



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 13th April 2015 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor P.E. Smith (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor A. Underhill (Deputy Mayor)

“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.A. Anson
“ M. Arif
“ D.J. Barker
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ P. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ B. Cassidy
“ K. Chambers
“ A.G. Clarke
“ C.E. Clews
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ C.U. Creaney
“ A. Ditta
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ M. D. Flower
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell
“ E.F. Hughes
“ K. Hussain
“ G. Illmann-Walker

Councillor D. James

“ L.D. Jeavons
“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ P. Lane
“ M. Longhi
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ G. Perry
“ K. Phillips
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ Mrs. D.A. Shires
“ I. Shires
“ G.S. Sohal
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ S. Wade
“ F.J. Westley
“ V. Whyte
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

99. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Douglas-Maul and McCracken.

100. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2015 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

101. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

102. **Local Government (Access to information) Act 1985**

There were no items considered in private session.

103. **Mayor's announcements**

(a) **Retiring Councillors**

The Mayor thanked Councillors Cassidy, Flower and McCracken who were not standing for re-election on 7th May for their services to the Council and the people of Walsall and wished them well for the future.

Councillors Bird, Arif, I. Shires, Martin, S. Coughlan and Jeavons also expressed their thanks to the retiring members.

(b) **Executive Director, Neighbourhoods**

The Mayor reminded members that Mr. J. Morris, Executive Director for Neighbourhoods would be retiring on 30th April 2015 and wished him well for the future. Councillors Bird, Arif, I Shires, Martin, S. Coughlan and Jeavons also paid tribute to Mr. Morris, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor S. Coughlan and it was:

Resolved

That this Council records its appreciation of the work of Jamie Morris who is leaving the Council after 12 years service as an Executive Director, thanks him for his contribution to making Walsall an even better place to live and wishes him well for the future.

(c) West Midlands Fire Service

The Chief Fire Officer for the West Midlands, Phil Loach, gave a presentation entitled "Our Story" and responded to questions from members of the Council.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Fire Officer for his presentation.

104. Petition

Councillor Arif submitted a petition containing over 1,500 signatures against proposals to make Caldmore Road one-way from Vicarage Place to Caldmore Green.

105. Questions by members of the public and Council

No questions had been received.

106. Recommendation of Audit Committee – Independent member

The report to Audit Committee on 23rd February 2015 was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Illmann-Walker, seconded by Councillor Craddock and:

Resolved

That Council approve an extension to Mr Green's term of office as independent member on the Audit Committee, commencing from the start of the 2015/16 municipal year and expiring at the conclusion of the 2016/17 municipal year.

107. Portfolio holder briefings

The following portfolio holders gave presentations:

- Health – Councillor Robertson
- Children's services and education – Councillor Cassidy

- Community, leisure and culture – Councillor Hussain
- Personnel and business support – Councillor Chambers
- Social care – Councillor D. Coughlan

Members asked questions in relation to the presentations which were responded to by the portfolio holders.

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

Annual report of Barr Beacon Trust Management Committee

The report was submitted.

Councillor Andrew said that the date for the “Bands on the Beacon” event was 27th and 28th June 2015 and not 4th and 5th July as stated in the report.

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

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the Trust recognises the work of Council officers within the Council's clean and green services and financial services and the Wildlife Trust to maintain and promote Barr Beacon and extends its thanks to those officers.

The meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.