



Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 16th September 2019 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

## **Present**

### **Councillor P. Bott (Mayor) in the Chair**

#### **Councillor R. Burley (Deputy Mayor)**

“ G. Ali  
“ B. Allen  
“ A.J.A. Andrew  
“ D.J. Barker  
“ H. Bashir  
“ M.A. Bird  
“ C. Bott  
“ O. Butler  
“ B. Chattha  
“ A.G. Clarke  
“ S.J. Cooper  
“ D. Coughlan  
“ S.R. Craddock  
“ S.K. Ditta  
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul  
“ K. Ferguson  
“ J. Fitzpatrick  
“ M. Follows  
“ N.Z. Gultasib  
“ A.D. Harris  
“ L.A. Harrison  
“ A.J. Hicken  
“ K. Hussain  
“ D. James  
“ L.D. Jeavons  
“ S. Johal

#### **Councillor T.J. Jukes**

“ P. Kaur  
“ M. Longhi  
“ F. Mazhar  
“ J. Murray  
“ S. Nasreen  
“ A.A. Nawaz  
“ M. Nazir  
“ A.S. Nazir  
“ S.L. Neville  
“ W. Rasab  
“ L.J. Rattigan  
“ I.C. Robertson  
“ S. Samra  
“ H.S. Sarohi  
“ K. Sears  
“ I. Shires  
“ G. Singh Sohal  
“ C.A. Statham  
“ M.A. Statham  
“ C.D.D. Towe  
“ A. Underhill  
“ S. Wade  
“ M. Ward  
“ V.J. Waters  
“ T.S. Wilson  
“ R.V. Worrall

36. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Creaney, Martin, Perry and Young.

37. **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2019 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

38. **Declarations of interest**

The following members declared an interest in the items indicated:

Councillor Murray	Item 16 – Notice of motion – Pay rise for Council and school workers
Councillor Worrall	Item 13 – Watmos Community Homes constitution changes

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

40. **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Mr. Ted Moorman, Mayor in 1993/94. The Mayor and Councillors Bird, Nawaz and Shires paid tribute to Mr. Moorman following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

**Resolved**

That this Council have heard with deep regret of the death of Mr. E. Moorman who was a member of the Walsall County Borough Council from 1964 to 1966 and from 1967 to 1972. He was also a member of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from 1978 to 1994 and from 1999 to 2003 and Mayor in 1993/94. This Council 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.

Members and officers stood in silence as a mark of respect.

41. **Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- (a) Councillor Jukes – requesting a traffic management plan to reduce incidences of speeding on Beechdale.
- (b) Councillor Worrall – requesting a marked safe route along National Cycling Route 5.

42. **Petition: Save Walsall Acorns Children’s Hospice for the Black Country**

A report was submitted.

Councillor Worrall presented the petition highlighting the important and valuable work undertaken by the Hospice and the impact it has for some of the most vulnerable families in the area. He passed on the thanks of the Hospice and its staff to all those that had responded to the fundraising appeal, to the NHS nationally and to the Council that had pledged funding to enable the hospice to continue until March 2020. In closing, he emphasised that further funding was still required to secure the long-term future of the hospice and encouraged people to continue to show their support.

**Resolved**

That the petition and representations be noted.

43. **Questions**

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

44. **Recommendation of Cabinet – Treasury Management annual report 2018/19**

The report to Cabinet on 17th July 2019 was submitted.

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

**Resolved**

That Council note (in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017)), the annual report for treasury management activities 2018/19 including prudential and local indicators (Appendix A).

45. **Annual report of Audit Committee 2018/19**

The report of Audit Committee on 22nd July was submitted.

Councillor Craddock presented the report.

**Resolved**

That the annual report of the Audit Committee 2018/19 be noted.

46. **West Midlands Combined Authority and Walsall MBC**

The Leader of the Council presented a report setting out the progress of the current West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) work and reviewed the achievements to date alongside future plans.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

47. **Watmos Community Homes constitutional changes**

A report was submitted.

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

**Resolved**

That Council gives its consent for Watmos Community Homes to amend its rules.

48. **Portfolio holder briefings**

(a) **Adult Social Care**

As Councillor Martin, portfolio holder for Adult Social Care was not present the briefing was deferred to a future meeting.

(b) **Regeneration**

A report was submitted.

Councillor Andrew, the portfolio holder for Regeneration gave a presentation.

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

49. **Appointments on outside bodies and charities**

(a) **West Midlands Combined Authority Strategic Economic Development (SED) Board**

The Council noted that the Leader had nominated Councillor Andrew to the SED Board for the remainder of the municipal year.

(b) **C.C. Walker Charity**

The Council noted that Councillor Harrison has resigned as a Trustee of the Charity.

**Resolved**

That Councillor M. Statham be appointed a Trustee of the C.C. Walker Charity for the balance of the 4 year period expiring on 21st May 2020.

50. **Notice of motion – Pay rise for Council and school workers**

At this point, Councillor Murray left the meeting for this item having declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

A report was submitted.

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

This council notes:

- Local Government has endured central government funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010.
- Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.
- The 2019 LGA survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/2025 or later.
- The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
- Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
- At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.

- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.

This council believes:

- Our workers are public service heroes. They keep our communities clean, care for those in need, and keep our towns and cities running.
- Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services.
- The government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

- Support the pay claim submitted by Unite, GMB and UNISON to central government on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 per hour minimum wage and a 10% uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21.
- Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Communicate with all local government workers encouraging them to join a trade union.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared lost – 25 members voting in favour and 29 against.

#### 51. **Notice of motion – Climate change**

A report was submitted.

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

This Council recognises that

- Climate Change is having a marked impact on the lives of the people of Walsall and of the world.

- The impact of Climate Change is a real threat to the future of our World and there is a responsibility on all of us to do all we can to reduce the negative impact from our activities on the environment.
- As a Local Authority we have a negative impact on the environment through our use of fossil fuels, energy wastage, inefficiencies in insulation of our buildings, the reliance on diesel fuelled vehicles and machinery etc.

This council therefore resolves to call a Climate Emergency – as a number of boroughs across the country have done so.

In accepting that there is a Climate Emergency this Council resolves to develop strategies to reduce our Carbon Footprint and categorically commits to making Walsall Council a net Zero Carbon authority by the year 2030.

**Amendment** moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew:

This Council recognises that

- Climate Change is having a marked impact on the lives of the people of Walsall and of the world.
- The impact of Climate Change is a real threat to the future of our World and there is a responsibility on all of us to do all we can to reduce the negative impact from our activities on the environment.
- As a Local Authority we have a negative impact on the environment through our use of fossil fuels, energy wastage, inefficiencies in insulation of our buildings, the reliance on diesel fuelled vehicles and machinery etc.

This council therefore resolves to call a Climate Emergency – as a number of boroughs across the country have done so.

In accepting that there is a Climate Emergency this Council resolves to develop strategies to reduce our Carbon Footprint and categorically commits to making Walsall Council a net Zero Carbon authority by the year 2050.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared carried – 32 members voting in favour and 21 against.

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

### **Resolved**

This Council recognises that

- Climate Change is having a marked impact on the lives of the people of Walsall and of the world.

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The meeting terminated at 7.52 p.m.