

Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council held on 15 May 2018

Present:
Councillor John Cooke (Chair)

Councillors Helen Adkins, Jo Barker, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Mark Cargill, Richard Chattaway, Jonathan Chilvers, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, Andy Crump, Yousef Dahmash, Corinne Davies, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Judith Falp, Jenny Fradgley, Pete Gilbert, Dan Gissane, Clare Golby, Seb Gran, Colin Hayfield, John Holland, Andy Jenns, Kam Kaur, Keith Kondakor, Keith Lloyd, Jeff Morgan, Bill Olnor, Maggie O'Rourke, Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Anne Parry, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Wallace Redford, David Reilly, Clive Rickhards, Howard Roberts, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, Andy Sargeant, Izzi Seccombe OBE, Dave Shilton, Jill Simpson-Vince, Bob Stevens, Heather Timms, Adrian Warwick, Alan Webb, Chris Williams and Andy Wright.

The retiring chair, Councillor Clive Rickhards, opened the meeting and welcomed members and visitors to the meeting, in particular the new member for Leamington Willes (Councillor Helen Adkins) and Councillor Felicity Bunker from Warwick District Council and Kenilworth Town Council.

1. Election of Chair

Councillor Alan Cockburn, seconded by Councillor Dave Shilton, proposed that Councillor John Cooke be elected Chair of Council for the ensuing municipal year.

There were no other nominations.

Resolved

That Councillor John Cooke be elected Chair of Council until the annual meeting of the Council in 2019.

Councillor John Cooke made his declaration of office and thanked the Council for their support and for the honour of representing the Council.

Vote of thanks to retiring chair.

The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing chair, Councillor Clive Rickhards, and paid tribute to the excellent manner in which Councillor Rickhards had conducted Council meetings and also thanked Councillor Rickhards and his wife Maureen for being superb ambassadors for the County over the last year.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe seconded the vote of thanks and she and other members expressed their appreciation to Councillor Rickhards and his wife Maureen for their work throughout their year, in particular their support of many charitable events across the County.

Councillor Clive Rickhards expressed his gratitude to members and officers for their support and in particular thanked Councillor Cooke for his support as Vice Chair, Stuart Reed for his chauffeuring service and Dawn Mardle, who had provided brilliant support to both himself and the Lord Lieutenant over the year. Councillor Rickhards gave particular thanks to his wife Maureen, who had been 'simply the best' as his consort.

Councillor Rickhards also thanked members for their donations (totalling £2,230 to date) for the bereavement charity, the Edwards Trust.

Councillor Rickhards paid tribute to the many volunteers he had met during his year in office who give their time and energy to help others and also to the County Council's staff, many of whom he had met at the Star Awards and who do excellent work in difficult times. Councillor Rickhards added that he had been particularly inspired by the people he had met at the citizenship ceremonies and by the many charities supported by the mayors and chairmen of councils across the County.

Councillor Rickhards expressed his sincere thanks to the Council and the many people and organisations he had met during his year in office.

Resolved

That the County Council places on record its appreciation to Councillor Clive Rickhards for his excellent service as Chair of the Council during 2017/18.

3. Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Sarah Boad, seconded by Councillor Clive Rickhards, proposed that Councillor Nicola Davies be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

There were no other nominations.

Resolved

That Councillor Nicola Davies be elected Vice Chair of Council until the annual meeting of the Council in 2019.

Councillor Nicola Davies made her declaration of office and thanked the Council for her election.

3. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bill Gifford, John Horner and Pam Williams.

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

None.

(3) Minutes

Resolved

That, subject to the addition of the resolution to minute 10, as set out below, the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018 be approved as a correct record.

“10. Capital Programme Provision for Disposal of Strategic Land

Resolved

That Council approve an increase in the capital programme of £1,368,000 to support the strategy for the disposal of strategic land funded from the transfer of the surplus of £174,500 in the Warwickshire Aylesford Flood Alleviation Scheme and £1,193,500 of whichever receipt is first realised from the disposals of Meadow Farm and Eastboro Way.”

(4) Announcements

Carer’s Week 11-17 June

Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, referred to the exhibition in the ante-chamber and the launch of a new information portal for carers developed with Warwick University. Councillor Caborn urged members to sign the pledge for carers and undertook to ensure that the full programme of events for Carer’s Week 11-17 June is circulated to all members.

Dame Tessa Jowell

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to Dame Tessa Jowell who had died on 12 May 2018 and who had been a resident of Warwickshire for many years.

Councillor Seccombe commended the work that Dame Tessa Jowell had done nationally, in particular as Minister for the London Olympics, and more recently in raising support for research into brain cancer, but also for her very active part in the local community, where she would be greatly missed.

Councillor Bill Olnor added his tribute to Dame Tessa Jowell for her kindness and commitment to improving the lives of others.

(5) Petitions

None

(6) Public Speaking

None.

4. Election of County Councillor for Leamington Willes Division

The Council formally welcomed Councillor Helen Adkins as the newly elected member for Leamington Willes Division.

5. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, moved that Council approve the recommendations as tabled at the meeting, with an amendment (replacing Councillor Mark Cargill with Councillor Mike Brain on the membership of the Police and Crime Panel)

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, seconded the recommendations.

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

Resolved

- (1) That the Council confirms the Committee structure and delegations to member bodies as set out in the Constitution.
- (2) That the number of places on Council Committees be as follows:

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	Green	Ind.	WRA	Total
Audit & Standards Committee	4	1	1				6
Regulatory Committee	7	2	2		1		12
Staff & Pensions Committee	4	1	1				6
Adult SC & Health	7	2	1				10
Children	7	1	1	1			10
Communities	6	2	1	1			10
Resources	6	2	1			1	10
Total	41	11	8	2	1	1	64

- (3) That the Council appoints the committees and membership as set out below:

Opposition Group Spokespersons are indicated for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Sp)

Committees	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Green	Independent
Audit & Standards Committee Co-optees: J Bridgeman & B Meacham	Singh Birdi John Horner Crump Simpson-Vince	Holland	Gifford		
Regulatory Committee	Bell Brain Cargill Golby Shilton Warwick CWilliams	Olner Webb	Gifford Rickhards		Lloyd

Committees	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Green	Whitnash Residents
Staff & Pensions Committee	Horner Kaur Singh Pandher Stevens	Webb	Gifford		
Adult Social Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Cargill Golby Parry Redford Sargeant Simpson-Vince Warwick	Adkins Parsons (sp)	Rolfe (Sp)		
Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Barker Bell Dahmash Gilbert Gissane C Williams P Williams	C Davies (Sp)	Roodhouse (Sp)	Chilvers (Sp)	
Communities OSC	Cockburn Crump Gran Singh Pandher Shilton Wright	Dirveiks Phillips (Sp)	Fradgley (Sp)	Kondakor (Sp)	
Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Singh Birdi Cooke Gilbert Jenns Stevens Timms	Olnor O'Rourke (sp)	Boad (Sp)		Falp

(4) That John Bridgeman be confirmed as the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee.

(5) That the Council appoints the membership to the following bodies as set out below:

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Health and Wellbeing Board	Caborn Morgan Seccombe	Holland	
Joint Coventry & Warwickshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Cttee	Cargill Golby Redford	Holland	Roodhouse
Corporate Parenting Panel	Dahmash Morgan C Williams P Williams	Phillips	Roodhouse
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)	Golby P Williams	Phillips	Boad
Warwickshire Waste Partnership	Reilly Horner Wright	Chattaway	Fradgley

- (6) That the Leader of the Council be confirmed as the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- (7) (a) That the following be appointed to the Local Pension Board and Local Fire & Rescue Pensions Board:

<i>Local Pension Board</i>	<i>End of term of office</i>
Singh Birdi	May 2021
Keith Bray	May 2021
Chris Blundell	February 2021
TBA	May 2021
Keith Francis	May 2021
Alan Kidner	May 2021

<i>Local Fire & Rescue Pension Board</i>	<i>End of term of office</i>
Keith Bray	July 2021
Katie Brown (Fire HR Manager)	July 2021
Liz Firmstone (Communities Finance Manager)	July 2021
Marcus Giles (FBU)	July 2021
Tony Morgan (Retained Firefighters Union)	July 2021
Paul Morley (Fire Officers Assoc)	July 2021

- (b) That the Council confirms the re-appointment of Keith Bray as independent Chair of the Local Pension Board and of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board.

- (8) (a) That, subject to (b) below, the following County Councillors be appointed to the Police and Crime Panel:

Councillors Brain, Chattaway, N Davies, Dirveiks and Warwick.

- (b) That the Joint Managing Director (Resources), in consultation with the Leaders of the political groups, be authorised to change the allocation of seats between the political groups on the Police and Crime Panel following the district/borough elections to ensure the geographical and political balance of the Panel.

- (9) That the Council appoints members to external bodies as set out below

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Local Enterprise Partnership	Butlin		
Local Government Association (LGA)	Seccombe Butlin	Chattaway	Roodhouse
County Councils Network	Seccombe Butlin	Chattaway	Roodhouse
LGA Fire Commission	Roberts		

- (10) That Council confirms the delegations to officers as set out in the Constitution and endorses the change from 'Groups' to 'Directorates' in the officer structure.

- (11) That the Council authorises the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to make such amendments to the Council's Constitution as may be required as a consequence of any changes agreed by the Council.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-18

Councillor Heather Timms, Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and was seconded by Councillor Yousef Dahmash.

Councillor Heather Timms highlighted that over half of the members of the Committees had been newly elected in May 2017 and Councillor Timms thanked them for their hard work and active participation. Councillor Timms also commended the work of the the task and finish groups, in particular the Fire and Rescue Task and Finish group that had reported to her Committee. Councillor Timms added that, looking forward, the Committee would be continuing to monitor the quality of services as well as the meeting of savings targets.

Councillor Yousef Dahmash added his thanks to members and also to officers, including the Democratic Services Team and in particular Ben Patel-Sadler, who had provided excellent support to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Yousef Dahmash highlighted the work that the new Committee had undertaken on the scrutiny of the 0-5 redesign of children's centres and the value of having public input. He added that the overview and scrutiny committees provide an environment for positive cross party work, and that it is this cross-party work that is essential for scrutiny to be effective.

Councillor Johnathan Chilvers, Leader of the Green Group, welcomed the commitment to inviting more public and outside representatives to input into scrutiny as this can provide different perspectives on issues. Councillor Chilvers added that he also wished to see a greater focus on a fewer number of items so that there is time to properly scrutinise an item in detail and to identify specific issues and recommendations. He recognised that this can be more demanding but in the longer term can lead to better scrutiny.

Councillor Wallace Redford, Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, thanked the members of his Committee and officers for their work and in particular the work of the GP Services Task and Finish Group which had worked to a very tight timescale. Councillor Redford added that most of the members were new to the Committee and to support them (and in recognition of the heavy workload of the Committee) a system of regular briefing sessions had been introduced which he expected to continue in the year ahead.

Councillor Redford added that a good relationship was developing with the Coventry Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the first review would be on Stroke Services. Councillor Redford looked forward to the next year of work, emphasising that he would continue to ensure the Committee prioritises its work and focuses on fewer items so that they can be reviewed effectively.

Resolved

That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-18.

7. Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Review 2017-18 and Planning Approach 2018-19

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of Council and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, presented the Board's annual review for endorsement by the Council and was seconded by Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health.

Councillor Seccombe drew attention to the significant national policy changes and local decisions at paragraph 1.3, in particular the establishment of a 'Place Forum' (joint development sessions with Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board) and the work programme for the year ahead. Councillor Les Caborn highlighted the increasing joint working with partners, building on the lead that the County Council has taken in integrating Public Health and Social Care. He added that the next six months would see dedicated leads from across the partnership developing a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Warwickshire and being launched as part of the 2019 Year of Wellbeing.

Councillor John Holland expressed his support for the Health and Wellbeing Board which is an important body with a lot of work to do and added his appreciation of the work of staff in the Council and the NHS. Councillor Holland added that there were, however, concerns that need to be addressed, for example life expectancy had stopped increasing in 2010 and in less wealthy areas of the County it has now decreased, indicating an increase in health inequality. Councillor Holland recognised that joining up NHS and care services is a challenge but that there is a need to have a clear vision and work with partners to meet the challenge of reduced funding. He added his support for the work of Public Health and urged that Public Health's preventative strategies be implemented across Council services, for example by implementing healthy transport options.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, raised concern with regard to the lack of transparency of the NHS's 'Better Health, Better Care, Better Value' Programme (formerly known as the STP), in particular that there were activities at an operational level that members and the public are not aware of and he questioned whether the programme was progressing to its original timescales. Councillor Keith Kondakor added his concern that, whilst he welcomed positive proposals for health and wellbeing, he was concerned that initiatives such as the George Eliot Campus, did not appear to have funding and it was not clear that it was progressing.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, in responding to the debate, supported the need for greater transparency and that Health and Wellbeing Boards have a role in holding partners to account in particular around health inequalities and, although they do not have budgets, they are an important means of drawing partners together around common goals. Councillor Seccombe added that the Year of Wellbeing was one of the first initiatives that the Health and Wellbeing Board had agreed and that the County Council has committed £120,000 to the initiative which is being match funded by Coventry City Council.

Councillor Seccombe added her thanks to all on the Health and Wellbeing Board, including the District and Borough partners who have taken up the pilot schemes on locality based health and wellbeing. These are in place in Alcester and Atherstone and are being rolled out to all of the District and Boroughs.

Resolved

That Council endorses the Health and Wellbeing Annual Review 2017-18 and proposed planning approach for 2018-19.

8. Stratford-upon-Avon Area Transport Strategy

Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, presented the Stratford upon Avon Area Transport Strategy which had been produced jointly with Stratford on Avon District Council, Stratford Town Council, parish councils and other organisations and approved by Cabinet on 10 May. Councillor Clarke proposed that the Council approve the Strategy and was seconded by Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader.

Councillor Clarke emphasised that the Strategy is necessary to respond to the current and future demands on the transport network, taking account of traffic pressures and air quality, and balancing the needs of local residents and visitors to the town. Councillor Clarke added that the majority of measures in the Strategy are dependent on unlocking external funding.

The following points were raised in debate:

- The decision to exclude reference to the Eastern Relief Road was welcomed. The time for any reference to an Eastern Relief Road should be when the new transport strategy is devised in 2026, in line with the work on the new core strategy by Stratford on Avon District Council in 2031.
- The Southern and Western Warwickshire Area Strategy is partially outdated and therefore it should be updated and address the problems across the area, for instance the high level of congestion in Studley.
- The statements in the strategy are welcome, particularly on cycling and park and ride.
- It would be helpful if transport strategies included a statement that there will be information made available for residents who may be impacted by development and in particular any compensation that may be available for those impacted by the proposed South Western Relief Road.
- A transport plan that increases cycling, walking and use of public transport improves the wellbeing of all.
- Cycling and walking routes are fundamental to planning applications.

Councillor Peter Butlin, in responding to the debate, added that the consultation undertaken in Stratford had been extensive with a total of 910 responses and the challenge was in managing traffic and travel in and through the town, whilst protecting the environment, meeting the needs of residents and also retaining the vibrant and

unique economy of the Town. Councillor Butlin added that the Strategy will be a living document and will be adapted but it is a Strategy that will be used by the District Council when it revisits its Local Plan and development for the future.

Resolved

That the Council approves the Stratford-upon-Avon Area Transport Strategy as an addendum to the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026.

9. Capital Investment Fund - A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvements

Councillor Peter Butlin, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, moved that Council approve the recommendations from Cabinet as set out in the report and was seconded by Councillor Izzi Seccombe.

Councillor Peter Butlin emphasised the importance of the scheme for economic and safety reasons and stressed that the DfT will not approve their full funding until they have confirmation that the remainder of the funding package will be met from the County Council and the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Councillor Johnathon Chilvers proposed that the recommendations be amended by the deletion of recommendation 2 (which sought agreement that any future funding needed above the level agreed is found from within existing resources of the Transport and Economy Business Unit). Councillor Keith Kondakor seconded the amendment.

Councillor Chilvers expressed concern that recommendation 2 would allow any level of increase in the cost of the scheme without further member decision. Councillor Kondakor added that there should be a funding cap and that increase in costs of large projects meant that there was less funding available for other schemes. Councillor Kondakor added that it would be preferable to look at descaling projects, focusing on safety aspects and allocating a fixed sum.

Councillor Seccombe, in seconding the Cabinet recommendations, reminded Council that this junction improvement was one of a number of important junction improvements and is the first of 3 phases. Councillor Peter Butlin added that he was confident that the £10m allocation would not be exceeded.

The amendment to delete recommendation 2 was put to the vote and was LOST, the voting being 2 for, more against and 2 abstentions.

The recommendations as listed in the report were put to the vote and were CARRIED as set out below:

Resolved

That Council:

- 1) supports the use of a maximum of £10.000m of the Capital Investment Fund to deliver improvements to the A46 Stoneleigh Junction, as part of an overall scheme costing £33.100m;

- 2) agrees that any future funding needed above this level is found from within the existing resources of the Transport and Economy Business Unit;
- 3) agrees to the funding allocated from the Capital Investment Fund being reduced on a £ for £ basis if alternative sources of funding become available;
- 4) agrees that, should the full funding package not be approved by the Department for Transport and the West Midlands Combined Authority and a decision made to abandon the scheme, the revenue impacts of costs incurred to that point should fall upon the existing resources of the Transport and Economy Business Unit; and
- 5) approves the addition of the A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvements scheme to the capital programme at an estimated cost of £10m, funded from the Capital Investment Fund.

10. Proposed Establishment of the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Wallace Redford, Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, sought the Council's approval to establish a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire Councils and was seconded by Councillor Jo Barker.

Councillor Redford explained that the Joint Committee is required following a recommendation of the Secretary of State that there be further local consultation on proposals for the reconfiguration of obstetric services at Horton Hospital.

The proposal was put to the vote and agreed unanimously as set out below.

Resolved

That Council:

- 1) agrees to establish a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire County Councils with the express purpose of responding to the consultation for substantial reconfiguration of consultant-led obstetric services at the Horton General Hospital;
- 2) agrees to nominate Councillor Wallace Redford as the Council's representative on the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee;
- 3) delegates to the joint committee, this Council's powers to scrutinise and refer the consultation for substantial reconfiguration of consultant-led obstetric services at the Horton General Hospital to the Secretary of State; and
- 4) delegates to the Joint Managing Director (Resources) in consultation with the Strategic Director for People and the Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the power to finalise and agree the Terms of Reference for the new Joint HOSC based on the draft at Annex A of the report.

11. Annual Monitor of the use of the Urgency and Call-in Procedures

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, proposed that Council notes the annual monitor of the use of the urgency and call in procedures and was seconded by Councillor Peter Butlin.

It was noted that there had been no call-ins during the year and that the use of urgency had reduced from 11 in 2016/17 to 8 in 2017/18. Councillor Seccombe commented that the need for urgent decisions had been largely due to the tight timescales set by external bodies but that there were some that were caused by officer oversight and she would continue to urge officers to seek decisions in a timely manner when this was in their control to so do.

Resolved

That Council notes the report.

12. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)

(1) Weddington Road Crossing

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Jeff Clarke whether, in the light of the delay in providing the crossing on Weddington Road (two years from the date of the planning application) and the delay of around four years in access to the Bellway site, and other S278 projects, he would endeavour to ensure there are not delays like this in future and that the current delays are resolved immediately.

Councillor Jeff Clarke replied that he would investigate this and respond to Councillor Kondakor.

(2) Kenilworth Station Task and Finish Group

Councillor Sarah Boad, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, asked what progress had been made in establishing a member Task and Finish Group to scrutinise the reasons for the delays on the Kenilworth Station project.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, replied that the terms of reference had been drawn up and an independent Chair was being sought. The group would be established as quickly as possible.

(3) Benefits for Carers

Councillor Jenny Fradgley asked Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, whether all residents and carers involved in recent benefits reorganisation are content with the outcome and any back payments are being made.

Councillor Les Caborn replied that the change in costings applied from the date of implementation and should not be applied retrospectively. Councillor Caborn undertook to ensure officers investigated the particular case that Councillor Fradgley had raised with him.

(4) Bermuda Connectivity Project

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment, how the consultation on the revised project for the Bermuda Connectivity Project could be underway without the revised traffic and air pollution assessments which were still in preparation.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that the consultation had started and that it was a general consultation on the previous basis but with a renewed layout. Councillor Clarke added that any additional information that is required will be shared and put on line when available.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked whether there would also be more detail on the costings as it is unclear whether the £8m includes the £1m already spent. Councillor Clarke replied that all costings would be reported to members at a future date.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, asked for confirmation that the consultation was not on the full scheme but the changes in the scheme. Councillor Clarke confirmed that it was regarding the changes.

13. Any other items of urgent business

None

14. Exclusion of Press and 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 paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

15. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 March 2018

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018 be approved as a correct record, subject to the resolution being included in the public minutes as referred to at minute 3 (3) above.

The meeting closed at 12.43 p.m.

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Chair