact assessment and consultation comments.

(c) Food Law Enforcement Plan

The report to Cabinet on 15 December, 2021 was submitted.

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

Resolved

That the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for the year 2021/22 be approved and adopted.

63. Portfolio Holder Briefings

Deputy Leader and Regeneration

A report was submitted.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Councillor Andrew, gave a presentation.

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

Adult Social Care

A report was submitted.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Councillor Pedley, gave a presentation.

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

64. Notice of Motion – Section 9 of the Nationality and Borders Bill

A report was submitted.

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

That:

Section 9 of the Nationality and Borders Bill currently being pushed through parliament by the Conservative Government has created anxiety, alarm and real fear amongst the people of Walsall, particularly those from a BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) heritage.

Many have contacted their local councillors with concerns and fear of what this will mean for them.

This Council, taking note of the concerns of BAME communities in Walsall,

- expresses its opposition to Section 9 of this bill;
- Asks for this section to be completely removed from the bill;
- Stands with our BAME communities – British Citizens - who are scared of being removed from the United Kingdom without notice, the right of appeal or the right of legal representation; and
- Instructs the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to jointly write to the relevant minister informing them of our borough's opposition to this section of the bill.

Amendment moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew:

That:-

Section 9 of the Nationality and Borders Bill currently being debated through parliament by the Conservative Government has created anxiety, alarm and real fear amongst the people of Walsall including those from a BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) heritage and others with dual nationality. Many have contacted their local councillors and fear what this will mean to them.

This Council, taking note of the concerns of these communities in Walsall:

- Expresses its opposition to Section 9 of this bill
- Asks for this section to be completely removed from the bill;
- Stands with our dual nationality communities -British Citizens-who are scared of being removed from the United Kingdom without notice , the right of appeal or the right of legal representation; and
- Instructs the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the opposition to jointly write to the relevant Minister informing him/her of our borough's opposition to this section of the bill.

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

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

Resolved:-

That:-

Section 9 of the Nationality and Borders Bill currently being debated through parliament by the Conservative Government has created anxiety, alarm and real fear amongst the people of Walsall including those from a BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) heritage and others with dual nationality. Many have contacted their local councillors and fear what this will mean to them.

This Council, taking note of the concerns of these communities in Walsall:

- Expresses its opposition to Section 9 of this bill
- Asks for this section to be completely removed from the bill;
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- Instructs the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the opposition to jointly write to the relevant Minister informing him/her of our borough's opposition to this section of the bill.

65. **Notice of Motion – Bus Lane Restriction – Wolverhampton Street**

Councillor Rattigan, having declared an interest, left the room.

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

That this Council asks for the removal of the 'bus gate' / bus lane restriction on Wolverhampton Street and demands Walsall Council reimburse all those that have been fined for driving through Wolverhampton Street.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared **lost**.

66. **Notice of Motion – Recovery of By Election Costs - Pleck Ward**

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

Resolved:

That:-

This Council condemns the indulgent waste of tax payers money forced on the residents of this Borough by the Labour Party as they:-

- Called a By-Election for December, 2021 in the Pleck Ward, for a seat that had been vacant since July 2021. This seat would have been filled on May 5th, 2022, as part of the usual Election cycle; and

- Selected a candidate who was ineligible to stand as they were an employee of Walsall Council and so could not take the seat.

This Council therefore calls on officers to write to the Labour Party requesting that they reimburse Walsall MBC and Walsall Council tax payers for these aborted costs circa. £20,000.

The meeting terminated at 8.33 p.m.

Mayor:

Date: