

# WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Warwickshire County Council held on 15 May 2007

### Present:

Councillor John Wells (Chair)

Councillors John Appleton, George Atkinson, Peter Barnes, Sarah Boad, David Booth, Ken Browne, John Burton, Les Caborn, Tom Cavanagh, Alan Cockburn, Gordon Collett, Jose Compton, Chris Davis, Jill Dill-Russell, Richard Dodd, Michael Doody, Alan Farnell, Anne Forwood, Peter Fowler, Eithne Goode, Richard Grant, Colin Hayfield, John Haynes, Marion Haywood, Martin Heatley, Pat Henry, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Richard Hyde, Mick Jones, Katherine King, Bernard Kirton, Nina Knapman, Joan Lea, Bryan Levy, Barry Longden, Susan Main, Frank McCarney, Helen McCarthy, Phillip Morris-Jones, Brian Moss, Tim Naylor, Mike Perry, Raj Randev, Jerry Roodhouse, John Ross, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe, Dave Shilton, Ian Smith, Mick Stanley, Bob Stevens, Ray Sweet .B.E.M., June Tandy, Heather Timms, Sid Tooth, John Vereker, C.B.E. and John Whitehouse.

### 1. Election of Chair

Councillor Bryan Levy, seconded by Councillor Tom Cavanagh, proposed that Councillor John Wells be elected Chair for the ensuing municipal year. There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

That Councillor John Wells be elected Chair of the County Council until the annual meeting of the Council in 2008.

Councillor John Wells thanked the Council and paid tribute to Councillor Chris Davis's service as Chair for 2006/07 and wished him well for the future.

Resolved:

That the County Council places on record its sincere appreciation of Councillor Chris Davis's service as Chair of the Council for 2006/07.

### 2. Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Alan Cockburn, seconded by Councillor Jose Compton proposed that Councillor Marion Haywood be elected as Vice-Chair for the ensuing municipal year. There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

That Councillor Marion Haywood be elected Vice-Chair of the County Council until the annual meeting of the Council in 2008.

### 3. General

#### (1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Richard Chattaway, Kanwardeep Singh and Mota Singh.

#### (2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

##### ***District/borough memberships***

The following councillors disclosed a personal interest as members of the district or borough council indicated.

##### North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillors: Anne Forwood, Peter Fowler, Colin Hayfield, Joan Lea, Brian Moss, Mick Stanley and Ray Sweet.

##### Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillors Pat Henry and John Ross.

##### Rugby Borough Council

Councillors: Tom Cavanagh, Richard Dodd, Jerry Roodhouse and Heather Timms.

##### Stratford on Avon District Council

Councillors: John Appleton, Peter Barnes, Richard Hobbs, Susan Main, Mike Perry, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe and Bob Stevens.

##### Warwick District Council

Councillors: Les Caborn, Michael Doody, Eithne Goode, Bernard Kirton and Dave Shilton.

##### ***Other interests***

#### **Item 4 – Presentation from Bryan Stoten, Chair of NHS Warwickshire**

Councillor Jose Compton – personal interest as associate member of Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust.

Councillor Richard Dodd – personal interest as employee of West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Councillor Colin Hayfield – personal interest as non-executive director NHS Warwickshire.

**(3) Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

That, subject to the addition of Councillor Pat Henry to the list of declarations of interest (as a member of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council), the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**(4) Announcements**

**(i) Former County Councillor Derek Forwood**

The Council paid tribute to former Councillor Derek Forwood who had died on 23 March 2007. Derek Forwood had served as a County Councillor from 1985 to 2001 and was Chair of Council in 1994/95. Members paid tribute to Derek's many qualities, including his commitment to the people of Warwickshire, his honesty and openness, and the friendship and respect he had earned from those who knew him.

The Council stood in silence in memory of Derek Forwood.

**(ii) Former County Councillor Captain Charles Fetherston-Dilke**

The Chair announced that former County Councillor Captain Charles Fetherston-Dilke had died on 2 April. Captain Fetherston-Dilke had served on the County Council from 1970 to 1981 and was chair in 1978.

Councillor John Vereker paid tribute to Captain Fetherston-Dilke and the support he had given the Council during his term of office.

The Council stood in silence in memory of Captain Fetherston-Dilke.

**(iii) Current Events**

The Chair drew attention to the following events taking place during the day:

Launch of the Intranet

The Chair explained that the intranet was a form of internal 'web' for use by staff and members. It had been to staff in January and was now available for all councillors to access from officer or from home. It included an area designed specifically to meet

the information needs of members, including areas for each political group to share information.

The Chair congratulated all the staff across the directorates who had been involved in the development.

#### 'Talking Shop'

Members were invited to attend the 'Talking Shop' display in the ante-chamber. This consumer and financial education system was being presented by Simon Cripwell, Senior Information Officer with Trading Standards,

#### 'Museum on the Move.'

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet portfolio holder for Adult, Health and Community, announced that the mobile museum was in the Market Square and was currently showcasing artefacts of life in the 1970s.

#### **4. Presentation from Bryan Stoten, Chair of NHS Warwickshire**

The Chair welcomed Bryan Stoten to the meeting.

Bryan Stoten outlined the key challenges for improving health in Warwickshire and reminded Members of the variable life expectancy rates across the County and the links with lifestyle behaviour and economic and educational factors. The presentation illustrated that there was still greater life expectancy in the southern parts of the County, with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough faring worse. This reflected the areas of deprivation, with more deprived areas tending to be in the north of the County, although there are pockets of deprivation across Warwickshire. Bryan Stoten outlined the current Government priorities, which were focused on reducing MRSA infection rates, a better balancing of finances, tackling health inequality (and improved well being) and achieving 18 weeks waiting time as maximum from GP to theatre.

The Council was assured that financial position of hospital services in Warwickshire had vastly improved over the previous six months and that the focus was now on:

- 'a whole health economy'. This meant bringing patients back into the County using local rather than out- county services.
- Providing local health care – through community and primary care centres and 21<sup>st</sup> century tertiary care.
- An integrated patient transport system
- Early adoptors of best practice, for example aggressive stroke management, opportunistic PET scanning, specialist in-patient paediatrics and providing a major trauma centre.

Bryan Stoten explained that patients would and were getting better facilities and services, including 500 en-suite single rooms at the University Hospital and shorter, safer in-patient stays, state of the art scanning facilities. He added that there were challenges to improving health and things that needed to be tackled across the County and in partnership, if health was to improve:

- Tobacco control (probably the most significant cause of ill health).
- Early years nutrition – school meals
- Breastfeeding
- Tackling violent crime
- Tackling substance abuse (including alcohol)
- Ensuring right care was in the right place
- Improving sexual health and reducing teenage conception.

In terms of cost, there was a need to ensure money was kept in Warwickshire, and is properly directed in some cases, for example, by persuading GPs to reduce the issue of unnecessary prescriptions, by convincing the public that accident and emergency is not for minor ailments and that they will get more appropriate treatment elsewhere.

During discussion Bryan Stoten explained his fear that change for the better may not occur if there continues to be resistance to change and false reporting of what the change is about. He added that there had been a lot of false reporting during the Acute Services Review that hospitals, wards or services were to close, which was not the case. He admitted that the review and messages from the review should have been better explained.

In reply to questions around GP hours, Bryan Stoten referred to the review of this and pressure nationally to increase hours and encourage opening at times that better suit the public.

The Chair thanked Bryan Stoten, on behalf of the Council, for his presentation.

## **5. Appointment of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and Appointment of Cabinet.**

**A** Councillor Bob Stevens moved that Councillor Alan Farnell be appointed Leader of the Council. Councillor Gordon Collett seconded this proposal.

The motion was put to the vote and was **AGREED**

**B** Councillor Alan Farnell moved the following motion (and was seconded by Councillor Colin Hayfield):

- (1) That Councillor Bob Stevens be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.

- (2) That there be ten members of the Cabinet.
- (3) That the portfolios and membership of the Cabinet be as set out below

<b>Cabinet Portfolios</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
1 – <u>The Leader of the Council</u> Policy including overall corporate policies, strategic issues, budget and external relations.	Alan Farnell
2 – <u>The Deputy Leader</u> Improving the overall performance of the Council, supporting the Leader on policy matters and Health policy and commissioning.	Bob Stevens
3 – <u>Adult, Health and Community Services</u> Overall responsibility for all services to adults including the delivery of social and health care to older people and people with disabilities, mental health, libraries, heritage and cultural services and community education.	Colin Hayfield
4 – <u>Children, Young People and Families</u> Overall responsibility for all services to children and young people from 0-19 years, as prescribed in the Children Act 2004, including child protection, family support and social care, children with specific needs and the Youth Service.	Izzi Seccombe
5 – <u>Community Protection</u> Community protection including community safety, Fire and Rescue, Emergency Planning, Trading Standards, crime and disorder reduction, drug and alcohol misuse and policing and criminal justice.	Richard Hobbs
6 – <u>Economic Development</u> Economic development including regional and sub- regional matters, employment, tourism, strategic land use, regeneration and planning.	Chris Saint
7 – <u>Environment Services</u> Environment, transport and rural affairs including highways, public transport, road safety, waste management, environmental services, sustainability, smallholdings and rural estates.	Martin Heatley

<p><b>8 – <u>Performance and Development</u></b>  Responsibility for ensuring effective performance management, customer service and access, change management, organisational development, information management, the development and coordination of partnership working including local area agreements and community partnerships, human resources, communications, corporate and community governance and law and probity.</p>	<p>Peter Fowler</p>
<p><b>9 – <u>Resources</u></b>  Resources including finance, property, e-government and information technology, traded services and facilities management.</p>	<p>Alan Cockburn</p>
<p><b>10- <u>Schools</u></b>  Educational services including primary and secondary schools, pre-school children, 16 – 19 years education, Connexions and the Learning and Skills Council and supporting the portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families.</p>	<p>John Burton</p>

- C** Councillor Jerry Roodhouse moved the following recommendation (and was seconded by Councillor Sarah Boad):

“That there be nine members of the Cabinet and that it is made up of four members of the Conservative Group, three members of the Labour Group and two members of the Liberal Democrat Group.”

**VOTE**

The motion at **C** was put to the vote and was **LOST**.

The motion at **B** were put to the vote and were **CARRIED**. (*i.e. Cabinet portfolio holders and membership was not changed*).

**6. Appointment to Committees, other Council bodies and external organisations.**

The Chair moved that the Council agree the list of memberships as tabled.

Resolved

- (1) That the allocation of seats between political groups and individual elected members be as set out in report (and as shown in the Appendix to these minutes)
- (2) That the appointments to committees, bodies and external organisations be as set out in the appendix to these minutes.
- (3) That John Bridgeman be confirmed as the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee, and Mark Magowan be confirmed as independent member of the Committee.

**7. Warwickshire Public Service Board**

Councillor Alan Farnell, Leader of the Council, gave a report on the progress of the Warwickshire Public Service Board which had held its first formal meeting on 23 April. The Board had agreed its terms of reference and how partners would work together to achieve improvements for the citizens of Warwickshire. It was noted that the next meeting of the Board would focus on agreeing a work programme, building on the priorities emerging through the theme blocks.

The Council was advised that the minutes of the meetings of the Board would be made available to all Members and that the Leader would report regularly to the Council.

**8. Annual Report of Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Cabinet portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families) and Councillor John Burton (Cabinet portfolio holder for Schools).**

Councillors Izzi Seccombe and John Burton presented a joint report of the work they had undertaken within their respective portfolios of responsibility.

During their presentation, they thanked Marion Davis, the Strategic Director or Children, Young People and Families, and her staff for their work in shaping the new directorate and in driving initiatives.

The Council's attention was drawn to particular parts of their report, including the successful corporate parenting event and improvement in the time taken to process statements for SEN. In response to questions, Councillor Burton commented that structural maintenance of schools remained a challenge within Warwickshire, as it did across the country, and would require



considerable resource to solve. He also recognised that the recruitment of headteachers also remained a challenge and that efforts had to be made to ensure they were supported in their roles, and one way of doing this is through forming clusters of schools.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe also responded to questions and noted that she wished to see more events like the corporate parenting events, including involvement of young carers. She recognised that support during the transition of young people from care to adult services was also critical and added that the responsibility for corporate parenting needed to be truly embedded in every service of the Council. Both councillors looked forward to more councillors becoming involved in activities with young people such as those held for local democracy week and to engaging with the schools in their divisions.

#### **9. Annual Report of the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Richard Grant, Chair of the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the annual report of the Committee.

During discussion, the Chair undertook to consider with the Committee spokespersons, whether they should scrutinise the effectiveness of the School Citizenship Programme.

#### **10. Overview and Scrutiny Core Programme**

Councillor Ken Browne, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group, presented the proposed core programme of work and noted that this had been the subject of wide consultation across the Council.

Resolved

That the Council endorses the Overview and Scrutiny Core Work Programme for 2007/08 as set out in the report.

#### **11. Corporate Business Plan 2007-2010**

Councillor Alan Farnell, Leader of the Council, presented the Corporate Business Plan, noting that it had been debated at Cabinet on 10 May and Cabinet had agreed to recommend it to Council, (minus the appendices that would be subject to further report to Cabinet in June). Councillor Alan Farnell moved that the Plan be adopted and was seconded by Councillor Bob Stevens.

During the debate, Councillor Ken Browne repeated the concern he had expressed at the Cabinet meeting, with regard to the targets referred to for waste recycling and his wish for the view of the overview and scrutiny committee to be taken into account.

The motion to adopt the Plan was put to the vote and was LOST (24 for and 30 against).

*(NB. The Corporate Business Plan was referred for reconsideration by Council on 26 June).*

## **12. Medium Term Financial Plan**

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Portfolio holder for Resources, moved that the Plan (as considered by Cabinet on 10 May) be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Bob Stevens.

The motion was put to the vote and was LOST, the vote being 22 for and 29 against.

*(NB The Medium Term Financial Plan was referred for reconsideration by Council on 26 June).*

## **13. Treasury Management Strategy 2007/2008 – Amendment**

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Portfolio holder for Resources, presented a report that explained the need to amend the Council's Treasury Management Strategy so that the maximum in house lending time can be extended in line with advice received from the Council's treasury consultant. Councillor Cockburn moved that this amendment be accepted, and was seconded by Councillor Martin Heatley.

Resolved

That the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2007/08 be amended, allowing:

- 1) In house term deposits with banks and building societies with maturities up to a maximum of three years to be allowed;
- 2) Inclusion of fixed-term term deposit with variable rates and variable maturities.

## **14. Monitoring of Decisions Taken Under the Urgency and Call-In Procedures.**

The Council noted the monitoring report.

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

There were no questions.

**16. Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2006/07**

The Council welcomed John Bridgeman CBE TD DL, Independent Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee. Mr Bridgeman presented the report to the Council and thanked the Committee for its diligent work and support.

**17. New Model Code of Conduct**

The Chair moved that the Council adopt the new model code of conduct as set out in the report.

Resolved

That the Council adopts the new model code of conduct as appended to the report.

*NB. The revised code is also included in the Council's Constitution, which is viewable on the Council's website.*

**18. Any other Items of Urgent Business**

There were no other items of business.

The meeting rose at 2.57 p.m.

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Chair