

**Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council
held on 4 February 2016**

Present:

Councillor Bob Stevens (Chair)

Councillors: John Appleton, John Beaumont, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Richard Chattaway, Jonathan Chilvers, Chris Clark, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, Jose Compton, Yousef Dahmash, Corinne Davies, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Richard Dodd, Sara Doughty, Peter Fowler, Jenny Fradgley, Bill Gifford, Mike Gittus, Brian Hawkes, Colin Hayfield, Bob Hicks, John Holland, John Horner, Julie Jackson, Philip Johnson, Kam Kaur, Danny Kendall, Bernard Kirton, Keith Kondakor, Joan Lea, Keith Lloyd, Jeff Morgan, Phillip Morris-Jones, Peter Morson, Brian Moss, Maggie O'Rourke, Bill Olnar, Dave Parsons, Mike Perry, Wallace Redford, Clive Rickhards, Howard Roberts, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe, Dave Shilton, Jenny St. John, June Tandy, Heather Timms, Angela Warner, Alan Webb, Mary Webb, Matt Western, John Whitehouse and Chris Williams.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Caroline Phillips.

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Richard Chattaway declared an interest as his daughter is employed in education.

Councillor Julie Jackson declared an interest in relation to the reference in the Capital Budget to funding for the former Bridgeway Centre as she is a member of Nicholas Chamberlaine Schools Foundation and also declared an interest as a governor of St Michaels C of E School.

(3) Minutes

Resolved

That, subject to the amendment of minute 6.2 as set out below, the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2015 be approved as a correct record:

'(5) New Homes Bonus

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke asked how much money the County Council receives from the New Homes Bonus, by area. Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that no money is received by the County Council.

Following the meeting an explanatory note was set to all members describing the level of the Bonus as £10m for Warwickshire of which £2.1m will be received by the County Council and is included in the four year One Organisational Plan and Budget.'

(4) Announcements

Former County Councillor David Cooke

The Chair announced the death of former County Councillor David Cooke who died on 5th December 2015. David represented Warwick West Division from 1993 -2001 and served on the Community Development and Environmental Strategy Committees and a number of Sub-Committees (Children and Young Persons, Resources Management and Public Transport).

David was also an active union member and was elected President of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union in 1998. This union later became Unite.

Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group, paid tribute to Councillor Cooke and the work he had undertaken for Warwickshire and his local community. Councillor Sarah Boad, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, and Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Conservative Group, also expressed their condolences and thanks for the service David Cooke had given to Warwickshire.

Civic Service and Open Evening

The Chair reminded members that the Civic Service would be on Sunday 14 February at 10.30 a.m. at All Saints Church in Harbury and that his open evening would be on Saturday 27 February 6.30 pm.

(5) Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

2. 2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Planning Framework

A Conservative Group Proposals

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, proposed the Conservative Group's Revenue and Capital Budget for 2016/17, as set out at **Appendix A** to these minutes.

Councillor Seccombe thanked officers for their support to all Groups through the budget process and in particular thanked John Betts, Head of Finance and Virginia Rennie, Strategic Finance Manager. Councillor Seccombe also thanked her Cabinet and Group as well as councillors from all Groups for their contributions to discussions.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe referred to the considerable work that had been invested over the previous two years to deliver the Council's One Organisational Plan and reminded Council that £98m of savings had been delivered since 2010, contributing to the reduction in the national deficit. Councillor Seccombe added that the Group's budget proposals for 2016/17 were consistent with the approach taken to date but also recognised that there will be challenges ahead, particularly in the light of the reduced grant settlement. Councillor Seccombe gave her assurance that she would continue to make representations to Government in the interests of achieving a fair deal for Warwickshire.

Councillor Seccombe referred to the following in moving the budget proposals:

- The allocation of £3.3m to the Children's Social Care and Safeguarding Business Unit. (£3m to resolve the structural overspend and to include development of the role of advanced practitioner social workers and £0.3m two year contribution towards the setting up of the Warwickshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)).
- The levy of an additional 2% council tax to fund adult social services (£4.624m) which will be supplemented by an additional £1.1m.
- £9.480m provision for pay and price inflation.
- The retention by the Transport and Highways Business Unit of any over/underspends on concessionary travel to be managed alongside existing resources for highways maintenance.
- £100k (two year allocated budget) to be used for community energy schemes to support the areas of work recommended by the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Making £3m of service changes towards bringing the Dedicated Schools Grant back into balance.
- Support for the budget the proposals to include use of £24.812 of the 10% business rates share, £0.686m surplus from council tax collection and £4.910m of Medium Term Contingency and £5.5m of service reserves.
- Council tax to increase by 3.99% (an average of £0.92 per week for a Band D dwelling)
- Preparatory work to be undertaken to deliver the £66.441m of savings to be delivered over the 2014-18 plan.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe advised members that the Government's confirmation of the final local government finance settlement would not be until the following week and that it was proposed that, should there be any additional funding to that indicated, this should be put into reserves to help manage next year's budget.

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group, seconded the Conservative Group proposals.

B Labour Group Amendment

Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group, presented the Labour Group's proposed amendment to the Conservative Group proposals as set out at **Appendix B** to these minutes.

Councillor Tandy expressed her Group's appreciation to John Betts and Virginia Rennie for their help in the budget process and also thanked Councillor Richard Chattaway, Deputy Leader of the Group, and Group members.

Councillor June Tandy expressed her concern at the low level of local government grant settlement and proposed that if the final settlement announcement did provide more funding then this should not automatically be put into reserves but should be considered by Council with a view to using at least some funding to alleviate the severe financial pressures facing the Council.

Councillor June Tandy highlighted the following in moving the Labour Group amendments:

- The One Organisational Plan is now unsustainable, largely due to the unexpected and severe Local Government Grant Settlement for Warwickshire.
- Parts of the County are being left behind in terms of economic growth and needs to be addressed.
- Specific investments should be made:
 - £250k to reverse part night street lights for those communities that want it
 - Two year allocation of £300k to enable children's centres to make a difference to the most vulnerable children (diverting money from the 0-5 strategy allocation)
 - One off £700k to fund those in need of mental health services
 - £50k to provide additional super kitchens.
- Planned savings in Supporting People should be stopped (putting back in £300k for 2016/17 and 2017/18).
- The Council should leave the LGA/CCN (saving around £65k) as it no longer appeared to be effective in defending local government.
- The Cabinet should be reduced from 9 members to 7 and members allowances frozen (£30k).

Councillor Tandy explained that the proposal to divert money away from the 0-5 Strategy allocation was due to the Group's concern that much of the money had been spent on research rather than on service provision.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, seconded the proposed amendment.

C Liberal Democrat Group Amendment

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, presented the Liberal Democrat Group's proposed amendments to the Conservative Group proposals as set out at Appendix C to these minutes.

Councillor Roodhouse thanked John Betts and Virginia Rennie for their help through the budget process and expressed his Group's appreciation to all Council staff for their work in a difficult climate and for the savings they had already been delivering.

Councillor Roodhouse expressed his concern at the reduced level of the grant settlement and sought assurance that if the final settlement includes substantial additional funding then the allocation of this should be decided at the reserve Council meeting on 23rd February.

Councillor Roodhouse drew attention to the following points in his Group's amendments:

- The additional Government burden placed on local government means that the County Council is faced with a further £5m spending reductions (on top of the planned £16m this year) whilst raising council tax by 4%. The additional levy of 2% will be insufficient to meet the demographic and cost pressures on social care.
- The County Council should continue to make representations to MPs, the LGA and Ministers to get a funding that is fair.
- Specific investments should be made:
 - To support delivering a sustainable future for the youngest people by investing £50k in the 'Connect Well' social prescribing project and £150k in 2016/17 (rising to £380k in 2017/18) for provision of family support workers.
 - £4m over two years to the highway maintenance programme.
- The planned savings from housing related support for young people, care leavers and young homeless support needs should not be taken forward.
- The number of Cabinet members should be reduced to 6 and member allowances frozen.
- The principle of participatory budgeting should be established engaging with communities further in reshaping how public services will be delivered in the future.

Councillor Sarah Boad, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, seconded the proposed amendment.

D Green Group Amendment

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Deputy Leader of the Green Group, presented the Green Group amendment to the Conservative Group proposals as set out in **Appendix D** to these minutes.

Councillor Chilvers thanked John Betts and Virginia Rennie for their assistance during the budget process and also recognised the work undertaken by the Council's Administration to put the Council in a better position than they may

otherwise be and in making some positive transformation of services. Councillor Chilvers added, however, that cuts in services have impacted on vulnerable people and that the further increases in taxes and reductions in services required by Government will mean that all in society will be paying the cost for future years.

Councillor Chilvers referred to the need to support those services that enable people to retain their independence which includes less focus on road building and increased vehicle pollution and an increased focus on public transport, and an environment that encourages cycling and walking.

Councillor Chilvers highlighted the following proposals in the Green Group amendment:

- The reallocation of the savings from a reduction to the concessionary travel budget (£950k) to the priority of providing a local, sustainable transport infrastructure.
- The cancellation of the Bermuda Connectivity Project and reallocation to other areas (including casualty reduction schemes).
- The development of bus and cycling (£75k per annum).
- A one off allocation of £200k towards the promotion and development of a business case for the reopening of Stockingford Station.
- The removal of the proposed cuts to bus services and half the cut to highway drainage maintenance (£600k).
- To support early intervention, preventative and invest to save measures including:
 - the provision of £100k (rising to £400k) for those with mental health and young ex-offenders.
 - reducing the saving in housing related support
 - a reduction in the planned cuts to the Youth Justice Service.
 - a one off allocation for development of fostering and adoption
 - additional investment in LED street lighting (with resultant savings being allocated to better lighting in key areas)
 - not reducing the Arson Reduction Team by £42k.

Councillor Keith Kondakor, Leader of the Green Group, seconded the proposed amendment.

Following a debate a vote was taken as follows:

VOTE

The Labour Group Amendment at Appendix B was put to the vote and was LOST, the vote being 21 for, 37 against and 3 abstentions.

The Liberal Democrat Group Amendment at Appendix C was put to the vote and was LOST, the vote being 9 for, 49 against and 3 abstentions.

The Green Group Amendment at D was put to the vote and was LOST, the vote being 2 for, 56 against and 3 abstentions.

The Conservative Group proposal at Appendix A was put to the vote and was LOST, the vote being 26 for, 32 against and 3 abstentions.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. and reconvened at 4.35 p.m.

E Conservative Group Amended Proposals

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Conservative Group, moved the proposals set out at Appendix E to these minutes. Councillor Alan Cockburn, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group, seconded the proposals.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe outlined the changes made to the original proposals:

- £75k (increasing to £200k in 2017/18) for family support workers (new paragraph 2.3)
- £25k a year for two years to the 'Connect Well' social prescribing project (new paragraph 2.4)
- Not taking forward the planned savings (£200k for each of next two years) from housing related support for young people, care leavers and young homeless support needs (new paragraph 2.5).
- The savings plan will generate £16.062 million in 2016/17 (amended from £16.262 million) with the total savings to be delivered over the 2014-18 Plan being £66.241m.
- Investment of an additional £2m a year for the next two years to supplement government capital grant allocations for maintaining the condition of Warwickshire's roads.

F Green Group Amendment

Councillor Keith Kondakor, Leader of the Green Group, proposed the amendment set out Appendix F to these minutes and was seconded by Councillor Jonathan Chilvers.

Councillor Kondakor explained that the cancellation of the Bermuda Connectivity Project would enable the reallocation of the money to fund other areas, including funding of casualty reduction schemes, improved walking and cycling routes, and so assist in reducing air pollution and improving the health of people, particularly within Nuneaton and Bedworth.

VOTE on Amendment

The amendment at Appendix F was put to the vote and was LOST, the vote being 2 for and more against.

VOTE on Substantive Motion.

The substantive motion referred to at E was put to the vote and was AGREED, 28 for, 23 against and 10 abstentions. A record of the vote for substantive motion E is set out below:

For	Against	Abstention
Cllr John Appleton	Cllr John Beaumont	Cllr Sarah Boad
Cllr Mike Brain	Cllr Richard Chattaway	Cllr Nicola Davies
Cllr Peter Butlin	Cllr Jonathan Chilvers	Cllr Richard Dodd
Cllr Les Caborn	Cllr Chris Clark	Cllr Jenny Fradgley
Cllr Jeff Clarke	Cllr Corinne Davies	Cllr Bill Gifford
Cllr Alan Cockburn	Cllr Neil Dirveiks	Cllr Keith Lloyd
Cllr Jose Compton	Cllr Sara Doughty	Cllr Clive Rickhards
Cllr Yousef Dahmash	Cllr Brian Hawkes	Cllr Kate Rolfe
Cllr Peter Fowler	Cllr Bob Hicks	Cllr Jerry Roodhouse
Cllr Mike Gittus	Cllr John Holland	Cllr John Whitehouse
Cllr Colin Hayfield	Cllr Julie Jackson	
Cllr John Horner	Cllr Phillip Johnson	
Cllr Kam Kaur	Cllr Keith Kondakor	
Cllr Danny Kendall	Cllr Peter Morson	
Cllr Bernard Kirton	Cllr Brian Moss	
Cllr Joan Lea	Cllr Bill Oler	
Cllr Morris-Jones	Cllr Maggie O'Rourke	
Cllr Jeff Morgan	Cllr Dave Parsons	
Cllr Mike Perry	Cllr Jenny St John	
Cllr Wallace Redford	Cllr June Tandy	
Cllr Howard Roberts	Cllr Alan Webb	
Cllr Chris Saint	Cllr Mary Webb	
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Cllr Matt Western	
Cllr Dave Shilton		
Cllr Bob Stevens		
Cllr Heather Timms		
Cllr Angela Warner		
Cllr Chris Williams		

Resolved

That Council agrees the 2016-17 Budget and the approach to the development of the 2017-2020 Medium Term Financial Plan as set out at Appendix E to these minutes.

3. Any other items of urgent business

None.

The approval of the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2015 were deferred until the next meeting of Council.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

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Chair