



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Tuesday 7th May 2013 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor D.A. Anson (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor M. Nazir (Deputy Mayor)

“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ R.E. Andrew
“ T.G. Ansell
“ M. Arif
“ I. Azam
“ D.J. Barker
“ O.D. Bennett
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ P. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ B. Cassidy
“ K. Chambers
“ A.G. Clarke
“ J. R. Cook
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ A. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ M. D. Flower
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ E.F. Hughes
“ K. Hussain
“ G. Illmann-Walker

Councillor D. James

“ L.D. Jeavons
“ T.J. Jukes
“ P. Lane
“ M. Longhi
“ Ms. R.A. Martin
“ Mrs. B.V. McCracken
“ J. Murray
“ T.S. Oliver
“ G. Perry
“ K. Phillips
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ Mrs. D.A. Shires
“ I. Shires
“ P.E. Smith
“ R.M. Thomas
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ D.J. Turner
“ S. Wade
“ F.J. Westley
“ V. Whyte
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young
“ Zahid Ali

117. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Creaney, Underhill and Woodruff.

118. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

119. **Exclusion of public**

Resolved

That during consideration of the item on the agenda, the Council considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), and accordingly resolves to consider the item in private.

120. **Redevelopment of the Old Square**

The report was submitted.

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

That approval be given to an amendment to the capital programme, at an overall project budget for delivering the Old Square Shopping Centre redevelopment of £7.814 million.

Amendment moved by Councillor S. Coughlan and duly seconded:

In receiving and noting the report to amend the capital programme, and fully supporting the principle of major regeneration of Walsall Town Centre, it is the view of Council that there are a number of matters regarding this proposal that need to be further explored and clarified.

These include:

- an assessment of the impact of the development on traditional town centre retail activity such as the market
- an assessment of the potential impact of the development on district and other retail centres

- a full understanding of the risks to the Council associated with financing, constructing and managing such a large commercial venture, including the potential for State Aid regulations to be invoked
- further clarification as to why the present developer has been unable to bring their plans to fruition.

Therefore it is proposed that this meeting is deferred until such matters have been fully explained and documented in a manner that gives assurance for the Council to act legally and in the best interests of its residents, communities and established businesses. In view of the timescales involved, this should be returned to Council within a maximum period of four weeks in order that these matters can be properly determined, including if necessary an adjournment or the convening of a further extra-ordinary meeting of the Council.

Councillor Jeavons asked for advice relating to the timing of the signing of this contract.

The meeting adjourned at 6.35 p.m.

Meeting re- convened at 6.50 p.m.

The Chief Executive advised the Council accordingly.

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 amendment -
26 members**

Cllr: Oliver
Anson
Burley
Cassidy
Chambers
D. Coughlan
S. Coughlan
Ditta
J. Fitzpatrick
S. Fitzpatrick
Hussain
Illmann-Walker
James
Jeavons
Jukes
Lane
Nazir
Phillips
Russell
Sarohi

**Against the amendment –
31 members**

Cllr: Bird
I. Shires
A. Andrew
R. Andrew
Ansell
Arif
Azam
Barker
Bennett
C. Bott
P. Bott
Clarke
Cook
Douglas-Maul
Flower
Harris
Harrison
Hughes
Longhi
Martin

Thomas
Wade
Westley
Whyte
Worrall
Young

McCracken
Murray
Perry
Rattigan
Rochelle
Sears
D. Shires
Smith
Towe
Turner
Zahid Ali

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried – the voting at the request of several members of the Council being recorded as follows:

**For the amendment -
31 members**

Cllr: Bird
I. Shires
A. Andrew
R. Andrew
Ansell
Arif
Azam
Barker
Bennett
C. Bott
P. Bott
Clarke
Cook
Douglas-Maul
Flower
Harris
Harrison
Hughes
Longhi
Martin
McCracken
Murray
Perry
Rattigan
Rochelle
Sears
D. Shires
Smith
Towe
Turner
Zahid Ali

**Against the amendment –
26 members**

Cllr: Oliver
Anson
Burley
Cassidy
Chambers
D. Coughlan
S. Coughlan
Ditta
J. Fitzpatrick
S. Fitzpatrick
Hussain
Illmann-Walker
James
Jeavons
Jukes
Lane
Nazir
Phillips
Russell
Sarohi
Thomas
Wade
Westley
Whyte
Worrall
Young

and it was:

Resolved

That approval be given to an amendment to the capital programme, at an overall project budget for delivering the Old Square Shopping Centre redevelopment of £7.814 million.

[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The meeting terminated at 7.20 p.m.