



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 17th November 2014 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor P.E. Smith (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor A. Underhill (Deputy Mayor)

“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.A. Anson
“ M. Arif
“ D.J. Barker
“ O.D. Bennett
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ P. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ K. Chambers
“ A.G. Clarke
“ C.E. Clews
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ C.U. Creaney
“ A. Ditta
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ M. D. Flower
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell
“ E.F. Hughes
“ K. Hussain
“ G. Illmann-Walker

Councillor D. James

“ L.D. Jeavons
“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ P. Lane
“ M. Longhi
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ Mrs. B.V. McCracken
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ G. Perry
“ K. Phillips
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ Mrs. D.A. Shires
“ I. Shires
“ G.S. Sohal
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ S. Wade
“ F.J. Westley
“ V. Whyte
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

51. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cassidy, Douglas-Maul and Rattigan.

52. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 22nd September 2014 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

53. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

54. **Local Government (Access to information) Act 1985**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

55. **Mayor's announcements**

(1) **Death of former Councillor H. Richards**

The Mayor referred to the death of former Councillor Harry Richards and paid tribute to his services to the town over a period of many years. Councillors Bird, Anson and I. Shires also paid tribute to Mr. Richards, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That this Council expresses its regret at the death of Mr. H. Richards a member of Walsall County Borough Council from 1953 to 1956 and 1958 to 1959 and Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from 1980 to 1986 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.

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

(2) **Formation of new political group**

The Mayor stated that he proposed to withdraw the report relating to Item 12 – Formation of a new political group.

(3) **Christmas drinks**

As this was the last meeting of the year, the Mayor invited members to join him in the Mayor's Parlour for drinks.

56. **Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- (1) Councillor Clarke – Save Streetly Library from closure
- (2) Councillor Smith – Say no to parking charges in Willenhall
- (3) Councillor Phillips – residents of Lower Farm and Little Bloxwich calling waste management to take action “not leave bins at the end of the street and to return them to the place they took them from”

57. **Questions**

There were no questions submitted from members of the public or Councillors.

58. **Recommendations of Audit Committee**

(1) **Treasury Management update**

The report to Audit Committee on 1st September 2014 was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Illmann-Walker, seconded by Councillor Craddock and:

Resolved

That the Treasury Management annual report for 2013/14 be approved.

(2) **Annual review of Treasury Management policies and mid-year position statement 2014/15**

The report to Audit Committee on 10th November 2014 was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Illmann-Walker, seconded by Councillor Craddock and:

Resolved

That the Treasury Management Policies (Appendix A of the report) be approved.

59. **Recommendation of Personnel Committee – Local Government Pension Scheme 2014**

The report to Personnel Committee on 3rd October 2014 was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor Illmann-Walker and:

Resolved

That the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 Policy Statement attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved, together with the waiving of actuarial reductions and the application of the 85 year rule protections to be considered only where there is a clear financial or operational advantage to the Council in doing so.

60. **Members' allowances 2014**

Professor S. Leach, the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel presented the report of the Panel.

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan and seconded by Councillor Nazir:

- (1) That the Council note the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and thanks the Panel for their work in producing their report.
- (2) That the Council adopt option 3 as set out in the report of the Independent Review Panel and that the scheme of allowances be implemented from 18th November 2014.
- (3) That the Council's Constitution be amended by the insertion of the new scheme at Part 6.
- (4) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to advertise the new scheme of allowances and payments made hereunder as required by statute.

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

Resolved

- (1) That the Council note the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and thanks the Panel for their work in producing their report.
- (2) That the Council adopt option 3 as set out in the report of the Independent Review Panel and that the scheme of allowances be implemented from 18th November 2014.
- (3) That the Council's Constitution be amended by the insertion of the new scheme at Part 6.
- (4) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to advertise the new scheme of allowances and payments made hereunder as required by statute.

61. Formation of a new political group

The item was withdrawn.

62. Appointment of independent person to Standards Committee

A report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Underhill, seconded by Councillor Martin and it was:

Resolved

That Mr. A. Green be appointed an independent person under the Council's standards regime for a period of 3 years.

63. Guidance on Honorary Freeman

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Nazir and:

Resolved

That the process for granting Freedom of the Borough as set out in the guidance document attached as an Appendix to this report, be adopted.

64. **Portfolio holder briefings**

(a) **Leader of the Council**

Councillor S Coughlan, Leader of the Council gave a presentation.

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

(b) **Regeneration**

Councillor Nazir, Portfolio holder for regeneration gave a presentation.

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

65. **Appointments on Charities**

(a) **Roger Hinton Charity**

Resolved

That Councillor Phillips be appointed a trustee of the Roger Hinton Charity for the balance of the current municipal year.

(b) **W.J. Croft Charity**

Resolved

That Councillor Nawaz be appointed a trustee of the W.J. Croft Charity for the balance of the 4 year period expiring on 25th July 2016 in place of Councillor C. Bott.

The meeting terminated at 7.38 p.m.