



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 24th May, 2010, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor J.G. O'Hare (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor A.G. Clarke (Deputy Mayor)

“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ R.E. Andrew
“ T.G. Ansell
“ D.A. Anson
“ M. Arif
“ I. Azam
“ J.M. Barton
“ L.A. Beeley
“ O.D. Bennett
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ P. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ R. Carpenter
“ B. Cassidy
“ K. Chambers
“ J. R. Cook
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ C.U. Creaney
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ A.E. Griffiths
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ E.F. Hughes
“ P.F. Hughes

Councillor L.D. Jeavons

“ M. Longhi
“ S.W. Madeley
“ Mrs. B.V. McCracken
“ M. Munir
“ Mushtaq Ahmed
“ M. Nazir
“ T.S. Oliver
“ A.J. Paul
“ G. Perry
“ K. Phillips
“ D.J. Pitt
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ B. Sanders
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ Mrs. D.A. Shires
“ I. Shires
“ P.E. Smith
“ R.M. Thomas
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ D.J. Turner
“ G. Wilkes
“ V.G. Woodruff
“ M. Yasin
“ Zahid Ali

1. **Death of Councillor M.G. Pitt**

The Mayor referred to the sudden death of Councillor M.G. Pitt and paid tribute to his services to Walsall and the Council over a period of many years. Councillors Bird, Madeley, Smith, S. Coughlan, Wilkes, Andrew, D. Pitt and I. Shires also paid tribute to Councillor Pitt following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That this Council expresses its regret at the untimely death of Councillor Melvin Pitt, a Councillor of many years standing with this Borough and one well respected by many people throughout the Borough and expresses its condolences to his family at this sad time.

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

2. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Flower, Martin, E.E. Pitt and Twedde.

3. **Welcome to new members**

The Mayor welcomed the newly elected members to the Council – Councillors Azam, Bennett, Burley, D. Coughlan, Jeavons and Thomas.

4. **Election of Mayor**

It was **moved** by Councillor Ansell and seconded by Councillor Douglas-Maul:

That Councillor Arthur Gary Clarke be elected Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

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

Resolved

That Councillor Arthur Gary Clarke be elected Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

The Council adjourned to enable the Mayor to put on the robes and chain.

Councillor A.G. Clarke (Mayor) in the Chair

The Mayor read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Mayor thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon him.

5. Appointment of Deputy Mayor

It was **moved** by Councillor Longhi and seconded by Councillor Ansell:

That Councillor Garry Perry be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

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

Resolved

That Councillor Garry Perry be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

6. Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 19th April 2010, copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

7. Mayor's announcements

(a) Civic Sunday

The Mayor stated that he proposed to visit St. Matthew's Parish Church on Sunday 20th June 2010 at 10.30 a.m.

(b) Mayor's Charities

The Mayor announced that monies raised during his year of office would be donated to Walsall Hospice and disadvantaged children in Walsall.

8. Presentation of badges to retiring Mayor and Mayoress

The Mayor presented badges to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor J.G. O'Hare and Mrs. D. Leese.

9. **Vote of thanks to retiring Mayor and Mayoress**

It was **moved** by Councillor A. Andrew, seconded by Councillor Zahid Ali and:

Resolved

That the Council thank John Gregory O'Hare for the contribution he has made as Mayor of Walsall MBC and to the people who live and work in the Borough and that Mrs. Leese be thanked for her services as Mayoress.

Councillor O'Hare replied.

10. **Adjournment**

It was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the Council adjourn until 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 26th May 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 7.10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 26th May 2010

The Mayor reminded the meeting that 1 hour 50 minutes remained for business to be transacted.

11. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

12. **Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- Councillor Arif – permanent closure of entrance to University via Magdalene Road, Broadway Park Estate.
- Councillor Madeley – Objections to new structure being built on the grounds of Exol Oil of All Saints Road, Darlaston.
- Councillor McCracken – William Street and Mill Lane – noise and nuisance from youths using new play area.
- Councillor Towe – “No Circus” in Doe Bank Lane.

13. **Election results – 6th May 2010**

The report was submitted.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

14. **Formation of political groups**

The report was circulated around the Council Chamber.

Resolved

That the receipt of returns from political groups be noted.

15. **Appointment of Leader of the Council**

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

Resolved

That Councillor Bird be formally appointed Leader of the Council under the new provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007.

16. **Appointment of members to the Executive**

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber prior to the meeting.

Resolved

That the Council note the following Cabinet responsibilities for the municipal year 2010/2011:

Description of portfolio	Name of portfolio holder
1. Leader of the Council - overall responsibility for Council strategy, the corporate plan, communications and public relations, information technology, city region agenda, government relations and liaison with local MPs and West Midlands leaders. Local Area Agreement and Local Strategic Partnership.	Councillor Bird

Description of portfolio	Name of portfolio holder
<p>2. Deputy Leader and Regeneration – economic development, urban regeneration company (URC), physical development, environmental regeneration, markets, property, New Deal for Communities (NDC), Black Country Consortium, West Midlands regeneration issues. Town and district centres. Planning policy and local development framework. Strategic housing role, housing partnerships, private sector housing, homelessness, and relationship with Walsall Housing Group (WHG).</p>	Councillor A. Andrew
<p>3. Children’s services - education services, including relationship with Walsall Children’s Services, Serco, social services for children, safeguarding and promoting welfare of children, looked after children and corporate parenting, care leavers, interagency cooperation, involvement of children and young people, youth parliament, children’s trust arrangements, youth offending services, youth service. Building Schools for the Future.</p>	Councillor R. Andrew
<p>4. Communities and partnerships – neighbourhood management, community engagement and consultation, community associations, community safety, Safer Walsall Partnership, voluntary and community sectors, customer contact, public protection.</p>	Councillor Ali
<p>5. Finance and personnel - strategic and operational financial management, insurance, risk management, policy led budgeting and performance management. Financial regulations, audit, legal services, constitutional services; Mayor’s office. Human resources and organisational development (including Member development) and equality and diversity.</p>	Councillor Towe

Description of portfolio	Name of portfolio holder
6. Leisure, culture and environment – parks, leisure and culture services including the New Art Gallery, libraries, adult learning, school meals, sports, museums and twinning; waste management, clean and green agenda, sustainability, pollution control, street cleansing, grounds maintenance and cemeteries and crematoria.	Councillor Harris
7. Social care and health - care services for older people and people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities and people with mental health needs, health partnership and the public health agenda, community meals, supporting people and strategic procurement.	Councillor McCracken
8. Transport – traffic and transportation, car parks, gateways and corridors, strategic transport and highways	Councillor Ansell

17. **Appointments on Committees**

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber prior to the meeting.

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

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to Committees for the municipal year 2010/2011:

Audit Committee

Councillors Chambers Douglas-Maul, Flower, Robertson, Rochelle, D. Shires, Turner

Appointments Board

7 members as notified to the Chief Executive for each meeting by the group leaders.

Employment Appeals A

Councillors Carpenter, Chambers, Cook, Douglas-Maul, Jeavons, Martin, Paul

Employment Appeals B

Councillors Bennett, Griffiths, O'Hare, P. Hughes, Sarohi, Thomas, Tweddle

Licensing and Safety Committee

Councillors Ahmed, Anson, Barton, Beeley, C. Bott, Burley, Clarke, P. Hughes, O'Hare, Rochelle, Sarohi, Sears, Tweddle, Wilkes

Planning Committee

Ward:	Councillor
Aldridge Central and South	Rochelle
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	Harris
Bentley & Darlaston North	Madeley
Birchills-Leamore	Jeavons
Blakenall	Thomas
Bloxwich East	Beeley
Bloxwich West	D. Pitt
Brownhills	Turner
Darlaston South	P. Bott
Paddock	Ali
Palfrey	Yasin
Pelsall	Perry
Pheasey Park Farm	Bird
Pleck	Sarohi
Rushall-Shelfield	Carpenter
Short Heath	Cook
St. Matthews	Arif
Streetly	Douglas-Maul
Willenhall North	P. Hughes
Willenhall South	Creaney

Standards Committee

Councillors Andrew, P. Hughes, D. Pitt, Wilkes
6 independent members (Mrs. Bashir appointed until May 2013)

Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Beeley, Bennett, Cassidy, Chambers, E. Hughes, Martin, Paul, D. Shires, Thomas

- 1 Lichfield Diocesan Education (voting)
- 1 Archbishop of Birmingham (voting)
- 3 Parent Governors (voting)
- 1 Primary Education Teachers (non-voting)
- 1 Secondary Education Teachers (non-voting)

Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Bennett, P. Bott, S. Coughlan, Creaney, Harrison, Martin, Perry, Sears, D. Shires

Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Burley, Flower, Griffiths, Jeavons, Longhi, Nazir, Rochelle, I. Shires, Turner

Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Anson, Beeley, C. Bott, Carpenter, Chambers, Cook, Griffiths, Tweddle, Yasin

Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Ahmed, Azam, Bennett, Creaney, Robertson, Sears, Thomas, Woodruff, Yasin

Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Ahmed, Anson, Azam, D. Coughlan, S. Coughlan, Harrison, D. Pitt, I. Shires, Tweddle

Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillors Barton, Burley, Douglas-Maul, Griffiths, O'Hare, Oliver, Paul, Turner, Woodruff.

18. Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber prior to the meeting.

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

Resolved

That the following members be appointed Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for 2010/2011:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Audit	Councillor Turner	Councillor Rochelle
Employment Appeals A	Councillor Douglas-Maul	Councillor Paul
Employment Appeals B	Councillor Griffiths	Councillor Tweddle

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Licensing and Safety	Councillor Sears	Councillor Tweddle
Planning	Councillor Perry	Councillor Bird
Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor E Hughes	Councillor Cassidy
Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Harrison	Councillor S. Coughlan
Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Longhi	Councillor Nazir
Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Beeley	Councillor Chambers
Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Yasin	Councillor Woodruff
Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor D Pitt	Councillor Anson
Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Oliver	Councillor Paul

19. **Constitution and timetable of meetings 2010/11**

The report was submitted.

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

Resolved

(1) That the amendments to the following parts of the Constitution as set out in Appendices 1 to 5 of this report be approved:

(a) Part 2 - Articles:

- 4 – The Council
- 7 – The Executive
- 9 – Standards Committee
- 11 – Officers

- 13 – Finance, contract and legal matters
 - 14 - Review of the Constitution
- (b) Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions
- Scheme of delegations to Committees
 - Scheme of delegations to officers
- (c) Part 4 – Rules of procedure
- Council procedure rules
 - Executive procedure rules
- (d) Part 5 – Codes and protocols
- New protocol 14 – Ministerial visits
 - New protocol 15 – Handling petitions
- (2) That the timetable of meetings for the municipal year 2010/2011 as set in Appendix 6 of the report be approved.

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

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber prior to the meeting and nominations were made as set out.

(a) **Outside bodies**

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to the undermentioned outside bodies for the municipal year 2010/11:

Local Government Association – General Assembly

Councillors Bird (2 votes) Douglas-Maul, P. Hughes, Oliver

Local Government Association - - Urban Commission

Councillor Douglas-Maul and one officer.

West Midlands Leaders Board

Councillor Bird (Councillor A. Andrew alternate)

West Midlands Strategy Group

Councillors S. Coughlan, Douglas-Maul

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillors A. Andrew, Chambers and Douglas-Maul and that Councillors A. Andrew and Douglas-Maul be nominated to answer questions on Fire and Rescue matters during 2010/11.

West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority

Councillors Ansell, Longhi and Wilkes and that Councillors Ansell and Longhi be nominated to answer questions on Integrated Transport Authority matters during 2010/11.

West Midlands Joint Committee

Councillors Bird (voting), A. Andrew (non-voting), Chambers (non-voting)

Advantage West Midlands Regeneration Zone

Councillor A. Andrew

Association of Black Country Authorities

Councillor Bird

Birmingham Airport Holdings Ltd

Councillor Bird for a period of 2 years to June 2012

Birmingham University Court

Councillor Flower

Black Country Consortium

Councillor Bird (or nominee)

Black Country Museum Trust

Councillor Harris

Forest of Mercia Advisory Group

Councillors Harrison, Phillips, D. Shires

Groundwork West Midlands (Black Country) Local Trust

Councillor A. Andrew

Investigation of Air Pollution Standing Conference

Councillor Harris

Safer Walsall Borough Partnership

Councillor Ali

Shopmobility Management Board

Councillor A. Andrew

Steps to Work (Walsall) Limited

Councillor Ansell

Supporting People Commissioning Body

Councillor McCracken

Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Ltd

Councillors A. Andrew, Robertson, Towe

Walsall and Wolverhampton Transport Users Advisory Committee

Councillor Ansell

Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillors Jeavons, Rochelle

Walsall Education Business Partnership

Councillor Azam, Towe

Walsall Museum and Art Galleries Development Trust

Councillor Harris

Walsall Regeneration Housing Association

Councillors A. Andrew, Burley

Walsall Society for the Blind

Councillors Barton, O'Hare

West Midlands Joint Committee – Community Safety Sub-Committee

Councillor Ali

West Midlands Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee

Councillors Ansell (voting), Douglas-Maul (non-voting), Wilkes (substitute)

**West Midlands Superannuation Committee, Investment Advisory
Sub-Committee and Joint Consultative Panel**

Councillor Ali (voting), Chambers (substitute)

Housing Groups

The following nominations were received as set out in the list circulated.

Walsall Housing Group

Councillors Cassidy, Sanders, I. Shires

Aldridge Brownhills

Councillor Paul

The following nominations were made to Housing Groups:

Bloxwich Housing Group

Councillors Tweddle, Robertson

Central Walsall

Councillors Yasin, Anson

Darlaston

Councillors Burley, P. Bott

Willenhall

Councillors Creaney, Cook

Following the nominations being put to the vote it was:

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to Housing Groups for the municipal year 2010/11:

Walsall	Councillors Cassidy, Sanders, I. Shires
Aldridge Brownhills	Councillor Paul
Bloxwich	Councillor Tweddle
Central Walsall	Councillor Yasin
Darlaston	Councillor P. Bott
Willenhall	Councillor Cook

Joint Committee for Civil Parking Enforcement and Parking and Traffic Regulations

The following nominations were made to the Committee:

Councillors Ansell, Paul, Creaney

Resolved

That Councillors Ansell and Paul (deputy) be appointed to the Joint Committee for Civil Parking Enforcement for the municipal year 2010/11.

New Deal Board/New Horizons

The following nominations were made to the Board:

Councillors Beeley and Thomas

Following the nominations being put to the vote it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Beeley and one officer be appointed to the New Deal Board/New Horizons for the municipal year 2010/11.

Walsall Community Transport

The following nominations were made to the above:

Councillors Martin and Wilkes

Following the nominations being put to the vote it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Martin be appointed to Walsall Community Transport for the municipal year 2010/11.

Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee

The following nominations were made to the Joint Committee:

Councillors Longhi, Ansell, Wilkes

Following the nominations being put to the vote it was:

Resolved

That Councillors Longhi and Ansell (deputy member) be appointed to the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee for the municipal year 2010/11.

(b) **Charities**

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to serve on the undermentioned charities for the periods stated:

Harper, Marsh and Crumps Almshouses

Councillor Chambers for 2010/11

Henry Boys Almshouses

Councillor P. Bott for 2010/11

Roger Hinton's Charity

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2010/11

Walsall Hospice

Councillor Ansell for 2010/11

School Holiday Camp Fund of Walsall

Councillor Thomas for the balance of the period expiring on 25 August 2012 in place of ex-Councillor Young.

Pelsall (Staffs) Mining Accident Fund

Councillor Paul for the balance of the period expiring on 14th September 2014 in place of ex-Councillor Ault.

(c) **Advisory and statutory bodies**

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to serve on the undermentioned advisory bodies for the municipal year 2010/11:

Adoption Panel

Councillor Carpenter

Fostering Panel

Councillor Paul

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Councillors Cook, Martin, Rochelle, Phillips, Robertson, Sears, Turner

Walsall Admission Forum

Councillors R. Andrew, Carpenter

21. Designation of Proper Officers

The reports were submitted.

Resolved

(a) Coroner and Registration Service

- (1) That the Head of Leisure be appointed Walsall's proper officer for the joint Black Country Coroner Service in accordance with the requirements of the Coroners Act 1988 with effect from 1 July 2010.
- (2) That the Head of Leisure be appointed Walsall's Proper Officer for the Registration Service in accordance with the Registration Service Act 1953 with effect from 1 July 2010.

(b) Declaration of acceptance office

That the Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services be authorised to undertake the duties of the Proper Officer in respect of the declaration of acceptance of office by newly elected Councillors in the absence of the Proper Officer.

22. Walsall Partnership Constitution

The Walsall Partnership Constitution was submitted.

Resolved

That the Walsall Partnership Constitution be approved.

The meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.