

# **WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council held on 21 July 2005**

### **Present:**

Councillor Gordon Collett (Chair)

Councillors John Appleton, George Atkinson, Peter Barnes, Sarah Boad, David Booth, John Burton, Les Caborn, Tom Cavanagh, Richard Chattaway, Alan Cockburn, Jose Compton, Chris Davis, Jill Dill-Russell, Richard Dodd, Michael Doody, Alan Farnell, Anne Forwood, Peter Fowler, Eithne Goode, Colin Hayfield, John Haynes, Marion Haywood, Martin Heatley, Pat Henry, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Richard Hyde, Mick Jones, Bernard Kirton, Nina Knapman, Joan Lea, Bryan Levy, Barry Longden, Anita Macaulay, Helen McCarthy, Phillip Morris-Jones, Brian Moss, Tim Naylor, Mike Perry, Raj Randev, Jerry Roodhouse, John Ross, Kam Singh, Mota Singh, Ian Smith, Bob Stevens, Ray Sweet, B.E.M., June Tandy, Heather Timms, Sid Tooth, John Vereker, C.B.E., and John Wells.

### **1. General**

#### **(1) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ken Browne, Richard Grant, Katherine King, Frank McCarney, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe, Dave Shilton, Mick Stanley and John Whitehouse.

#### **(2) Members Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

The following Members disclosed interests in the items indicated:

##### Item 3 – Public Service Agreement Reward Monies

Councillors Hobbs, Macaulay, Perry and Stevens declared personal interests as members of Stratford on Avon District Council. Councillors Cavanagh and Roodhouse declared personal interests as members of Rugby Borough Council.

##### Item 6 – Capital Programme for Transport

Councillor Hobbs declared a personal interest in relation to Barford Bypass.

##### Item 11 – Nuneaton: Disposal of Land at Roanne Ringway Area

Councillors Pat Henry, Bob Hicks and John Ross declared personal interests as members of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

**(3) Minutes**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 17 May 2005 and 30 June 2005 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chair.

Councillor June Tandy thanked Members for their kind words and support following the death of her husband.

**(4) Announcements**

Former County Councillor Luise Gunter

The Chair paid tribute to former County Councillor Luise Gunter who had died on 11 July. Members paid tribute to Luise's vitality, enthusiasm and commitment as a councillor and her active role in the community.

Terrorist Incidents in London

The Acting Chief Executive reported that he had received reports of attempted explosions in London, resulting in the evacuation of three underground stations.

The Leader of the Council confirmed the Council's continued support for those who lived and worked in London. The Council was assured that the Chief Constable and emergency services of Warwickshire were kept closely advised of events to ensure measures were in place to assist in the protection of Warwickshire. It was agreed that the Leaders Liaison Group be kept advised of the position and meet if it proved necessary.

The Council stood in silent tribute to Luise Gunter and also to those affected by the explosions in London on 7 July 2005.

Avon Valley School

The Acting Chief Executive announced that the tenderer for the contract for the rebuilding of the school had been agreed by Cabinet that day and that work would start on site on Monday 25 July.

**2. Statement of Accounts and Statement on Internal Control 2004/2005**

An updated Statement of Accounts and Statement on Internal Control for 2004/2005 had been circulated to all councillors and had been considered by the Cabinet that morning. The Cabinet had recommended that the Council approve both the Statement of Accounts and the Statement of Internal Control.

Following consideration of the Statements, the Chair of the Council moved, and was seconded, that the accounts be approved.

Resolved

That the Statement of Accounts and Statement on Internal Control for 2004/2005 be approved.

### **3. Public Service Agreement 1(PSA1) Reward Monies**

The Cabinet had considered the report of the County Treasurer at its meeting on the morning of 21 July. The Cabinet referred to Council the first part of the recommendation put to them and this was considered and agreed as set out below:

Resolved

That £186,000 of the unallocated PSA reward money be allocated to district councils.

It was noted that the following proposal had been referred by Cabinet to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

“(ii) £493,263 to PTES to fund the work needed to investigate the options for delivering the waste management strategy and meeting any costs for the Authority *that may arise* from the introduction of the WEEE Directive.”

### **4. Supporting People**

The Council considered a report from the Director of Social Care and Health which set out the measures taken to date to address issues raised by the Audit Commission Inspection of the Supporting People Programme.

Councillor Farnell moved (and was seconded by Councillor Hayfield) that the Action Plan and Strategy be approved.

Resolved

That the County Council approves the Supporting People Action Plan and Five Year Strategy.

## **5. Food Law Enforcement Plan 2005/2006**

The Council considered the Food Law Enforcement Plan for 2005/2006, noting that this had been considered by the former Crime and Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet in April. This had led to an amendment to the plan to include work on imported foods, including checks on imported meat.

Councillor Richard Hobbs moved, and was seconded, that the plan be approved.

Resolved

That the Council adopt the Food Law Enforcement Plan for the year 2005/2006 as part of the policy framework for the Council.

## **6. Capital Programme for Transport 2005/2006**

The Council considered a report that had been considered by Cabinet on 28 April and that recommended an increase to the Transport Capital Programme to cover increased costs in two projects. The Leader of the Council moved the recommendation set out in the report and it was agreed as shown below

Resolved

That the Transport Capital Programme be increased by £0.847m to cover the increased costs (set out in Table 4 appended to the report) for Rugby Western Relief Road and Nuneaton Development Project subject to the contracts not being let until the funding of the projects has been resolved as set out in 2.5 (ii) and (iii) of the report.

It was noted that the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee would have an opportunity to discuss progress on the Nuneaton Development Project.

It was also agreed that officers would advise the appropriate Members of the expected publication date of the inspector's report on the Rugby Western Relief Road.

The Leader gave assurance, during discussion, that if there was considered to be a need to make any representation to the Highways Agency regarding the responsibility for cleaning roads, this would first be discussed by the Leaders Liaison Group.

## **7. Question Time (Standing Order 7)**

The Chair confirmed that there were no questions to Cabinet members or Chairs of Committee for this meeting.

## **8. Motion to Council – Concessionary Fishing Licences**

Councillor Nina Knapman tabled the following amended motion:

‘Warwickshire County Council notes with concern the apparent discrimination against those who have a learning difficulty or mental health needs within the Environment Agencies policy on awarding concessionary fishing licences. It would appear that the only groups capable of obtaining a concessionary licence are those with a significant and permanent physical disability.

Warwickshire County Council is opposed to any form of discrimination on these grounds.

Warwickshire County Council therefore requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Environment Agency outlining these concerns.

*That a report is brought to the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee bringing to their attention any similar discrimination within the County Council.’*

The motion was not debated on the understanding that the Acting Chief Executive would report the concerns to the Environment Agency and his assurance that a report would be brought to the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee that would check that there were no forms of such discrimination within the County Council.

## **9. Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business

## **10 Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the item mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**11. Nuneaton: Disposal of Land at Roanne Ringway Area**

The Council considered recommendations from the Cabinet requesting an allocation of capital receipts from the disposal of land at Roanne Ringway. The recommendations were agreed, the voting being 32 for and none against.

The meeting rose at 2.55 p.m.

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Chair