

**Exempt Extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.**

**17. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005 and Matters Arising.**

**(1) Minutes**

Resolved:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 be approved as a correct record and the minutes be signed by the Chair.

**(2) Matters Arising**

**(i) Minute 23 - Warwick Additional Shire Hall Car Parking Provision**

In response to comments from Councillor Ken Browne, David Carter, the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that discussions had been instigated with the unions. This was noted.

**17. Options for the Shire Hall, Warwick**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Property Services which summarised the options available for the future development of the County Council's office accommodation in central Warwick and asked the Cabinet to agree certain action.

During his introduction of this item Councillor Alan Cockburn reported that it was intended for the matter to be considered at the 13<sup>th</sup> December Council meeting and for the consultations referred to in the recommendation to be undertaken over the winter months leading to a decision at the March Council meeting. The reference in recommendation (1) to "....£10m to cover ICT installations..." should be a reference to ".....£10m to include ICT installations....."

It was then Resolved:-

That the Council be recommended that:

- (1) authority be granted to purchase the third office block at The Saltisford, Warwick, for the sum of £7.7m on terms acceptable to the Director of Property Services and the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive and to authorise spending of up to £10m to include ICT installations and the purchase of furniture and equipment.
- (2) authority be granted to purchase the land shown on the plan in Appendix E to this report for the sum of £50,000 on terms acceptable to the Director of Property Services and the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive

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- (3) the addition of £10.05m to the 2005/06 capital programme be agreed for the items indicated above
- (4) developers be formally invited to put forward solutions to redevelop and regenerate the frontage of Shire Hall and Barrack Street offices, Warwick, for consideration by Members in March 2006.
- (5) a feasibility study be undertaken to replace the Staff Club at Northgate House, Warwick, with facilities within the retained Shire Hall complex.
- (6) action be taken to consult with staff, union representatives and the Staff Club Committee in respect of the proposals set out in this report.

**18. Additions to the Capital Programme Costs in Relation to Phases 1 and 2 Link Road, Midland Quarry, Camp Hill**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy.

The overall costs of Phases 1 and 2 access to Midland Quarry had increased, as have levels of grant. The Cabinet was asked to consider increasing the Capital allocation for the scheme to reflect this.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Chris Saint it was Resolved:-

- (1) That the capital programme costs for the Midland Quarry project be increased from £2,395,00 to £2,849,000 in order to take account of the increased costs incurred in relation to the construction works for Phases 1 and 2 of the INF3 road scheme.
- (2) That the Cabinet notes an additional contribution to the project of £254,500 from Advantage West Midlands.
- (3) That the Cabinet notes that the current projected funding shortfall is within the £70,000 vired from the wider Camp Hill Urban Village in December 2004.

**19. Consortium of Local Authority Special Projects (CLASP): Trading Company**

The joint report of the Director of Property Services, the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive and County Treasurer was considered.

The report sought the Cabinet's approval for the establishment of a new company and of Warwickshire County Council's participation in the company.

Resolved:-

- (1) That approval be given to the Council's participation in the new company proposed by the Consortium of Local Authority Special Projects (CLASP) with its interest being represented by Councillor Alan Cockburn

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- (2) That the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, the County Treasurer and the Director of Property Services be instructed to undertake such actions necessary to establish the company referred to at (1) above
- (3) That the Council's continued membership of the Consortium of Local Authority Special Projects (CLASP) Management Committee be approved, with the Director of Property Services or a nominee representing the interests of the Council.

**20. Replacement of Central Property Register with Archibus/FM - Project Update**

The report of the Director of Property Services.

A report to update the Cabinet on progress made with the replacement of the Central Property Register and to request approval of a settlement to the supplier.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the decision to terminate the contract with supplier Mass Information Systems Limited (MISL) on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2005 with effect from 9<sup>th</sup> November 2005 be noted and comments made as necessary on the revised implementation plan
- (2) That the Cabinet notes that MISL had entered a claim for £50,000 against the Authority in respect of termination of the contract detailed in 1) above and that the Authority's offer to settle this claim for £25,000 was refused by MISL
- (3) That the Director of Property Services, or his nominee, be authorised to obtain a legal analysis from the County Solicitor covering the merits of MISL's claim, a prudent maximum settlement figure, the costs and likely outcome of litigation and any other relevant factors
- (4) That the Director of Property Services, or his nominee, be authorised to continue pursuing settlement of MISL's claim by offering such sums as are necessary, up to a value where litigation, after legal analysis by the County Solicitor, is the most cost effective option for the Authority
- (5) That the Director of Property Services, or his nominee, be authorised to commit up to an amount deemed prudent by the County Solicitor or £50,000 whichever is the lesser, to settle MISL's claim and, upon receipt of legal advice from the County Solicitor, instigate the litigation process if that is the most cost effective option
- (6) That progress made with the replacement of the Central Property Register (CPR) be noted and comments made as necessary.

**21. Talisman Square Development, Kenilworth**

The Cabinet considered the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive's report and supplementary report which had been circulated before the meeting..

The reports updated members on the position relating to Talisman Square.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn, members raised the following points:-

- The supermarket company concerned had now indicated its intention to move to the site.
- It would be more appropriate for the Council to consider other regeneration activities for the Kenilworth town centre, along with other town centres, as part of the budget process.
- A further report would need to be considered early in the new year dealing with the regeneration of town centres in the county.
- Impact on partnership working on any decision not to contribute to the development.

It was Resolved:-

That the Council does not make the contribution requested to this development but considers how it can contribute to the regeneration of Kenilworth and other Warwickshire town centres as part of the 2006/07 budget process.

**22. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service - Community Fire Safety – Departmental Review**

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Fire Officer which detailed proposed structural changes to the Community Fire Safety Department establishment.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Richard Hobbs it was Resolved:-

That members approve the proposal to change the CFS establishment from two uniformed personnel to the following two non-uniformed positions: -

- Community Fire Safety Manager, PO 3-6
- Community Fire Safety Support Officer (Deputy), Scale 5

**23. Nuneaton: 1A Weddington Terrace - Lease Acquisition**

Councillor John Burton declared a prejudicial interest in the matter and left the room during the debate.

The joint report of the Director of Property Services and Director of Planning,

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Transport and Economic Strategy was considered.

The report sought approval to enter into a three-year lease of 1A Weddington Terrace, Nuneaton, for use in connection with a Furniture Re-use Project being run by a local community group.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn, the following points were raised:-

- The parking and traffic flow considerations had been addressed under the planning process and in the business plan.
- Service was for the whole of North Warwickshire.
- With regard to arrangements for the collection delivery of the furniture by local people, there would be access problems for some people wherever the project was located.
- Alternative sites would be looked for at the end of the lease.

Resolved:-

That approval is granted for the acquisition of a lease of 1A Weddington Terrace, Nuneaton comprising 2,028 sq m/21,830 sq ft for a term of 3 years at a rent of £55,000 per annum and otherwise on terms acceptable to the Director of Property Services and the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive.

The Cabinet rose at 3.25 p.m.