



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 14th September at 6.00 p.m. Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams.**

Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; and conducted according to the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution.

Present

Councillor P. Bott (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor R. Burley (Deputy Mayor)

“ G. Ali
“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ H. Bashir
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ O. Butler
“ B. Chattha
“ A.G. Clarke
“ S.J. Cooper
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ C.U. Creaney
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ M. Follows
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ A.J. Hicken
“ K. Hussain
“ D. James
“ L.D. Jeavons
“ S. Johal

Councillor T.J. Jukes

“ P. Kaur
“ M. Longhi
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ F. Mazhar
“ J. Murray
“ S. Nasreen
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ A.S. Nazir
“ G. Perry
“ W. Rasab
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ S. Samra
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ I. Shires
“ G. Singh Sohal
“ C.A. Statham
“ M.A. Statham
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill
“ S. Wade
“ M. Ward
“ V.J. Waters
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

95. **Welcome**

At this point, the Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first virtual meeting of the Council.

The rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held was explained and members of the public viewing the meeting were directed to the papers which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

All members confirmed that they could see and hear the proceedings.

96. **Apology**

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

97. **Minutes**

The Mayor moved approval of the minutes of the meeting on 27th February 2020, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Samra in the list of apologies which was seconded by Councillor Bird. The motion was put to the vote by way of a roll-call, declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2020 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Samra in the list of apologies.

98. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Resolved (by assent)

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

100. **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor referred to the deaths of four former Councillors since the last meeting of the Council - Malcolm Barton, Rick Gamble, Stephanie Peart and Brian Powell.

Several members paid tribute to the former Councillors including Councillors Bird, S. Coughlan, Jeavons, Martin, Nawaz, Sears and Shires following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That this Council have heard with deep regret of the deaths of:

- Mr. M.T. Barton a member of Walsall County Borough Council from 1972 to 1974, a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from 1974 to 2003 and Mayor in 1990/91
- Mr. R. Gamble a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from 1976 to 1995
- Ms. S. Peart a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from 1995 to 1999
- Mr. B.S. Powell, a member of Walsall County Borough Council from 1962 to 1965 and 1971 to 1974, a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from 1974 to 1978, 1979 to 1988 and 1995 to 1999 and Mayor in 1987/88

and places on record their appreciation of their services to the borough over a period of many years and expresses its condolences to their families at this sad time.

The meeting observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect.

101. **Petitions**

Councillor Rasab submitted a petition relating to a one-way traffic system in Chuckery

102. **Petition: "Save Radleys Wood"**

A report was submitted.

Councillor Worrall introduced Mrs. Julie Copley, Head Teacher of Radleys Primary School who presented the petition.

Mrs Copley explained that the woodland, adjacent to the school, suffered from anti-social behaviour and neglect. She emphasised that should the woodland be gifted to Radley's Primary School they could create a Forest School facility. This would provide outstanding learning opportunities to promote both curriculum learning and health and wellbeing by connecting children with the natural world on a daily basis.

The Leader agreed to consider the matter at a future meeting of Cabinet.

Resolved

That the petition and representations be noted.

103. **Urgent decisions**

In accordance with Part 4.5 of the Constitution, paragraph 17.02 reports relating to the following urgent decisions taken by the Leader of the Council were submitted:

- (a) Occupancy of Hollybank House by Walsall Healthcare Trust
- (b) Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment – Covid-19
- (c) Adult Social Care Infection Control Ring-fenced Grant 2020

Councillor Bird presented the reports and answered questions from members thereon.

Resolved (by assent)

That the urgent decisions be noted.

104. **Recommendations of Cabinet**

(a) **Dissolution of VIEW (Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall) Programme, Board and Company and the allocation of funds**

The report to Cabinet on 18th March 2020 was submitted.

Councillor Bird moved the approval of the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Andrew.

The motion was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of members and subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That Council delegates authority to the Executive Director Economy and Environment to negotiate and agree the final terms of the Deed of Variation, to the 15th and 16th Schedules of the Stock Transfer Agreement (2003), to be entered into with WHG to record the changes set out in recommendations (3) and (4) above.

(b) **Surveillance and access to communications data**

The report to Cabinet on 15th July 2020 was submitted.

Councillor Bird moved the approval of the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Andrew.

The motion was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of members and subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved

- (a) That the draft Corporate Policy and Procedures on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 be approved.
- (b) That the draft Corporate Policy and Procedures on the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 on the Acquisition of Communications Data be approved.

(c) **Treasury Management annual report 2019/20**

The report to Cabinet on 12 August 2020 was submitted.

Councillor Bird moved the approval of the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Andrew.

The motion was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of members and subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That Council note (in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017)), the annual position statement for treasury management activities 2019/20 including prudential and local indicators (Appendix A).

105. **Annual report of Audit Committee 2019/20**

The report of Audit Committee on 27th July 2020 was submitted.

Councillor Rasab, Vice-Chair of Audit Committee presented the annual report and took the opportunity to thank officers and members of the Committee for the work undertaken over the last year.

Resolved (by assent)

That the annual report of the Audit Committee 2019/20 be noted.

106. **Membership of Standards Committee**

Resolved

- (1) (by assent) - That the Council note that Councillor Rasab had replaced Councillor Waters for the remainder of the municipal year; and
- (2) (by roll call) - That the Council confirm the appointment of Councillor Rasab as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

107. **Private session**

Exclusion of public

Resolved (by assent)

That during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Cabinet considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the item in private.

108. **Recommendation of Cabinet – Acquisition of property to support waste management strategies – amendment of capital programme**

The report to Cabinet on 19th May 2020 was submitted.

Councillor Bird moved the approval of the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Andrew.

The motion was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of members and subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That Council agree to an amendment of the Capital Programme of £20,440,626 to cover costs of the Preferred Option, profiled as follows: £8,545,500 (2020/21), £8,890,338 (2021/22) and £3,004,788 (2022/23).

The meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.