



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 10th April 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
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ M. Follows
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell

Councillor A. J. Hicken

“ E.F. Hughes
“ D. James
“ L.D. Jeavons
“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ A.S. 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

102. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors A. Ditta, Hussain, Kudhail and M. Nazir.

103. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2017 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

104. **Declarations of interest**

The Mayor informed members that the Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to all members of the Council to allow them to participate and vote on the report relating to members' allowances.

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

106. **Petitions**

Councillor Sohal submitted a petition relating to Broadway North Centre.

107. **Petitions**

(a) **Keep Pelsall Library open**

A report was submitted.

Councillor Perry presented the petition highlighting the need for further clarity in relation to the tender process. In addition, he emphasised that libraries were not just a place for book exchanges but a hub for the community. There was a clear need for a sustainable model which would enable a community led library to thrive.

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

Resolved

That the content of the petition be noted.

(b) Save our services

A report was submitted.

Mr A. Summers presented the petition raising a number of matters in relation to the reduction of government funding and the potential implications thereof.

Councillors S. Coughlan, Bird, Shires, Nawaz, Rochelle, Washbrook, D. Coughlan, Worrall and Clews spoke to the item, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the content of the petition be noted.

108. Questions

There were no questions submitted.

109. Members' allowances scheme

A report was submitted.

Professor S. Leach, the Chair of the Independent Members Allowances Panel presented the report of the Panel.

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

Resolved

(1) That the Council note the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and thank the Panel for their work in producing the report.

(2) That option 3A of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out below be implemented from the 11th April 2017:

“the criterion for the annual updating of members' allowances should be the NJC officers award, except when Council staff agree to a lower percentage rise, freeze or reduction, in which case that figure should be applied equally to members allowances”.

- (3) That the Council's Constitution be amended by the insertion of the new scheme at Part 6.
- (4) That the Council's Monitoring Officer be authorised to advertise the new scheme of allowances and payments made hereunder as required by statute.

110. **Child Sexual Exploitation**

The following recommendation of Education and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee was submitted:

“That Child Sexual Exploitation training be made compulsory for all employees of the Council.”

A report was submitted.

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

Resolved

- (1) That the recommendation of Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.
- (2) That Child Sexual Exploitation training be made mandatory for members and appropriate employees of the Council rather than all employees of the Council.

111. **Walsall Local Plans**

A report was submitted.

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

Resolved

- (1) That the Walsall's Site Allocation Document and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan (each including the previous Pre-Submission Modifications and the Further Proposed Modifications, as at Appendices A and B to this report) be submitted – with the necessary supporting documentation - to the Secretary of State so that the process of Public Examination can begin.
- (2) That Council supports the approach of Cabinet in delegating minor changes to the plans to the Executive Director, Economy and Environment and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and authorises the Executive Director to oversee the preparation and presentation of evidence in support of the plans as required through the Examination process.

112. **Black Country Enterprise Zone – amendment to Capital Programme**

A report was submitted.

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

Resolved

That Council approve an amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Programme to include a budget for the acquisition of land in the Black Country Enterprise Zone and associated purchase costs of £2,114,500.

113. **Portfolio holder report**

A report was submitted.

Councillor Shires, portfolio holder for Agenda for change gave a presentation.

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

114. **Notice of motion – Motor Neurone Disease Charter**

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given, was **moved** by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved

Council joins with other like minded councils to adopt the MND Charter reproduced below aimed at increasing awareness of this disease and highlighting the need for rapid support for those who become so tragically afflicted .

The MND Charter is a statement of the respect, care and support that people living with motor neurone disease (MND) and their carers deserve, and should expect.

We believe that everyone with a connection to MND, either personally or professionally, should recognise and respect the rights of people with MND as set out in the Charter, and work towards the Charter's vision of the right care, in the right place at the right time.

About MND:

- MND is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord.
- It can leave people locked in a failing body, unable to move, talk and eventually breathe.
- A person's lifetime risk of developing MND is up to one in 300.

- It kills around 30% of people within 12 months of diagnosis, more than 50% within two years.
- It affects people from all communities.
- It has no cure.

Therefore, what matters most is that people with MND receive a rapid response to their needs and good quality care and support, ensuring the highest quality of life as possible and the ability to die with dignity. The MND Charter serves as a tool to help make this happen. MND is a devastating, complex disease and particularly difficult to manage. We believe that if we get care right for MND we can get it right for other neurological conditions, and save public services money in the long run. But more importantly, we can make a positive difference to the lives of people with MND, their carers and their loved ones.

People with MND have the right to an early diagnosis and information

- An early referral to a neurologist.
- An accurate and early diagnosis, given sensitively.
- Timely and appropriate access to information at all stages of their condition.

People with MND have the right to high quality care and treatments

66●Access to co-ordinated multidisciplinary care managed by a specialist key worker with experience of MND.

- Early access to specialist palliative care in a setting of their choice, including equitable access to hospices.
- Access to appropriate respiratory and nutritional management and support, as close to home as possible.
- Access to the drug riluzole.
- Timely access to NHS continuing healthcare when needed.
- Early referral to social care services.
- Referral for cognitive assessment, where appropriate.

People with MND have the right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect

- Being offered a personal care plan to specify what care and support they need.
- Being offered the opportunity to develop an Advance Care Plan to ensure their wishes are met, and appropriate end-of-life care is provided in their chosen setting.
- Getting support to help them make the right choices to meet their needs when using personalised care options.
- Prompt access to appropriate communication support and aids.
- Opportunities to be involved in research if they so wish.

People with MND have the right to maximise their quality of life

- Timely and appropriate access to equipment, home adaptations, environmental controls, wheelchairs, orthotics and suitable housing.
- Timely and appropriate access to disability benefits.

Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well supported

- Timely and appropriate access to respite care, information, counselling and bereavement services.

- Advising carers that they have a legal right to a Carer's Assessment of their needs¹, ensuring their health and emotional well being is recognised and appropriate support is provided.
- Timely and appropriate access to benefits and entitlements for carers.

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

115. Annual report of Barr Beacon Trust Management Committee

The annual report was submitted.

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

Resolved

- (1) That the work of the Management Committee be noted.
- (2) That the term of office for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Management Committee be from the first ordinary meeting of the Municipal Year until the first ordinary meeting in the following municipal year and that the terms of reference be amended accordingly.
- (3) That the policy statements attached at appendix A be approved.
- (4) That the Trust recognises the work of Council officers, the Wildlife Trust and the Friends Group to support the Trust and extends its thanks accordingly.

The meeting terminated at 7.40 p.m.