



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 9th January 2017 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
“ K. Ferguson
“ M. Follows
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ 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
“ 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

76. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Harris and A. Nazir.

77. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 14th November and 6th December 2016 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as correct records and signed.

78. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

79. **Mayor's announcements**

(1) **Council tax reduction scheme**

The Mayor referred members to an additional paper which had been circulated. She advised that this was an updated Equality Impact Assessment to replace the version contained within the report. All members were asked to consider the document and take it into consideration when considering item 11.

(2) **Mayor's Civic Awards**

The Council was informed that the deadline for nominations had been extended to 23rd January 2017.

(3) **Death of former Councillor Clive Ault**

The Mayor informed the Council of the death of former Councillor Ault.

The Mayor and members paid tribute to the services of Mr. Ault, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That this Council expresses its regret at the death of Mr. C.M. Ault a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from 2004 to 2010 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.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

81. **Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- (a) Councillor Allen – Save Bloxwich Library
- (b) Councillor Cooper – Save Walsall Leather Museum
- (c) Councillor S. Ditta – Traffic control measures and speed reduction on West Bromwich Road
- (d) Councillor Murray – Save Aldridge Library
- (e) Councillor Towe:
 - Save Pheasey Library
 - Community support budget/Collingwood Centre

82. **Petitions**

(a) **Save Streetly Library**

A report was submitted.

Mr. S. Zetie presented the petition which sought to keep the branch library in Blackwood Road, Streetly open.

Councillors J. Fitzpatrick and Hughes spoke to this item, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the content of the petition be noted and consideration be given to the contents before the finalisation of budget proposals for 2017/18.

(b) **Cessation of bowling greens and cricket pitches**

A report was submitted.

Mr. D. Elwell presented the petition stating concern over the proposed cessation of bowling greens and cricket wickets provision.

Councillors Rochelle, Jones, S. Coughlan, Bird and Shires spoke to this item, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That Council note the petition and the feedback of the consultation with regards to the proposed saving of £58,464 from the cessation of bowling green and cricket provision as detailed in this report.

83. **Questions**

There were no questions submitted.

84. **Mayoralty 2017/18**

It was **moved** by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Bennett and:

Resolved

That Councillor M. Longhi be nominated as Mayor of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council for the municipal year 2017/2018.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor C. Bott and:

Resolved

That Councillor P. Bott be nominated as Deputy Mayor of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council for the municipal year 2017/18.

85. **Recommendations of Cabinet**

(1) **Council tax reduction scheme 2017/18**

The report to Cabinet on 14th December 2016, together with an updated Equality Impact Assessment was submitted.

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

That Council adopts Option B as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for Walsall, to commence from 1 April 2017 in line with the key features of paragraph 3.3 of the report but not limited to the scheme being adopted for future years until such time as the Council considers a change to the scheme is necessary.

Further clarification was sought on the recommendation before Council.

At 6.45 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The meeting reconvened at 7.00 p.m.

Upon reconvening a paper was tabled which provided further context to the recommendation as set out below:

Option B: includes a maximum Council tax discount to working age customers to 70%.

In addition all the proposed technical adjustments would be adopted which include:

- Removal of income disregard for child benefit for 2nd and additional children;
- Introducing a £6,000 capital limit;
- Limiting CTR awards to Band C levels;
- Removing of the second adult rebate; and

Single claimants aged under 35 would be protected at the current maximum Council tax reduction award of 75%.

The changes will raise approximately £625,000 in extra Council tax.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried (2 members voting against) and it was:

Resolved

That Council adopts Option B as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for Walsall, to commence from 1 April 2017 in line with the key features of paragraph 3.3 of the report but not limited to the scheme being adopted for future years until such time as the Council considers a change to the scheme is necessary.

(2) The Food and Feed Law Enforcement Plan 2016/17

The report to Cabinet on 14th December 2016 was submitted.

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

Resolved

That the Food and Feed Law Enforcement Service Plan 2016/17 be approved and adopted.

86. **Recommendation of Audit Committee – Annual review of Treasury Management policies and mid-year position statement 2016/17**

The report to Audit Committee on 21st November 2016 was submitted.

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

Resolved

That Council approve the Treasury Management Policies, as set out at Appendix A and notes the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2016/17 including prudential and local indicators, as set out at Appendix B.

87. **Recommendation of Personnel Committee – Pay policy statement 2017/18**

The report to Personnel Committee on 7th December 2016 was submitted.

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

Resolved

That Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 be approved.

88. **Portfolio holder reports**

(a) **Community, leisure and culture**

A report was submitted.

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick, portfolio holder for community, leisure and culture gave a presentation.

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

(b) **Social care**

A report was submitted.

Councillor D. Coughlan, portfolio holder for social care gave a presentation.

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

The meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.