



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Thursday 21st July 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
“ C.U. Creaney
“ A. Ditta
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ M. Follows
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell
“ A.J. Hicken

Councillor E.F. Hughes

“ K. Hussain
“ D. James
“ L.D. Jeavons
“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ A. Kudhail
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ 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
“ S. Wade
“ M. Ward
“ P. Washbrook
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

27. **Apology**

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ferguson.

28. **Minutes**

It was **moved** by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd May and 2nd June 2016 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as correct records and signed, subject to an amendment to page 17 to correctly refer to Audit Committee in the resolution at the top of the page (23rd May).

29. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Hughes declared a personal interest in Item 15 – appointment of representatives to the VIEW Board.

30. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 2015 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

31. **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor referred to the death of Mary Thorley, Chief Executive Officer at Walsall Carers Centre and paid tribute to her services to the people of Walsall over a period of many years.

32. **Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- (1) Councillor Clews – Stubbers Green implementation of better traffic calming measures to protect wildlife on Stubbers Green nature reserve. (Over 1,500 signatures)
- (2) Councillor A. Ditta – Security measures on Broadway playing fields.
- (3) Councillor S. Ditta – improve conditions on Victor Street car park and land on Watery Lane.

- (4) The Mayor (Councillor Phillips) – Pedestrian crossing across Broad Lane, Bloxwich and review of dropped kerbs at junction of Broad Lane, Sneyd Lane, Sandbank and Bell Lane.

33. **Questions from members**

Councillor A. Ditta withdrew his question with regard to Education Section 106 money.

34. **Recommendation of Cabinet – Corporate Plan**

The report to Cabinet on 15th June 2016 was submitted.

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

Resolved

That the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 “Reducing Inequalities, Maximising potential” be approved.

35. **Recommendation of Audit Committee – Treasury Management Annual Report 2015/16**

The report to Audit Committee on 27th June 2016 was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor Craddock and:

Resolved

That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2015/16 (Appendix A) be approved.

36. **Recommendation of North Walsall Area Panel – Co-opted member**

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved

That Mr. Pat Dean be appointed a co-opted member of the North Walsall Area Panel for the remainder of the 2016/17 municipal year.

37. **Annual report of Audit Committee 2015/16**

The report to Audit Committee on 27th June 2016 was submitted:

Councillor Chambers presented the Audit Committee Annual report.

Resolved

That the Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2015/16 be noted.

38. **Portfolio holder briefing**

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.

39. **Community Cohesion Strategy**

The report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Nawaz, seconded by Councillor Shires and:

Resolved

- (1) That a new standalone, community driven 'Community Cohesion Strategy' and action plan be created for Walsall. This strategy and action plan should be ready for delivery by April 2017;
- (2) That the 'Community Cohesion Strategy' be included in the policy framework as an 'other plan and strategy' under Part 4.01 (a)(ii) of the Walsall Council Constitution;
- (3) That the remaining recommendations of the Community Cohesion Working Group be referred to Cabinet to consider their implementation.

40. **Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Ltd. (VIEW Board) - Appointment of representatives**

Councillor Hughes left the room during consideration of this item.

The report was submitted.

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

Resolved

- (1) That option 3 as detailed in paragraph 3.6 of the report be approved:
 - Reduce the number of senior officers by nominating 3 Elected Members and asking 1 senior officer to step down should the proposed changes be approved in September, 2016.
Total Council Appointments: 4 (3 x Members and 1 x Officer).
- (2) That Councillors Russell, Towe and Worrall be appointed to serve on Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Limited (VIEW) Board for the municipal year 2016/17.

41. Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Ltd. (VIEW Board) – Appointment of independent member

Resolved

That the appointment of Dawn Hendon as an independent member to the Board of Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Ltd. be noted.

42. Membership of Committees

Resolved

That the following appointments to Committees be noted:

- (a) **Personnel Committee:** Appointed Councillor S. Coughlan and Councillor Nawaz as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the municipal year 2016/17.
- (b) **Overview and Scrutiny Committees:** Labour Group nominations to Overview and Scrutiny Committees following Annual Council:

Scrutiny Overview – Councillor Chambers
Education and Children’s Services – Councillor Ward
Corporate and Public Services – Councillor A. Nazir
Social Care and Health – Councillor Worrall

43. Appointment of Charity trustees

(a) Roger Hinton Charity

Resolved

That the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Longhi) be appointed a trustee of the Roger Hinton Charity for the municipal year 2016/17.

(b) **Walsall Wood Allotment Charity**

Resolved

That Councillor Bird be re-appointed a trustee of the Walsall Wood Allotment Charity for a period of 4 years expiring on 21st September 2020.

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

Resolved

That Councillor Nawaz be re-appointed a trustee of the W.J. Croft Charity for a period of 4 years expiring on 25th July 2020

(d) **School Holiday Camp Fund of Walsall**

Resolved

That Councillor Clews and Mr. Bob Thomas be appointed trustees of the School Holiday Camp Fund of Walsall for a period of 4 years expiring on 25th August 2020.

44. **Notice of motion – community cohesion**

Councillor Nawaz **moved** the following amended motion which was seconded by Councillor S. Ditta:

We are proud to live in a diverse, tolerant, multicultural and multi faith borough. Racism, xenophobia, homophobia, islamophobia, sexism and anti-semitism have no place in our town or in society in general. This Council condemns hate crimes unequivocally and condemns all types of hate. We will not allow hate and the intimidation of minorities to become acceptable in our borough.

Walsall Council recognises the positive contribution made to all aspects of life in our borough by immigrant communities - established and new - and will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support and the resources needed to help, together in partnership with these communities, to fight and prevent racism, xenophobia, islamophobia, homophobia, anti-semitism, sexism and all forms of hate.

This Council reassures all people living in Walsall, from whichever nation, ethnicity, faith background, sexuality, gender, culture and disability group that they are from that they are welcomed here and are valued members of our community and our Town.

Amendment moved by Councillor Longhi and seconded by Councillor Bird:

That the following be added as the second paragraph to the motion:

“This Council is shocked by the reported increase in race hate crimes and anti social behaviour directed at EU citizens in the UK and other ethnic minorities during Brexit debates and after and resolves to call an early meeting with the Police and other agencies to consider its response.”

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

We are proud to live in a diverse, tolerant, multicultural and multi faith borough. Racism, xenophobia, homophobia, islamophobia, sexism and anti-semitism have no place in our town or in society in general. This Council condemns hate crimes unequivocally and condemns all types of hate. We will not allow hate and the intimidation of minorities to become acceptable in our borough.

This Council is shocked by the reported increase in race hate crimes and anti social behaviour directed at EU citizens in the UK and other ethnic minorities during Brexit debates and after and resolves to call an early meeting with the Police and other agencies to consider its response.

Walsall Council recognises the positive contribution made to all aspects of life in our borough by immigrant communities - established and new - and will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support and the resources needed to help, together in partnership with these communities, to fight and prevent racism, xenophobia, islamophobia, homophobia, anti-semitism, sexism and all forms of hate.

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The meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.