

**Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council
held on 22 March 2016**

Present:

Councillor Bob Stevens (Chair)

Councillors: John Appleton, John Beaumont, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Richard Chattaway, Chris Clark, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, Jose Compton, Yousef Dahmash, Corinne Davies, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Richard Dodd, 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, Maggie O'Rourke, Bill Olnor, Dave Parsons, Mike Perry, Caroline Phillips, Wallace Redford, Clive Rickhards, Howard Roberts, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe, 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

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jonathan Chilvers, Sara Doughty, Brian Moss and Dave Shilton.

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

Councillor Caroline Phillips declared a non-pecuniary interest as governor of Stockingford Children Centre

Councillor Jenny St John declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Advisory Board of Warwick Children's Centres.

Councillor Peter Morson declared an interest in relation to item 9 as a member of the Planning and Development Board at North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Joan Lea declared an interest in relation to item 9 as Chair of the Planning and Development Board at North Warwickshire Borough Council and left the meeting for the debate and vote on the item.

Councillor Heather Timms declared an interest in relation to item 9 as the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Development on Rugby Borough Council and left the room during debate and vote on the item.

Councillor Dave Parsons declared an interest in item 9 as a member of Polesworth Parish Council.

Councillor Chris Saint declared an interest in relation to item 10 as Leader of Stratford on Avon District Council who had established the parking strategy.

(3) Minutes

Resolved

That, subject to the amendment to minute 1 (2) to the declaration of interest from Councillor Jenny St John to read ' a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Advisory Board of Warwickshire Childrens Centres', the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

(4) Announcements

(i) Apology from Councillor Sarah Boad

Councillor Sarah Boad made the following statement: 'I wish to apologise for the way that I addressed Jerry Webber, known to me as Chair of the Warwick and Leamington Labour Party and a former member of Warwick District Council, who attended the Council meeting held on 23rd February sitting in the public gallery. I recognise that it is very inappropriate to speak directly to a member of the public in this way as they have no right of reply and I acknowledge that this was the wrong thing to do. My comments were not meant to imply anything about his personal character.'

(ii) Gary Phillips, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

The Chair referred to the forthcoming retirement of Gary Phillips following 32 years in the fire service. Gary had commenced his Fire Service career with West Midlands Fire Service, then worked for a number of years at Suffolk Fire Service and had served the last six years as the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Head of Service with Warwickshire with responsibility for both service delivery and support. Gary had worked tirelessly to protect the community and make Warwickshire a safer place to live and work and in particular had championed the installation of sprinklers in new building developments both in Warwickshire and nationally and also held a number of national roles with the Chief Fire Officers Association and led on initiatives that have had a significant impact on keeping the public safe.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to Gary's confidence, reliability and leadership skills, reflected in the way he had managed change and challenges within the service and the high regard in which he was held by members and staff. Councillor June Tandy expressed her appreciation to Gary, on behalf of the Labour Group, for his commitment and hands on support to communities. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, added his thanks for Gary's extraordinary work for residents and his support through challenging times.

Councillor Howard Roberts, Leader of the Independent Group paid tribute to the professionalism and valuable support that Gary had provided for members and local communities.

Councillor Keith Kondakor, Leader of the Green Group also thanked Gary for the support he had given.

A number of other members also paid tribute to Gary and wished him well in his retirement.

(iii) Graeme Fitton, Head of Transport and Highways

That Chair reported that Graeme Fitton would be retiring at the end of the March following nearly 30 years service with the Council. Graeme had joined Warwickshire as a highways engineer in 1987 and undertook a number of posts before becoming Head of Transport and Highways in October 2005. Graeme has led on many initiatives and projects, including the decriminalisation of parking, the Local Transport Plan, the construction of new rail stations and the securing of funding for major projects. Graeme has worked closely with councillors over the years and in particular with Warwick and Stratford members and most recently with the Shipston/Stour Community Forum.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to Graeme's professional, calm manner and his ability to inspire confidence at all times and through challenging situations. Councillor June Tandy, on behalf of the Labour Group, paid tribute to Graeme, particularly during her time as Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee, and thanked Graeme for his support and honest advice. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse added thanks on behalf of his Group and referred, in particular, to the high regard in which Graeme is held within the West Midlands as well as across Warwickshire.

Councillor Howard Roberts, Leader of the Independent Group, thanked Graeme for the advice and support he had given to members. Councillor Keith Kondakor, Leader of the Green Group, also paid tribute to Graeme.

Other members also paid tribute to Graeme and wished him well in his retirement.

(iv) Hugh Disley, Head of Service for Early Help and Targeted Support.

The Chair paid tribute to Hugh Disley who was leaving the authority at the end of March. Hugh first joined the Council in 1992 on a secondment to establish the Warwickshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services. He then became Principal Youth Officer in Staffordshire in 2001 but returned in 2006 as Head of Service for Young people and later became Head of Service for Early Help and Targeted Support. Hugh's wide range of programmes included the early help edge of care children's social care services, establishing the Safer Schools Partnership and developing the Family Support Workers Service for the Priority Families Programme. Hugh is widely known as a champion for the voice of young people through VOX, MYPs and Children in Care Council and in initiatives such as vital work with families on developing co-production of services. A lasting legacy of Hugh's work will be his founding and support of the Tiffin Club which supports Looked After Children into further and higher Education.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, expressed her appreciation to Hugh for the work he had undertaken with the Council

and for his championing of young people, the success of which was evident in the MYPs and in the Council's increased engagement with young people. Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group, expressed her Group's appreciation to Hugh for his work with school services. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, added his thanks to Hugh, particularly for his work with the Tiffin Club which will be a lasting legacy to Hugh's passion for supporting young people.

Councillor Howard Roberts, Leader of the Independent Group, paid tribute to Hugh and thanked him for his work with the Council.

Councillor Keith Kondakor, Leader of the Green Group, thanked Hugh for his valuable contribution and support of the Council.

Other members highlighted Hugh's dedication to improving the lives of looked after children and how he had worked with parents to transform services. The Council expressed their best wishes to Hugh for the future.

(v) Nick Gower- Johnson Manager of Priority Families Programme

The Chair paid tribute to Nick Gower-Johnson who would be retiring in March. Nick had worked in the voluntary sector in a variety of jobs before joining the Council in 1994 as Deputy County Community Education Coordinator in the new Community Education Service and oversaw changes in adult education, expansion of the youth service and ensured funding for projects such as Hatters Space and the CHESS building in Nuneaton. In 2002 he became Professional Assistant to the County Education Officer working on projects such as extending the role of schools and review of support services before moving into the Chief Executive's department to work on developing partnerships in 2005. Since 2012 Nick has led the highly successful Priority Families Programme.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to Nick's skill in developing partnerships and in particular for the excellent work on the Priority Families Programme. Councillor June Tandy added her appreciation on behalf of the Labour Group and in particular noted Nick's commitment and valuable support to communities. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, also thanked Nick for his work and that of his team, in improving the lives of families in Warwickshire.

Councillor Howard Roberts, Leader of the Independent Group, paid tribute to Nick for his valuable work and support of the Council.

Councillor Keith Kondakor, Leader of the Green Group, thanked Nick for his work and support of members.

Other members also paid tribute to Nick and the Council wished him well in his retirement.

(vi) Public Health Exhibition

Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health, encouraged members to visit the Public Health exhibition taking place that day.

2. Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Deputy Leader, proposed that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 that had been considered by Cabinet on 18 February be agreed by Council in accordance with the recommendations from Cabinet. Councillor John Appleton seconded the recommendations and the Council approved the recommendations, unanimously, as set out below.

Resolved

- (1) That Council approves the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2016-17 and that its provisions have immediate effect in the current financial year 2015-16.
- (2) That Council notes the Prudential Indicators (Appendix A of the report) as approved by Council in February 2016.
- (3) That Council requires the Head of Finance to ensure that net borrowing does not exceed the prudential level as specified in Appendix A of the report, taking into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in the budget report.
- (4) That Council delegates authority to the Head of Finance to undertake all the activities listed in Appendix G of the report, subject to the use of any new financial instruments being approved by Cabinet.
- (5) That Council requires the Head of Finance to implement the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, as specified in Appendix H of the report.

3. Earmarking of up to 5% of Capital Receipts to maintain the Council's Land Bank

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Deputy Leader, presented a report that set out a proposal for maintaining the Council's stock of smallholdings land which would be in accordance with the Warwickshire County Farms and Smallholdings Strategy approved by Cabinet on 10 December 2015.

A Councillor Alan Cockburn moved the following recommendations and was seconded by Councillor Colin Hayfield:

- (1) That Council approves earmarking of up to 5% of capital receipts generated from the sale of smallholdings land and buildings to provide capital to purchase agricultural land and buildings to prevent erosion of the land bank, in accordance with the Warwickshire County Farms and Smallholdings Strategy 2015-2025
- (2) That the Capital Receipts Policy is amended in accordance with recommendation (1).

B Councillor Keith Kondakor moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor Howard Roberts:

That the following words be added to recommendation (1):

‘delegated authority to agree purchase of land and buildings is restricted to purchases within 10 miles of the original sale.’

Councillor Keith Kondakor explained that this amendment would ensure that smallholdings land does not become limited to one part of the County but is spread across all five district/borough areas. He added that a 10 mile radius would still be a substantial area and would not restrict opportunities to purchase land for smallholdings.

Councillor Howard Roberts, in seconding the amendment, emphasised the importance of avoiding the centralisation of smallholdings but also the importance for rural villages of retaining agricultural land where it is part of their way of life. Removal of this land also deprives people of the opportunity of taking up agricultural employment in their area. He added that there would still be an opportunity for proposals outside of the 10 miles radius but they should then be brought back to Council for consideration.

During the debate that followed, members commented that it may be desirable to replace smallholdings land within a 10 mile radius but there were concerns that this would restrict the Council from being able to keep the smallholdings land at the current level.

Councillor Alan Cockburn, in response to points raised in the debate, advised that the level of 5% had been calculated as adequate and also that it was not practicable to await meetings of Council to agree the purchase of land as opportunities often arose at short notice.

The amendment at B was put to the vote and was lost, the vote being three for and more against.

The original recommendations at A were put to the vote and were agreed as set out below.

Resolved

(1) That Council approves earmarking of up to 5% of capital receipts generated from the sale of smallholdings land and buildings to provide capital to purchase agricultural land and buildings to prevent erosion of the land bank, in accordance with the Warwickshire County Farms and Smallholdings Strategy 2015-2025

(2) That the Capital Receipts Policy is amended in accordance with (1) above.

4. Local Pension Board

Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group proposed, and was seconded by Councillor Richard Chattaway, that Councillor Peter Morson replace Councillor Matt Western on the Local Pension Board.

The proposal was put to the vote and was agreed.

Resolved

That Councillor Peter Morson replace Councillor Matt Western on the Local Pension Board.

5. One Warwickshire Estate

The Chair advised the meeting that the tabled amendment from Councillor Clive Rickhards had been accepted by Councillor John Holland and therefore the following amended motion was moved by Councillor Clive Rickhards and seconded by Councillor John Holland:

‘That Warwickshire County Council explores the opportunities for cooperation with the district and borough councils and other public bodies to establish a common public property asset register for Warwickshire to facilitate the delivery of public services across the County by referring this matter to the Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee’

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Deputy Leader, advised the meeting that work had already been undertaken with partners to establish a database of property (but that this could be reviewed and updated) and reminded members that the Council does publish a list of its own assets in accordance with the DCLG’s Transparency Code.

Councillor Clive Rickhards explained that he considered there is a need for a detailed look at this issue which would best be undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who can give a view on what the register should contain and at what opportunities there are for cooperation with others. Councillor John Holland stressed the importance of encouraging organisations to cooperate, particularly in a time of reducing resources and that he was pleased to hear that work on this had been undertaken.

The amended motion was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved

That Warwickshire County Council explores the opportunities for cooperation with the district and borough councils and other public bodies to establish a common public property asset register for Warwickshire to facilitate the delivery of public services across the County by referring this matter to the Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Member Question Time

6.1 Questions on Notice (Standing Order 7.2)

(1) Cycling Casualties

Councillor Matt Western asked Councillor John Horner, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety:

'Will the portfolio holder provide me with an analysis of casualty data for cyclists for the period January 2015 to November 2015 and for similar periods for the preceding 10 years?'

Councillor John Horner replied that information from the West Mercia and Warwickshire Police looked encouraging but more detail was required which he had requested and this would circulate in the Community Safety Briefing.

Councillor Matt Western asked to see specific data from September to February (over the last 10 years) and reiterated his request that the portfolio holder join him in cycle ride from Leamington to Warwick.

Councillor Horner replied that he recognised that whilst there had been a reduction in injuries to child cyclists there had been an increase in injury to commuter cyclists and that the education was important. He added that he would join Councillor Western on the proposed cycle ride.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked whether there should be training of motorists. Councillor Horner replied that he would continue to promote the safety of cyclists.

(2) Allocation of Pupil Premium to Schools

Councillor Philip Johnson asked Councillor Colin Hayfield, Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning:

'The allocation of Pupil Premium to schools is based on the number of free school meals over a rolling 6 year period. Since the introduction of Universal Free School Meals in the infant sector the number of applications for free school meals has declined markedly with a resulting major impact on budget allocations in infant schools. As a two tier authority it is currently not possible to access the welfare information held by district councils to replace the loss of information about deprived families from free school meal applications.

What action is proposed to ameliorate the serious budget impact on these schools?'

Councillor Colin Hayfield replied that he would circulate a written answer to all members but in summary explained that the system that captures free school meals and the system the benefits teams use do not communicate with each other but that this issue was being looked at.

Councillor Hayfield agreed to ensure a report on this matter is put to the Schools Forum.

Councillor Bill Olnor asked what the impact would be of the changes in legislation that will require every school is to convert to an academy and the impact of the changes in the national funding formula.

Councillor Colin Hayfield replied that the implications were being looked at and a statement would be made available to all councillors.

(3) School Places

Councillor Philip Johnson asked Councillor Colin Hayfield, Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning:

‘As a result of population growth additional school places will be required in Warwickshire in the next few years. The most cost effective way of adding school places is by the expansion of existing schools. However, many schools are now academies or free schools over whose size and admissions policies the county has little or no influence. What action is proposed to ensure that parents in Warwickshire are able to get a place at a local school of their choice for their children?’

Councillor Colin Hayfield replied that although academies can set their own admissions criteria, Warwickshire County Council remains responsible for overseeing admissions. The admissions criteria become pertinent in cases of over subscription but there is an appeal process for this. Councillor Hayfield added that he appreciated that there are pressures for school places in a number of areas of the County.

Councillor Philip Johnson asked whether the Portfolio Holder envisaged that the Government’s decision to make it compulsory that schools become academies will make a difficult situation even more difficult.

Councillor Colin Hayfield replied that he could not comment on this.

Councillor June Tandy referred to the increasing pressure on schools to expand and to cope with issues of access to their expanded schools and how this could be addressed.

Councillor Colin Hayfield replied that it can be the case that a school is in the right place but not have good access. The new legislation will be looked at in detail to determine what the role of the County Council will be in future.

(4) Children’s Centres

Councillor Caroline Phillips asked Councillor Les Caborn, Portfolio Holder for Health:

‘Page six of the Council’s 0-5 Strategy quotes Government figures from the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Eight areas in Warwickshire fall into the top 10% most deprived areas nationally. Six of these eight areas are located within Nuneaton and Bedworth, one within Warwick District, and the other within North Warwickshire Borough. Can the Portfolio Holder reassure me that he is committed to supporting Children’s Centres in these areas?’

Councillor Les Caborn replied that the document referred to is the 0-5 needs assessment (the 0-5 Strategy is not yet in place) and that he would agree that children’s centres do play a vital role but as we move to Smart Start the focus will be on all 0-5s and will include service redesign, innovation and integration and children’s centres have a role to play which is why they are represented on the 0-5 Strategy Group. All partners on that group are looking at how best to deliver

services, and in particular with reference to deprived areas. Councillor Caborn added that he could not, at this time, say whether the children's centres would stay in the same places and have exactly same roles.

Councillor Caroline Phillips asked whether the Portfolio Holder would recognise that Stockingford Children's Centre, as local people do, that it provides a vital service at the heart of the community.

Councillor Les Caborn replied that all positive work undertaken by the children's centres is recognised but that they are all under review as he had described.

Councillor Angela Warner asked whether the review included learning from other local authorities and looking at examples of best practice. Councillor Caborn replied that other authorities had been looked, and in particular Essex County Council who had developed centres to cover 0-19 year olds.

(5) Population, Housing and Employment Projections

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council:

'When spending £100 of millions on infrastructure it is vital that we have accurate and up to date projections of population, housing and employment. Unjustifiable projections will also undermine the speedy adoption of local plans.

Will the Leader look at the concerns raised about the modelling and have our brilliant Warwickshire Observatory undertake a review of the baseline assumptions?'

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that the assumption is a subjective one and that a fall in birth rate is not apparent in Warwickshire and the increasing pressure for school places indicates that the birth rate is not falling. In addition this is not the only indicator for the need for housing as there are other factors, such as the increase in the number of older people, single occupancy and inward migration. Housing is needed for jobs and economic growth. Councillor Seccombe added that she did, as portfolio holder for Planning and Housing on the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, always challenge the figures but in particular the density of allocation and she questions why more is not allocated within the city of Coventry rather than Warwickshire.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked whether the Leader would ensure Warwickshire's Observatory looks at the assumptions and ensures an objective impartial assessment of the data.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that this work will be done but added that assessment of housing need should be based on more than birth rates.

(6) MIPIM

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council:

'I am very pleased to hear that this year's delegation to MIPIM focused on development opportunities in Nuneaton. Can the Leader report how well the event went and on any feedback received?'

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that she had not attended herself but had received feedback that the event had gone well and that there had been significant interest but it was too soon after the event to report on outcomes.

(7) GP Surgeries

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Les Caborn, Portfolio Holder for Health:

'I know it is not fully the responsibility of the County Council but can the Portfolio Holder suggest what we can do to ease the delivery of GP services onto our new estates?'

Councillor Caborn replied that Public Health has two posts that work closely with all boroughs and districts looking at the health infrastructure to support growth and local plans as well as wider health issues. Health Impact Assessments are also undertaken and four of the five borough and districts had been completed. Councillor Caborn undertook to send a briefing note to members with regard the position in Weddington. Councillor Caborn added that there is an anomaly in that in the south of the County the CCG have delegated authority with regard to planning of GP surgeries but in the North it is the role of NHS England working with partners.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked how pressure could be put on the North CCG to get an estate strategy for GP provision.

Councillor Les Caborn replied that he attends all of the board meetings and this issue is raised there.

(8) Bridge on Hinckley Road, Nuneaton

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning:

'I am very pleased that we have seen a massive reduction in bridge strikes after improved and repaired signage on the redundant bridge on Hinckley Road in Nuneaton. However, this bridge is a major pinch point on people's drive or cycle into Nuneaton. We are to get a new pedestrian crossing as a result of a Lidl development nearby. Before the details of the section 238 works are sorted out will the Portfolio Holder look at the possibility of removing the bridge to provide significant environmental benefits and what would be the approximate additional cost of doing so?'

Councillor Peter Butlin replied that the bridge had been hit a number of times but that there is now better signage. The bridge belongs to the Historic Railways but he understands it would cost £200,000 to have it removed and is not a priority at present.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked whether developers could be asked to fund the removal?

Councillor Butlin replied that officers had looked at this but there are other bridges that get hit and this one is not a priority at present.

6.2 Questions without Notice to Leader of the Council and Cabinet Portfolio Holders (Standing Orders 7.7 and 7.8)

(1) Local Government Funding

Councillor Dave Parsons asked Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council whether she considered the Chancellor's actions in levelling additional cuts at short notice whilst at the same time reallocating funding to metropolitan districts as responsible.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that none of the Groups had been happy with the settlement and this had been evident at both budget debates and she appreciated that no member wished to make cuts but she believed this administration had done a good job in difficult circumstances.

(2) Family Support Workers

Councillor Jenny St John asked Councillor Les Caborn, Portfolio Holder for Health, whether he agreed that there should be no delay in allocating the Family Support Workers funding and asked when this would be spent and where the Family Support Workers will be based.

Councillor Les Caborn replied that the allocation of the money was being worked up presently and he would let members know as soon as possible.

(3) Education White Paper

Councillor John Whitehouse asked Councillor Colin Hayfield, Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, whether he would involve in the children and young people spokespersons in consideration of the implications for the proposals in the White Paper and ensure there is an all party response.

Councillor Hayfield replied that officers were working on a summary of the implications of the white paper and this would be widely circulated and is an issue that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider.

(4) Missing Persons Return Home Interviews

Councillor Nicola Davies referred to DFE guidance on missing persons return home interviews and the requirement for councils to agree protocol with the police in relation to children who run away or go missing and that the Police and Crime Panel had learned that the County Council has changed its process and that this had some impact on the information that the police receive. Children's services are now undertaking a review and Councillor Davies asked Councillor Les Caborn how long this would take and whether he would take an active role in ensuring the review is undertaken as speedily as possible.

Councillor Les Caborn undertook to look into this and ensure all members get a response as soon as possible.

(5) Pupil Premium

Councillor Jenny Fradgley referred to a meeting she had facilitated between the County and Stratford on Avon District Council on this issue and asked Councillor Colin Hayfield that, given that partners are wishing to resolve this together, this could be progressed as soon as possible to get access to the pupil premium.

Councillor Hayfield referred to his earlier response and agreed that all schools would be beneficiaries from resolving this issue.

(6) Bermuda Station Signage

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Peter Butlin, Portfolio holder for Transport and Planning, whether he would ensure there is signage for cycling and pedestrians from the obvious places, such as the Coventry Road.

Councillor Peter Butlin replied that he would and added that he was aware that there is still further signage to be installed.

(7) Local Government Funding

Councillor Dave Parsons asked Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, whether she could give any information as to why the Chancellor allocated funds away from the shire counties to the metropolitan councils and whether any of Warwickshire's MPs had taken any action on this.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that she was not privy to Treasury information and could also not answer for the MPs but would give an answer to members if she was able to.

(8) Stratford Park and Ride Signage

Councillor Kate Rolfe referred to her and Councillor Fradgley's attempts to have the signage to the closed Southern Stratford Park and Ride removed and asked Councillor Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, whether he would ensure the signage is removed.

Councillor Peter Butlin replied that he was unaware that the signage was still in place and undertook to ensure it is removed.

(9) Proposed reductions in disability allowances

Councillor June Tandy referred to the recent resignation of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and asked what impact there would be Warwickshire County Council of proposed cuts to disability allowances.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that she did not have an answer as she had just returned from leave but would follow this up.

7. Any other items of urgent business

None

8. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

Resolved

'That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the items mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972'.

9. Capital Programme provision for strategic site promotion and planning applications

During the debate a question with regard to member interests was raised and Council adjourned at 12.10 p.m. whilst this was considered and reconvened at 12.29 p.m.

Councillor Peter Morson declared an interest as a member of the Planning and Development Board at North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Joan Lea declared an interest as Chair of the Planning and Development Board at North Warwickshire Borough Council and left the meeting during the debate and vote on this item.

Councillor Heather Timms declared an interest as the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for development on Rugby Borough Council and left the room during the debate and vote on this item.

Councillor Dave Parsons declared an interest as a member of Polesworth Parish Council.

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Deputy Leader, presented proposals to allocate funding to the Capital Programme for the cost of strategic site promotion and planning applications for the sites listed in the exempt report. Councillor Izzi Seccombe seconded the proposals.

Councillor Keith Kondakor, Leader of the Green Group, seconded by Councillor Howard Roberts, Leader of the Independent Group, proposed an amendment to exclude the promotion of two sites from the list of sites for promotion. This was put to the vote and was lost. The Council voted on the recommendations in the report and these were agreed as set out in the exempt minutes.

10. The Future Management and Operation of Stratford Park and Ride

Councillor Chris Saint declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as Leader of Stratford on Avon District Council.

Councillor Peter Butlin, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, presented a report that sought approval to the use of capital investment to implement the option for the future management of the site. Councillor Butlin moved that Council agreed the recommendations in the report and was seconded by Councillor Alan Cockburn. The Council agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt minutes.

11. Decisions taken under the urgency procedure

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, presented a report on the two decisions taken under the urgency procedure since the last report to Council, both of which related to exempt issues.

Resolved

That the Council note the report.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

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Chair