

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

18TH JULY 2019

At a Meeting of the Rugby Borough Council held on 18th July 2019.

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor W H Lewis), Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Brader, Mrs Bragg, Brader, Mrs Brown, Brown, Cade, Mrs Crane, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Eccleson, Ellis, Mrs Garcia, Gillias, Keeling, Miss Lawrence, Lowe, McQueen, Mahoney, Mistry, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Pacey-Day, Mrs Parker, Picker, Poole, Ms Robbins, Roberts, Mrs Roberts, Sandison, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Srivastava, Stokes and Mrs Timms.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Bearne, Butlin, Cranham, Leigh Hunt, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse and Shera.

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the special meeting held on 4 June 2019 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

18. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded all Members, officers and members of the public at the meeting of his theme of 'Respect' for the year and asked that this be reflected in the conduct at Council meetings.

The Mayor was delighted to announce that Caldecott Park, Millennium Green (Benn ward), Centenary Park (Newbold), Gladstone Green (New Bilton) and the grounds of Rainsbrook Crematorium had all received the Green Flag award again this year. Caldecott Park has now received the accolade for the twelfth year in a row, with each of the other sites retaining theirs following success in previous years.

The Green Flag Awards, organised by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, aim to raise standards in parks and green spaces across the country, promoting well-maintained and well-managed parks with excellent facilities.

The Mayor congratulated all officers and volunteers who had worked so hard to ensure these parks and green spaces retain such a prestigious award and encouraged the council to seek additional green flag accreditations in other parks and open spaces.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 6 of Part 1 – Review of Members’ Allowances scheme – the Executive Director informed Council that all Members present had a pecuniary interest in this item. Each Member present had completed a dispensation form prior to the meeting and, in accordance with the Council’s Constitution, the Monitoring Officer had granted dispensation to those members to speak and vote on the item.

Item 10(a) of Part 1 – Notice of Motion – Councillor Timms (pecuniary interest as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a member of Warwickshire County Council, which had yet to consider any motion proposing the declaration of a climate emergency).

Councillor Timms left the meeting during item 10(a) of the agenda and took no part in the voting and discussion thereon.

20. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

(A) Councillor Miss Dumbleton asked the Environment and Public Realm Portfolio Holder, Councillor Roberts:

Whilst recognising that the pilot programme of "Urban Meadows" is about trialling areas of diversification for biodiversity, would the Portfolio Holder agree that it does not suit all areas and that it should be introduced within a management framework that takes account of local community concerns?

Councillor Roberts, Environment and Public Realm Portfolio Holder, to reply as follows:

We are proud of our pioneering work on Urban Meadows, which has support from councillors of all parties and also has the backing of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire. Our approach has been highlighted in Parliament, and also received warm feedback from our Heart of England in Bloom judges and from residents.

I can confirm that the Urban Meadows have been introduced within a management framework that takes account of their use and location, and that their implementation has taken account of feedback from communities. At Shakespeare Gardens, for example, we have mown wider pathways and new routes on desire lines as they were highlighted to us, and we were pleased to provide a small quantity of wildflower seeds to residents for them to sow. I am pleased that, in all of the feedback from

residents, there is a clear recognition of the need to support pollinators and take every possible step to improve our natural environments.

We will continue with the planned management regimes, making minor adjustments to reflect community feedback where possible.

Councillor Miss Dumbleton then asked the Portfolio Holder, as officers had refused to meet residents of Shakespeare Gardens, if he would accept an invitation from Ward Councillors to meet with residents on Saturday 7 September 2019. The Portfolio Holder would check his availability and let Ward Councillors know.

21. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Council considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning a review of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RESOLVED THAT – the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel be endorsed subject to the following amendments:

(i) **recommendation 6.2** – it be noted that the current Leader had requested his allowance be reduced to allow for the provision of an allowance for a Deputy Leader, in line with all members of the Cabinet, at no extra cost to the Council;

(i) **recommendation 6.6** – the Appeals Committee not be disestablished;

(ii) **recommendation 6.7** – the Labour Group leader be designated the opposition group leader. If there was such a time that both opposition groups had equal numbers, the proposed allowances of £2,788 and £1,000 be combined and divided equally between the two Group Leaders; and

(iii) **recommendation 6.10** – a full review of IT support for Members be undertaken and proposals be reported in the Autumn 2019.

22. ANNUAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT 2018/19 – REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Council considered the report of Overview and Scrutiny concerning their annual report for 2018/19.

RESOLVED THAT – the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19 be approved for publication.

23. REPORT OF CABINET – 24 JUNE 2019

RESOLVED THAT - the report be confirmed and adopted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(a) Rugby LGBT+ Needs Survey Report – Action Plan 2019

Council considered the report of the Head of Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 9(a) concerning a LGBT+ Needs Survey report and action plan for Rugby for 2019. .

RESOLVED THAT – the work already undertaken to deliver the Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed.

24. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

The Mayor considered it advisable and convenient to deal with the Notices of Motion set out at item 10 (a) - (c) on the agenda at the meeting.

(a) Councillor Mrs New moved and Councillor Douglas seconded the following Notice of Motion as set out at item 10(a) of the agenda:

This Council notes:

- *the recent reports from the IPCC ‘Special Report on Global Warming’ (2018); the CCC report ‘Net Zero – the UK’s contribution to stopping global warming’ (May 2019);*
- *that human activities are changing our planet and the need for everyone to take action on climate change is more urgent and immediate than ever;*
- *that not meeting the UK’s targets will have a negative impact on our residents whilst measures to combat climate change can have significant benefits;*
- *that local government has a role to play in responding to climate change, both through their own practices and policies, and through leadership and facilitation;*
- *that 60 councils across the UK have declared a climate emergency (as has the UK parliament) and committed to radical action to combat climate change; and*
- *that Warwickshire’s position as an economic driver in industry, agriculture and tourism puts us in a position to exercise a leading influence around the world.*

Therefore, the Council calls on the Cabinet to:

- *declare a ‘Climate Emergency’ as a pledge to take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets through the development of their own practices and policies;*
- *convene a working group to consult with officers, representatives of local environmental groups, residents and businesses, that will report to Cabinet and Council within six months on the actions and targets needed to achieve reductions;*

- *work with our residents, partner organisations and environmental groups to invite their input on how to raise awareness and achieve behavioural change;*
- *develop a communication strategy to convey to the community the severity of the situation, and the ways people and businesses can take independent action to cut greenhouse gas emissions; and*
- *where required, call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources needed.*

Councillor Roberts then moved and Councillor Mrs O'Rourke seconded the following friendly amendment:

Rugby Borough Council:

- *notes the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 'Special Report on Global Warming' (2018) and The Committee on Climate Change's report 'Net Zero - the UK's contribution to stopping global warming' (May 2019);*
- *recognises the importance of this issue and the role which it has in responding to climate change;*
- *recognises the significant progress which has already been made through initiatives such as the Rugby Borough Council Carbon Management Plan (2012);*
- *notes that the UK Parliament and numerous councils across the UK have declared a climate emergency, and in doing so, have committed to action to combat climate change.*

This Council therefore declares a climate emergency and in doing so, commits to:

- *establishing a cross party working group to advise on the actions and timescales required to make the Council's activities carbon neutral by 2030. The working group will report initial findings and recommendations back to Cabinet within 6 months;*
- *engaging with partner councils (specifically Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire's 5 District and Borough Councils), local businesses, environmental groups and residents to inform our future actions; and*
- *where required, call on Government to provide the powers and resources to enable Rugby Borough Council to help deliver the UK's carbon reduction targets.*

Following discussion, the Mayor put the friendly amendment to the vote and declared it carried.

RESOLVED THAT - this Council therefore declares a climate emergency and in doing so, commits to:

- establishing a cross party working group to advise on the actions and timescales required to make the Council's activities carbon neutral by 2030. The working group will report initial findings and recommendations back to Cabinet within 6 months;
- engaging with partner councils (specifically Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire's 5 District and Borough Councils), local businesses, environmental groups and residents to inform our future actions; and
- where required, call on Government to provide the powers and resources to enable Rugby Borough Council to help deliver the UK's carbon reduction targets.

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(b) Councillor Douglas moved and Councillor McQueen seconded the following notice of motion as set out at item 10(b) of the agenda:

- 1) *Rugby Borough Council notes that the Rugby Union World Cup will take place in Japan between Friday 20 September 2019 and Saturday 2 November 2019; and*
- 2) *Recognises that we can learn from the game's values of integrity, passion, solidarity, discipline and respect.*
- 3) *The Council should consider ways to maximise this important international event to bring tourism and exposure to the borough as the home of the game; including*
- 4) *Working with businesses, residents and Rugby School to promote the matches and the joy of Rugby as a sport to watch and participate; and*
- 5) *Invite the winning nation to visit Rugby Borough with the Webb Ellis Cup.*

Further to discussion, the Mayor put the motion to the vote and declared it lost.

Following the approval of the friendly amendment relating to item 10(a) of the agenda, Councillor Mrs O'Rourke withdrew her notice of motion set out at item 10(c) of the agenda.

25. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

26. COMMON SEAL

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and

RESOLVED THAT - the Common Seal be affixed to the various orders, deeds and documents to be made or entered into for carrying into effect the several decisions, matters and things approved by the Council and more particularly set out in the committee reports adopted at this meeting.

MAYOR