



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 8 July, 2024, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Present

Councillor A. Harris (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors: G. Ali

A. Andrew

H. Bashir

M.A. Bird

C. Bott

P. Bott

R. Burley

J. Chapman

S. Cheema

S.J. Cooper

M. Coulson

S.K. Ditta

S. Elson

K. Ferguson

G. Flint

M. Follows

N. Gandham

A. Garcha

P. Gill

L. Harrison

A.J. Hicken

A. Hussain

K. Hussain

T. Jukes

P. Kaur

R. Larden

N. Latham

E. Lee

K. Margetts

R. K Mehmi

E. Morgan

K. Murphy

J. Murray

L. Nahal

S. Nasreen

A.A. Nawaz

K. Pedley

G. Perry

W. Rasab

L.J. Rattigan

E. Russell

S. Samra

K. Sears

G. Singh Sohal

P. Smith

C.A. Statham

M.A. Statham

C.D.D. Towe

M. Ward

V.J. Waters

J. Whitehouse

24. Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors I. Hussain, Gultasib, Parkes, S. Hussain, Martin, Wilson, Bains, and Hassan.

25. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May, 2024 and Extra Ordinary meeting held on 3 June, 2024, a copy having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record subject to the following amends to the Committee, Charities and Outside Body Appointments :-

- Delete 'Harper, Marsh and Crumps Almshouses' and replace with 'Henry Boys Almshouses'.
- Merrions Wood Charity - insert the initial 'K' in front of 'Hussain'.

26. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Resolved

There were no items in private session.

28. **Mayor's announcements**

There were no Mayor's announcements.

29. **Petitions**

None submitted.

30. **Questions**

(a) From the public:

Mark Brindley

The following question was put by the Mayor in the absence of the questioner. It was noted that a response would be provided in writing to Mr Brindley.

How has the conclusion of the trials regarding the murders of Bailey Atkinson and Akeem Francis Kerr influenced the collaborative efforts to enhance safety in Walsall's Town Centre, and what strategies are being considered for the future night-time economy?

(b) From members of the Council: None

31. **Members appointed to the Executive**

A report was submitted [annexed].

Resolved

That the Cabinet responsibilities for the remainder of the municipal year 2024/25 be noted.

32. **Committee, Charities, and Outside Body Appointments**

A report was submitted [annexed].

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

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to the undermentioned Committee and bodies for the remainder of the municipal year 2024/25 (unless otherwise stated):

(a) Personnel Committee

Chair – Councillor P. Gill

Vice Chair – Councillor A. Hicken

(b) Outside bodies

West Midlands Combined Authority Board

Main representative: Councillor G. Perry (replaced Councillor Murphy)

Substitute: Councillor M. Statham (replaced Councillor Elson)

Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA)

Councillor M. Statham

(c) Merrions Wood Charity (until July, 2028)

Councillor S. Singh Sohal

33. **Scrutiny Annual Report**

The Scrutiny Annual Report was presented to Council.

Councillor Murray highlighted the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and thanked elected Members, Officers, Partners, and Democratic Services for their support during the year. Councillor Murray informed Members

of a Scrutiny training session on 16 July, 2024, and welcomed all Members to attend.

It was **moved** by Councillor Murray, seconded by Councillor Hicken and:

Resolved

That the Scrutiny Annual Report be noted.

34. **Portfolio Holder Briefings**

Leader of the Council

Councillor Perry gave a presentation.

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

The meeting terminated at 6.39 p.m.

Mayor:

Date: