



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 14th November 2016 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor K. Phillips (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor M. Longhi (Deputy Mayor)

“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ O.D. Bennett
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ P. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ K. Chambers
“ A.G. Clarke
“ C.E. Clews
“ S.J. Cooper
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ A. Ditta
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ M. Follows
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ L.A. Harrison
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell

Councillor A. J. Hicken

“ E.F. Hughes
“ K. Hussain
“ D. James
“ L.D. Jeavons
“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ A.S. Nazir
“ G. Perry
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ I. Shires
“ G.S. Sohal
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill
“ M. Ward
“ P. Washbrook
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

58. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Creaney, Harris, Kudhail, M. Nazir and Wade.

59. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2016 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

60. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

61. **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor noted that it was the Leader's birthday.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

63. **Petitions**

No petitions were submitted.

64. **Questions**

There were no questions submitted.

65. **Recommendation of Brownhills/Pelsall/Rushall/Shelfield Area Panel – co-opted member**

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

Resolved

That Mr. Barry Poxon be appointed a co-opted member of the Brownhills/Pelsall/Rushall/Sheffield Area Panel for the remainder of the 2016/17 municipal year.

66. National scheme for Auditor appointments – Public Sector Auditor Appointments (PSAA)

A report was submitted.

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

Resolved

That the Council accepts Public Sector Auditor Appointments' (PSAA) invitation to "opt in" to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1st April 2018.

67. Portfolio holder briefings

(a) Clean and green

A report was submitted.

Councillor Jones, portfolio holder for clean and green, gave a presentation.

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

(b) Health

A report was submitted.

Councillor Robertson, portfolio holder for health, gave a presentation.

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

68. Membership of Personnel Committee

Resolved

That the appointment of Councillor Jeavons as a member of the Personnel Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year be noted.

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

(a) **Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee**

Resolved

That Councillor Andrew be appointed to the Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year in place of Councillor Bird.

(b) **Sheffield Playing Fields Charity**

Resolved

That Councillors Rattigan and Worrall be appointed trustees of the Sheffield Playing Fields Charity for a period of 4 years commencing on 18th December 2016.

70. **Notice of motion – Pharmacies in Walsall**

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given, was **moved** by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor D. Coughlan and:

Resolved

This Council notes that:

- Pharmacies in Walsall offer a range of services such as dispensing prescriptions, disposal of unwanted medicines and supporting self-care
- Pharmacies play an important role in promoting wellbeing such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, exercise, flu vaccination, sexual health and more
- Pharmacies provide advice and support services which are also available to care homes
- several local pharmacies are wanting to achieve Healthy Living Pharmacy status recognising and evidencing their role in wishing to improve the health of their local population.

Walsall Council is greatly concerned about the threat to local pharmacy services as a result of Government cuts in the budget of £170m nationally, which take effect from October 2016. This is a 6% cut in cash terms but could effectively mean a cut of 12% during the financial year and which could lead to the potential closure of up to a quarter of pharmacies with an increased focus on warehousing dispensary and online services. This Council believes that these service cuts in pharmacies will put more residents at risk of poor health, as well as putting pressure on GPs and on hospital services and therefore increasing NHS costs. A fully funded community pharmacy service is cost effective and is in the interest of patients and carers.

Walsall Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group detailing our concerns and demanding an immediate reversal of these proposals.

71. **Notice of motion – Grammar Schools**

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given, was **moved** by Councillor Shires and seconded by Councillor S. Coughlan:

This Council notes with great concern:

- (1) That the current Government is considering bringing back grammar schools.
- (2) That the Government has confirmed that such reforms could include allowing Free Schools to introduce academic selection.
- (3) The revelation that the Government will first seek to expand grammar schools by the backdoor through exploiting loopholes in existing legislation.
- (4) That support is being encouraged for the premature selection and separation of young people according to a crudely measured academic ability.

Council believes:

- (a) In the potential of all our young people to develop themselves and to contribute to society and the economy.
- (b) That young people have varied and complex aptitudes and abilities and develop at different rates.
- (c) That young people should be treated as individuals who can learn to socialise and respect differences.

Council:

- (1) Confirms its opposition to the expansion of grammar schools.
- (2) Calls on the Government to abandon the selection by ability and social separation of young people into different schools.
- (3) Rejects any change to Free Schools to enable them to select on the basis of academic ability.

- (4) Calls on the Government to respect the spirit of existing legislation on grammar schools and not seek out loopholes within it to effectively create new grammar schools under the pretext of expansion.
- (5) Calls on the Government to do more to cater for all young people according to individual aptitudes and abilities.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried – 28 members in favour and 27 against and it was:

Resolved

This Council notes with great concern:

- (1) That the current Government is considering bringing back grammar schools.
- (2) That the Government has confirmed that such reforms could include allowing Free Schools to introduce academic selection.
- (3) The revelation that the Government will first seek to expand grammar schools by the backdoor through exploiting loopholes in existing legislation.
- (4) That support is being encouraged for the premature selection and separation of young people according to a crudely measured academic ability.

Council believes:

- (a) In the potential of all our young people to develop themselves and to contribute to society and the economy.
- (b) That young people have varied and complex aptitudes and abilities and develop at different rates.
- (c) That young people should be treated as individuals who can learn to socialise and respect differences.

Council:

- (1) Confirms its opposition to the expansion of grammar schools.
- (2) Calls on the Government to abandon the selection by ability and social separation of young people into different schools.
- (3) Rejects any change to Free Schools to enable them to select on the basis of academic ability.

- (4) Calls on the Government to respect the spirit of existing legislation on grammar schools and not seek out loopholes within it to effectively create new grammar schools under the pretext of expansion.
- (5) Calls on the Government to do more to cater for all young people according to individual aptitudes and abilities.

The meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.