



# Walsall Council

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

## Present

### Councillor R. Burley (Mayor) in the Chair

#### Councillor B. Allen

“ A. Andrew  
“ G. Ali  
“ H. Bashir  
“ M.A. Bird  
“ C. Bott  
“ P. Bott  
“ A.G. Clarke  
“ S.J. Cooper  
“ D. Coughlan  
“ S. Craddock  
“ C. Creaney  
“ S.K. Ditta  
“ S. Elson  
“ K. Ferguson  
“ G. Flint  
“ M. Follows  
“ N. Gandham  
“ N. Gultasib  
“ A. Harris  
“ L.A. Harrison  
“ A.J. Hicken  
“ A. Hussain  
“ K. Hussain  
“ P. Kaur

#### Councillor E. Lee

“ Mrs. R.A. Martin  
“ F. Mazhar  
“ K. Murphy  
“ J. Murray  
“ S. Nasreen  
“ A.A. Nawaz  
“ A. Nazir  
“ M. Nazir  
“ K. Pedley  
“ G. Perry  
“ W. Rasab  
“ L.J. Rattigan  
“ I.C. Robertson  
“ S. Samra  
“ K. Sears  
“ G. Singh Sohal  
“ P. Smith  
“ C.A. Statham  
“ M.A. Statham  
“ C.D.D. Towe  
“ A. Underhill  
“ V.J. Waters  
“ J. Whitehouse  
“ T.S. Wilson  
“ R.V. Worrall  
“ A. Young

**81. Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of councillors Chattha, James, Jeavons and Johal.

**82. Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, a copy having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record.

**83. Declarations of interest**

None.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

**85. Mayor's announcements**

**Retiring members**

The Mayor thanked Councillors Craddock, Robertson, D. Coughlan, M. Nazir, O. Butler and B. Chattha who were not standing for re-election on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for their services to the Council and the people of Walsall and wished them well for the future.

At the invitation of the Mayor, retiring members addressed the meeting. Group Leaders also paid tribute to those Members for their public service. In doing so, the Leader, Councillor Bird, requested that his thanks to the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Craddock, be placed on record as a reflection of the significant work undertaken throughout the Pandemic.

**86. Petitions**

The following petition was submitted:

- Councillor A. Nawaz – Traffic Issues – The Butts.

**87. Questions**

None

88. **Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report**

The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board presented the report.

**Resolved**

That the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board be noted.

89. **Portfolio Holder Briefings**

**Health and Wellbeing**

A report was submitted.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Craddock, gave a presentation.

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

**Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities**

A report was submitted.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities, Councillor G. Perry, gave a presentation.

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

90. **Notice of Motion – Black Country Plan**

A report was submitted.

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given was **moved** by Councillor Nawaz and seconded by Councillor Hussain with the addition of wording shown in bold italics:

That:

The Black Country Plan (BCP) has created a lot of concern amongst our communities across the borough. The Green Belt is highly valued by our residents and is an asset for future generations.

There are several sites at risk of development including Home Farm, Sandhills; Land at Yorks Bridge, Pelsall and Yieldsfield Farm, Bloxwich. Another site is the Arboretum Park in Walsall and surrounding greenbelt such as Calderfields Farm, Aldridge Road which is enjoyed by many residents both from within Walsall and further afield. It is a highly valued, aesthetically pleasing and bio-diverse green

space adding to the openness and enjoyment of the Arboretum by Walsall residents.

This Council notes that:-

- the BCP will identify and allocate sufficient land for development for the areas housing and employment needs for the next 15 years; and
- Dudley Council recently removed 2 sites from the BCP.

This Council:-

- Urges Cabinet, ***which has the power to remove sites should it wish, at the appropriate time in the statutory process*** to review any proposed Walsall Green Belt land including Calderfields Farm, Aldridge Road; Yorks Bridge, Pelsall and other sites currently included in the BCP, and brings a report to Full Council, before final consultation ends with proposals as to what, if any, Walsall Green Belt land should be included in the plan.

**Amendment** moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew:-

The Black Country Plan (BCP) has created a lot of concern amongst our communities across the borough. The Green Belt is highly valued by our residents and is an asset for future generations.

There are several sites at risk of development including Home Farm, Sandhills; Land at Yorks Bridge, Pelsall and Yieldsfield Farm, Bloxwich. Another site is the Arboretum Park in Walsall and surrounding greenbelt such as Calderfields Farm, Aldridge Road which is enjoyed by many residents both from within Walsall and further afield. It is a highly valued, aesthetically pleasing and bio-diverse green space adding to the openness and enjoyment of the Arboretum by Walsall residents.

This Council notes that:-

- the BCP will identify and allocate sufficient land for development for the areas housing and employment needs for the next 15 years; and
- Dudley Council recently removed 2 sites from the BCP.

That this Council:

- is currently following a statutory process, and in accordance with that due process Cabinet and Full Council will have a full opportunity to consider in detail any proposals as regards to allocation of land for housing, and that this Council values residents' views and will seek to ensure that their views are taken into account as part of that process.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared **carried**, the voting being recorded as follows:

**For the amendment –  
35 members**

Cllr: M.A. Bird  
G. Ali  
B. Allen  
A. Andrew  
A.G. Clarke  
S.J. Cooper  
S. Craddock  
S. Elson  
K. Ferguson  
G. Flint  
M. Follows  
N. Gandham  
A. Harris  
L.A. Harrison  
A.J. Hicken  
A. Hussain  
P. Kaur  
E. Lee  
R.A. Martin  
K. Murphy  
J. Murray  
K. Pedley  
G. Perry  
L.J. Rattigan  
W. Rasab  
S. Samra  
K. Sears  
G. Singh Sohal  
P. Smith  
C.A. Statham  
M.A. Statham  
C.D.D. Towe  
V.J. Waters  
J. Whitehouse  
T.S. Wilson

**Against the  
amendment-  
18 members**

Cllr: A.A. Nawaz  
R. Burley  
H. Bashir  
C. Bott  
P. Bott  
D. Coughlan  
C. Creaney  
S.K. Ditta  
N. Gultasib  
K. Hussain  
F. Mazhar  
S. Nasreen  
A. Nazir  
M. Nazir  
I.C. Robertson  
A. Underhill  
R. Worrall  
A. Young

The substantive motion was put to the vote and it was:-

**Resolved:-**

The Black Country Plan (BCP) has created a lot of concern amongst our communities across the borough. The Green Belt is highly valued by our residents and is an asset for future generations.

There are several sites at risk of development including Home Farm, Sandhills; Land at Yorks Bridge, Pelsall and Yieldsfield Farm, Bloxwich. Another site is the Arboretum Park in Walsall and surrounding greenbelt such as Calderfields Farm, Aldridge Road which is enjoyed by many residents both from within Walsall and further afield. It is a highly valued, aesthetically pleasing and bio-diverse green space adding to the openness and enjoyment of the Arboretum by Walsall residents.

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**At this point in the meeting, the Council sat as charitable trustees. When considering the following item Council procedure rules did not apply.**

### **Barr Beacon Trust Management Committee – annual report**

The annual report was submitted.

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

### **Resolved**

That the work of the Barr Beacon Trust Management Committee be noted.

The meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.

Mayor:

Date: