

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council held on 25 July 2019**

Present:  
Councillor Nicola Davies (Chair)

Councillors Helen Adkins, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Mark Cargill, Richard Chattaway, Jonathan Chilvers, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, John Cooke, Andy Crump, Yousef Dahmash, Judith Falp, Jenny Fradgley, Bill Gifford, Daniel Gissane, Seb Gran, Colin Hayfield, John Holland, John Horner, Andy Jenns, Kam Kaur, Keith Kondakor, Jeff Morgan, Maggie O'Rourke, Anne Parry, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Wallace Redford, David Reilly, Clive Rickhards, Howard Roberts, Kate Rolfe, Andy Sargeant, Izzi Seccombe OBE, Dave Shilton, Jill Simpson-Vince, Dominic Skinner, Bob Stevens, Heather Timms, Adrian Warwick, Alan Webb, Chris Williams, Pam Williams and Andy Wright.

### **1. General**

#### **(1) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jo Barker, Corinne Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Peter Gilbert, Clare Golby, Bill Olnier, Bhagwant Singh Pandher and Jerry Roodhouse.

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

With reference to item 8, Notices of Motion, Councillor Nicola Davies (Chair of Council) declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Clean Air Leamington.

With reference to agenda item 4, "Warwickshire Pension Fund Statement of Accounts 2018/19, Councillor Andy Crump declared an interest as a member of the Warwickshire Pension Fund and absented himself from the meeting for that item.

#### **(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2019**

##### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2019 be approved as a correct record.

#### **(4) Announcements**

A series of announcements were made to Council.

1. The recent death of former Warwickshire County Councillor Richard Cheney was announced. Councillor Cheney served the Shipston on Stour Division between 1981 and 1989. He also served on Stratford on Avon District Council until 2015. Councillor Jenny Fradgley, who knew Richard Cheney as a member of Stratford on Avon District Council, observed that he was a man of firm principles. He was a farmer and had a great interest in matters of nature conservation. Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council) stated that Richard Cheney had been a valued representative of his community. Councillor Richard Chattaway, whilst not knowing Richard Cheney, stated that the life of any true community representative should be commemorated. Council stood in tribute.
2. Council was informed that officers and members had recently participated in the annual static bike race raising money for charity.
3. The Chair had recently attended the opening by the Princess Royal of the Riding for the Disabled Centre at Lowlands Farm, Shrewley.
4. On 17 July the Chair had attended the Queens Awards for Voluntary Service presentations in Rugby. There were five winners of the award from Warwickshire.
5. Warwickshire County Council recently received a 'good' judgement from the Care Quality Commission following an inspection of the Council's reablement services in the north of the County. Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) stated that this was an excellent result for the County Council. He added that clients and their families frequently comment on the compassionate nature of the care they receive, with those delivering the service always finding time to help. Not only is the service well managed, stated Councillor Caborn, but the staff who work that have faith in it.
6. Educaterers, the Council's wholly owned trading company, has won the Local Authority Catering Association Catering Business of the Year Award for 2019. Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation) commended Educaterers on their achievement adding that during term time the service provides 120,000 meals to children per week.
7. Warwickshire County Council has won the award for 'Best Small Business Friendly Programme or Campaign' for its apprenticeship levy small business support programme to which it commits an annual fund through

its own apprenticeship levy to be shared with small businesses to help fully fund apprenticeship training for small firms.

8. Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Team has been chosen by Road Safety GB to test an augmented reality road safety "app" which brings road safety lessons to life for school children in the region. The "app" will be trialled at Westgate Primary School in Warwick and will teach children to identify risks and learn to make safe choices in different scenarios. It will test children in different scenarios e.g. how to use a pedestrian crossing, retrieving a ball from the road.
9. Janet Purcell. On the occasion of her leaving the Council, thanked Janet Purcell, Democratic Services Manager, for all her hard work over 18 years with Warwickshire County Council.

**(5) Petitions**

None

**(6) Public Speaking**

The Chair welcomed five members of the public to the meeting.

**a) Regarding Changes to the state pension age for women**

**Jennifer Parker** - Representing Women Against State Pension Inequality – WASPI) made the following points.

- WASPI represents women who were born in the 1950s who have been negatively affected following changes to the age of state pension entitlement for women.
- In Warwickshire this has been calculated to have had an impact on 30,000 women.
- A principal concern is around the lack of adequate notice that women were given regarding changes to the pensionable age. If more notice had been given women would have been better able to plan for their retirement.
- The changes have taken a physical and mental toll on many women. Food bank usage is up as are incidents of depression, anxiety and suicide.

Council was asked to join other local authorities in protesting against the changes to the state pension age for women and the negative impact that has resulted.

**b) Regarding climate change**

**Stephen Norrie** – Speaking on the issue of climate change made the following points.

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change draws together representatives and experience from many countries.

- There is consensus amongst scientists that the planet is heating up and that this process is leading to the production of more greenhouse gasses.
- Increasing greenhouse gasses lead to a reduction in habitable land, extreme temperatures, rising sea levels, damage to eco-systems and war and famine.
- A target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 is ambitious but not unrealistic.
- Councils should consider what they can do using their powers to assist in meeting this target.
- The media too has a responsibility to inform people of the position. If the motion before Council (see Item 8 (1)) is passed, then this should be widely broadcast.

**John Stott** – A retired chartered engineer stated the following.

- The slowness of action to address climate issues and the consequences of that lack of action are of great concern.
- There is a global climate emergency but there is sense that this is not recognised.
- Fairbourne Council in Wales has acknowledged that by the middle of this century it will have had to abandon its town owing to rising sea levels. Already some properties are blighted as a result of sea level changes.
- The loss of land in coastal areas will lead to more people becoming “climate refugees”. Warwickshire should reflect on whether these people can be accommodated in the County.
- By declaring a climate emergency, policies should take account of the impact of greenhouse gasses and the need to minimise them.

**Isaac Searle** – Speaking on the issue of climate change and young people stated.

- The government has failed to take adequate steps to address climate change.
- Young people are calling for rapid and drastic action to be taken.
- It has been calculated that between 20 and 30 % of species of wildlife are at risk globally as a result of climate change.
- The County Council needs to help in whatever way it can to address climate change.

**Susan Rasmussen** – Speaking on behalf of Clean Air Leamington made the following points.

- There is an urgent need to reduce vehicle emissions across the county.
- People should be encouraged to seek alternative methods of transport to the car.
- Progress with modal shift is too slow although central government is pressing local authorities such as Coventry City Council on the issue.
- Air pollution is recognised as a cause of death.

- Money is being focused on the wrong projects. New roundabouts are prioritised over charging points for electric vehicles.
- It is important not to settle for the fulfilment of any imposed obligations. People should look beyond these.
- The Leamington Spa Neighbourhood Plan is seeking to encourage more walking and cycling. This is to be commended.
- It is important that air quality is protected for the sake of children and the vulnerable.

## **2. Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2018-19**

Councillor Mark Cargill moved the report and recommendations. He was seconded by Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi who reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Mark Cargill stated that the report was very positive showing the County Council in a good light. A number of topics have been identified for review by Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Audit and Standards Committee has an effective work programme.

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

### **Resolved:**

That Council welcomes the report and commends the Audit and Standards Committee for its work.

## **3. Annual Governance Statement 2018-19**

Councillor Kam Kaur introduced this report to Council stating that it had already been considered and endorsed by the Audit and Standards Committee and by Cabinet. Councillor John Horner seconded the proposal.

Councillor Keith Kondakor stated that in his view the County Council was very well governed. Referencing page 12 of the appendix he observed that, with recent reports that it may cost £30bn more than budgeted for HS2 may be cancelled. This should be debated at Council. In response to this observation Councillor Alan Cockburn reminded Council that its opposition to HS2 was already well known. Nevertheless, it is important to work with HS2 to mitigate the negative impact it will have on Warwickshire.

Regarding economic growth, Councillor Keith Kondakor suggested that job security should be of paramount importance. Striving for economic growth can be a gamble and it may be better to be risk averse whilst ensuring the security of jobs, health and education.

Concerning special education needs and disability (SEND), page 11 of the appendix, Councillor Sarah Boad observed that this is a major issue with significant pressure already on schools to meet demand. More resources have been promised by government but at present the money available is barely keeping up with demand.

Members were reminded that the report before them was a historical document reflecting what has been achieved. Its purpose is not to attempt to address matters such as HS2 or SEND.

The recommendation was put to the vote. It was agreed with one abstention.

**Resolved:**

That the Council approves the Annual Governance Statement 2018-19.

**4. Pension Fund Statement of Accounts 2018-19**

Councillor Bob Stevens introduced the report stating that the Warwickshire Pension Fund is in a healthy state. He reminded members that the fund does not belong to the County Council, rather it belongs to a range of contributing partners. The Pension Fund undergoes a full evaluation every three years with the next one due in 2021. That evaluation will be based in part on assumptions on how well the economy will perform in the future.

Council was reminded of the pooling arrangements and the fund's membership of the Border to Coast pool. The pool has a combined budget of over £50bn and operates under strict investment guidelines.

The Pension Fund Investment Sub-Committee has, Councillor Stevens concluded, had a busy year and will subject to further training in the future.

Councillor Horner seconded the proposal.

Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety) declared an interest as a member of the Warwickshire Pension Fund. Council was advised that membership of the fund did not require a declaration of interest. Councillor Crump left the meeting for this item.

Councillor Alan Webb commended the pension fund stating that investment is a matter of balancing risk and return. Regarding the Border to Coast pool, Councillor Webb noted that it remains to be seen what the setup costs of this are and how soon they will be offset by enhanced returns on investments.

Councillor Bill Gifford commended the way in which the Warwickshire Pension Fund is run adding that if those making investment decisions got it wrong the implications for the Council and tax payers would be significant.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers regretted the lack of any reference to climate change or fossil fuels in the report. Councillor Keith Kondakor recognised that a period of change is being entered into. There is a need to be greener and for a debate to be held on the possible effect of environmental issues and climate change on the pension fund. Referencing page 24 of the appendix Councillor Keith Kondakor expressed his concerns over "Stock Lending" which allows people to sell stocks that they do not own. This, he suggested, serves to make the market less stable.

Councillor John Horner agreed that the comments made by members during the debate should be taken account of in the future.

The recommendation was put to the vote. It was agreed with two abstentions.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That Council approves the 2018/19 Pension Fund Statement of Accounts.
- 2) That the Council authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make any amendments to the final version of the accounts to take account of any observations from the External Auditors.

**5. Statement of Accounts 2018-19**

Councillor Peter Butlin commended the new layout used for the Statement of Accounts. Council was informed that the document had been audited by Grant Thornton. Councillor John Horner seconded the proposal.

Councillor Keith Kondakor expressed his confidence in the Council's Finance Team. Regarding the graphic on page 8 of Section A, Councillor Keith Kondakor suggested that as well as highlighting good performance it should also refer to a shortage of cycleways and the rate at which schools are built as part of major developments.

Council John Horner agreed to take account of Councillor Keith Kondakor's comments but reminded members that they were reviewing a statement of accounts only.

Councillor Peter Butlin considered that the County Council has done well to ensure its finances are healthy. Regarding cycleway provision he noted that there is a current funding stream in the budget to support this.

The recommendation was put to the vote. It was agreed unanimously.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That Council approves the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts.
- 2) That Council authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make any amendments to the final version of the accounts to take account of any observations from the external auditors.

**6. Addition of Three Developer-Funded Schemes to the 2018-20 Capital Programme**

Councillor Peter Butlin explained that the design and approval for the three schemes before Council originated with the relevant District and Borough Councils. That the recommendations required Council approval was essentially an accounting exercise. Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) seconded the proposal.

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke suggested that greater consideration should be given with major developments to the provision of cycleways and the needs of pedestrians. Councillor Jonathan Chilvers observed that Section 278 schemes can be complex

adding that he is dissatisfied with Europa Way in Leamington and the lack of provision for sustainable means of transport in it.

Councillor Alan Webb observed that delays often result when developers are required to fund highway schemes. This reflects poorly on the County Council. Although responsibility for progress lies with the District and Borough Councils, the County Council should press them to ensure that progress is satisfactory.

Citing developments in Nuneaton, Councillor Keith Kondakor expressed the view that sustainable transport solutions only receive token support. Developments are designed in such a way that people are encouraged to drive and it would appear that roads take precedence over schools. In response, Councillor Peter Butlin observed that the lack of an approved local plan in Nuneaton and Bedworth reduces the ability to negotiate with developers for effective transport solutions.

Returning to Europa Way, Councillor John Holland considered that as a result of the scheme traffic from the M40 motorway will be channelled through Leamington Spa. Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi welcomed the highway developments at Europa Way and Gallows Hill.

The recommendation was put to the vote. It was agreed with one abstention and one vote against.

**Resolved:**

That Council gives approval to the addition of the following three schemes to the Capital Programme for 2019-20:

- A3400 Shipston Road, Stratford-upon-Avon – Developer: St Modwen Developments Ltd. – Approximate value £2.5 million
- A426 Rugby Road / B4429 Ashlawn Road, Rugby – Developer: David Wilson Homes – Approximate value £2.3 million
- C43 Gallows Hill, Warwick – Developers: L&Q Estates, Galliford Try Partnership and Warwick District Council – Approximate value £3.5 million

**7. Appointment of a Chief Transformation and Digital Officer**

Councillor Kam Kaur explained the basis of the report. Councillor Izzi Seccombe seconded the proposal.

Councillor Alan Webb expressed his support for the proposed appointment emphasising the need to support IT development and leading the field in this area.

Councillor Sarah Boad questioned whether there were not already staff within the organisation who could undertake this role and added her concern over the scale of the proposed salary.

Councillor Keith Kondakor commented on the overall cost of the appointment suggesting that the money could be used to support posts concerned with cycleway



provision. He also asked if it would be possible to recruit a person who could do the job for less money and be prepared to stay beyond two years.

Councillor Adrian Warwick considered that the appointment of the right person to the role is paramount. Making the wrong decision could cost the Council a great deal of money he added.

Councillor John Holland suggested that the appointment should be cost neutral adding that he would wish to see this audited next year.

Councillor Andy Crump stressed the need to “work smarter not harder” adding that efficiencies will lead to savings that can be used elsewhere.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe emphasised the need to make the right appointment. The project to which the new post holder would be appointed has already been running for two years. In addition, the new role will be expected to function separately from the three Directorates, challenging them and assisting them to develop IT solutions. In terms of cost neutrality, the resources for the appointment already exist within the Transformation Fund.

The recommendation was put to the vote. It was agreed with eleven abstentions and two votes against.

**Resolved:**

That Council approves the creation of a Chief Transformation and Digital Officer post on a fixed term contract for a two-year period, on terms and conditions set out in paragraphs 2.2-2.6 of the report, and authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make such amendments to the Council’s Annual Pay Policy as may be necessary arising from the appointment to this post.

**8. Notices of Motion (Standing Order 5)**

**(1) Climate Emergency**

Councillor Jenny Fradgley proposed the motion as set out on the agenda. This stated,

“That, in light of the recent reports from the IPCC ‘Special Report on Global Warming’ (2018); the CCC report ‘Net Zero – the UK’s contribution to stopping global warming’ (May 2019) and the concerns that not meeting the UK’s targets will have a negative impact on our residents whilst measures to combat climate change can have significant benefits, this Council recognises the role local government has to play in responding to climate change and

1. Declares a ‘Climate Emergency’ as a pledge in moving to carbon neutral targets.
2. Convenes a cross party group to work with officers, representatives of local environmental groups, residents and businesses, that will report to Cabinet within 6 months on what actions can be taken which should include how to achieve behavioural change, set against the targets needed to achieve reductions.

3. Develops a communication strategy to convey to residents the severity of the situation, and the ways people and businesses can take independent action to cut greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Lobbies Government to provide the powers and resources needed to address this issue”

In proposing the motion, Councillor Fradgley explained that over the years she had become increasingly aware of climate change and had attempted to take whatever steps she could to reduce her impact on the environment. More recently, the situation has become more alarming raising increasing concern over climate change and its impact.

She made the additional following points:

- As well as considering highways and transport there is a need to attend to purchasing and other Council activities.
- The County Council has invested in officers and now has climate change in the remit of a Portfolio Holder. It has also promoted rail travel and infrastructure development. This is to be commended.
- The County Council is in a position to act locally and lobby government for change. For example, building regulations need to be reviewed to ensure that all buildings are constructed to a high standard with green energy included.
- The economy should be “greened” adding growth and job security.
- There is less money available to local authorities and as a result a series of difficult decisions will be required around prioritisation of spending.
- The cost of taking action to address climate change is likely to be high but the cost of doing nothing will be higher.
- The next generation is demanding action by bodies such as the County Council.
- Britain is amongst one of the richest societies in the World it also has one of the highest carbon footprints per capita and as such it has a duty to act.
- There is a need to commit to the establishment of a task and finish review of climate change.
- The targets of 2030 to become carbon neutral and 2025 to be zero carbon are challenging but not unrealistic. They should not be lost.

Councillor Dominic Skinner seconded the proposal.

### **Amendment 1 (Labour/Green Group)**

Having confirmed the withdrawal of motion 2 as published on page 4 of the agenda, Councillor Helen Adkins moved an amendment to the motion proposed by Councillor Fradgley. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Leader of the Green Group). The amendment stated,

“That, in light of the recent reports from the IPCC ‘Special Report on Global Warming’ (2018); the CCC report ‘Net Zero – the UK’s contribution to stopping global warming’ (May 2019); and the concerns that not meeting the UK’s targets will have a negative impact on our residents whilst measures to combat climate change can have significant benefits, this Council recognises the role local government has to play in responding to climate change and

The Council declares a Climate Emergency because of the significant and urgent action needed and commits to:

1. Actively working towards Warwickshire being carbon neutral by 2030, cooperating with districts & boroughs; and utilising all of WCC's powers and responsibilities in areas such as transport, waste and the economy.
2. Actively working towards becoming a net zero carbon organisation, including contracted out services by 2025.
3. Setting up a cross party working group to bring an action plan to Cabinet within 6 months to implement these commitments.
4. Lobbying Government, including through the LGA, to provide the powers and resources needed so that WCC can make its contribution to address this issue.'

In proposing the amendment Councillor Adkins made the following points.

- There is a need for clear targets that should not be downgraded.
- Climate change requires courageous leadership.
- It is now too late for gradual steps to be made. More robust action is required.
- Action is required now to reduce the rate of sea level increases.

In seconding the proposal Councillor Jonathan Chilvers thanked all political groups for their contributions to discussions around the motion before Council. It was acknowledged that there is not universal agreement on all points but general agreement on the major ones. In addition, he stated,

- The IPCC has declared a climate emergency stating that there is confidence that a mean rise in global temperature of 1.5% will lead to widespread flooding and famine.
- The Environment Agency has announced that Hull and Skegness are at risk of being flooded by rising sea levels.
- In an emergency there is a need for everyone to come together to take action and use their resources. It is not a case of business as usual.
- The County Council needs to take the lead and set goals to address climate change.
- Realistic but challenging goals are required. These should not be regarded as being restrictive but as providing an opportunity.
- There is a risk that people will consider that the County Council is not taking climate change seriously.
- The Council is well placed to mobilise the best minds and business to help reach its goals.

### **Acceptance of Amendment 1 as a Friendly Amendment**

Councillors Jenny Fradgley and Dominic Skinner confirmed that they accepted the amendment as a friendly amendment. In accepting the amendment as a friendly amendment this then became the substantive motion.

## **Amendment 2 (Conservative)**

A second amendment was proposed by Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture). The amendment was seconded by Councillor Colin Hayfield.

*At this point (11.53am) the meeting was adjourned to allow Council to read the amendment. The meeting reconvened at 12.05pm*

Amendment 2 stated,

“The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that we have 12 years to make the necessary changes to limit a rise in global temperatures to 1.5 °C. Failure to act will see a marked increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinctions of plant, insect and animal species and global economic disruption and crisis.

In response, this Council,

- a) declares a ‘Climate Emergency’;
- b) establishes a cross party Climate Change Task and Finish Working Group to respond to the challenge and to report to Cabinet in six months with an action plan, including targets to consider.
- c) works in collaboration with our District and Borough partners to develop targeted and resourced proposals for a carbon neutral action plan for Warwickshire County Council to be considered by Cabinet.
- d) reviews and updates transport plans for each of the District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire, to support them in building sustainable transport systems in recognition of the goal of moving towards carbon neutrality;
- e) calls on the Government to provide the resources and powers so that Warwickshire County Council can make its contribution to the UK’s Carbon Reduction targets.”

In supporting Amendment 2 Councillor Heather Timms made the following points.

- Warwickshire County Council needs to demonstrate leadership with properly costed targets in an action plan which itself should be produced within 6 months.
- The County Council will not put the economy or vulnerable people at risk.
- Much has been achieved by the County Council already which is remarkable given its reduced budgets. Investment has been made in renewable energy, flexible working (reducing the need for staff to travel), new railway stations and rail services, LED street lighting and flood risk management.
- There is a clear need to do what is right to meet the challenge.

## **Acceptance of Amendment 2 as a Friendly Amendment**

Councillors Jenny Fradgley and Dominic Skinner confirmed that they accepted amendment 2 as a friendly amendment. In accepting the amendment as a friendly amendment this then became the substantive motion.

## Debate

Council debated the new substantive motion.

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke:

- Climate change is a very important issue. The County Council must be seen as working as one to address it.
- Cities such as Copenhagen have been working for a long time to address climate issues.
- Businesses across Warwickshire should be encouraged to pursue carbon neutral practices.

Councillor Helen Adkins accepted Amendment 2 as a friendly amendment although she considered that it should include targets.

Councillor Clive Rickhards commended the public speakers and in particular thanked Isaac Searle for his contribution.

Councillor Dan Gissane:

- Climate change threatens humanity with people facing the prospect of losing their homes and heritage.
- Warwickshire County Council is in a good position to assist in addressing climate change.
- There is a need for businesses and other bodies to reduce emissions and reduce waste and to work to ensure that land is used in an environmentally positive way.
- Since changes in legislation concerning the provision of plastic bags in shops there has been an 86% reduction in their sale/distribution.
- The UK has a good record for the development of wind and solar energy. In addition, there are incentives available for electric vehicle use. Greenhouse gas creation has been reduced as has the use of microbeads.
- Local authorities may be small on a global scale but still have an important role to play in reducing climate change.

Councillor Adrian Warwick:

- Small steps can make a major difference. People should be educated to take personal responsibility.
- 27% of emissions come from China. Globally people need to be educated on what they can do to reduce the rate of climate change.
- Buying locally produced goods can reduce environment damage.
- New warehouses and other large buildings should feature solar panels.
- Ultra-low emission vehicles should be made more affordable.
- Harming the environment should become socially unacceptable.

Councillor Andy Crump stated that the money being spent on HS2 could be used in better ways on environmentally friendly projects.

Councillor Bill Gifford:

- The amendment tabled by Councillor Timms is to be welcomed.

- That the amendment refers to a “climate emergency” is important.
- It would have been preferable to have included the target dates from the original motion. However, that the task and finish group will aim to develop targets is to be welcomed.

Councillor Ann Parry:

- Whilst it is right for the UK to lead on climate change it is important to recognise that this will carry a financial cost to residents.
- Businesses, especially small ones, will see an increase in costs.
- The costs of tackling climate emergency would be outweighed by the cost of doing nothing.
- When the time comes to increase Council Tax to pay for initiatives to reduce climate change it will be important for all groups to remember what they have agreed to.

Councillor Seb Gran:

- Coal has not been burned to generate electricity in the UK for some months.
- It is reassuring that climate issues are not political in the UK.
- Warwickshire County Council was one of the first in the country to begin to address climate issues. This is to be commended.

Councillor Mark Cargill:

- Supported the climate change motion considered at Stratford on Avon District Council
- Despite having a lifelong awareness of environmental issues recognised that he alone could not reverse climate change.
- There is currently an application being considered for a power station near Alcester. There are alternatives such as green energy generation and night time battery storage which should be considered.
- If action is to be taken there will be a financial cost and additional disruption but everyone needs to be prepared to play their part.
- There is a role for government in managing building construction to ensure that houses are environmentally efficient.
- Change will not be easy but it is essential.

Councillor Keith Kondakor:

- It is important to get a critical mass amongst politicians and communities addressing climate change. The cost of greener options is becoming cheaper but this requires that critical mass.
- The County Council does much good in environmental terms but could do more. For example, funding that is currently earmarked for road projects should be used cycleways.
- There are many benefits from planting trees but all projects need to be costed out and compared to the cost of not taking any action to address climate change.
- That the motion separates the declaration of a climate emergency from the establishment of a task and finish group is to be welcomed.
- With a target of twelve years it will essential not to wait until then to begin to take action. That will be too late.

Councillor John Holland:

- There is a great deal that Warwickshire County Council can do to address climate change. Local councillors can work together to bring about improvements to schemes.
- Public Health Warwickshire promote healthy transport options. These bring about environmental benefits as well.
- The works around Northgate in Warwick are part of a traffic management and pollution reduction scheme.
- Local councillors have delegated budgets. In addition, the highways maintenance budget can be used to ensure that roads are in a good condition and therefore safe for cyclists.

Councillor Peter Butlin:

- There remains a responsibility to manage the Council's budget and provide essential services.
- There needs to be clear evidence to support any actions proposed. It will not be possible to support any actions that disadvantage the less well off or businesses.
- A pro-growth agenda is required if people are to be adequately looked after.
- It is important to align what the County Council does with the government's approach and it would not be reasonable to expect Council Tax payers to fund climate change initiatives.
- Despite concerns being raised at the time, the switching off of street lights at night has saved 600 tonnes of CO2 emissions a year.
- Electric cars are commendable but hybrid cars are more likely to meet the needs of commuters.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe:

- If the motion is agreed, it will be possible to set up the working group and develop a series of solutions.
- It is important to remember that people on low incomes will be less able to make positive choices regarding climate change reduction.
- In Norwich 100 houses local authority houses have been built that have been designed to reduce energy usage by 75%.
- The working party will be expected to come forward with realistic target dates.
- Council reports should include a paragraph with that considers environmental impact should be considered.

Councillor Sarah Boad:

- The inclusion of an environmental impact paragraph in reports would be welcome.
- People should be encouraged to use public transport but bus services providers have made changes to routes and timetables that have disadvantaged passengers.
- A cycleway from Kenilworth to Leamington would bring significant benefits.
- The development of new railway stations is welcomed but trains need to be pleasant to travel on.
- Houses should be oriented correctly to make the best use of solar panels.
- Engineers have a key role in developing new technologies.

- Electric cars still use energy and energy use needs to be reduced.
- The working group's findings should be taken to Council and not just Cabinet.

Councillor Colin Hayfield

- It is important to reflect on what can be achieved now, what can be achieved in the medium term taking account of budget constraints and what long term opportunities exist.
- Responsibility rests on individuals as well as government and the Council.

Councillor Heather Timms reminded Council that any targets in the review report will be open and transparent.

Councillor Dominic Skinner

- Climate change is real and is happening rapidly. There is only one planet and that needs to be protected for the future.
- Councillors are in a unique position and whilst they are not in a position to directly stop the melting of the ice caps or the de-forestation of the Amazon Basin they can act as leaders setting an example to others.
- Climate change is not a political matter; rather it is a human one.

Councillor Jenny Fradgley, the proposer of the original motion, concluded the debate by thanking all members for their support and contributions.

### **Vote**

The motion as amended was put to the vote. It was agreed unanimously.

### **Resolved:**

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that we have 12 years to make the necessary changes to limit a rise in global temperatures to 1.5 °C. Failure to act will see a marked increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinctions of plant, insect and animal species and global economic disruption and crisis.

In response, this Council,

- a) declares a 'Climate Emergency';
- b) establishes a cross party Climate Change Task and Finish Working Group to respond to the challenge and to report to Cabinet in six months with an action plan, including targets to consider.
- c) works in collaboration with our District and Borough partners to develop targeted and resourced proposals for a carbon neutral action plan for Warwickshire County Council to be considered by Cabinet.



- d) reviews and updates transport plans for each of the District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire, to support them in building sustainable transport systems in recognition of the goal of moving towards carbon neutrality;
- e) calls on the Government to provide the resources and powers so that Warwickshire County Council can make its contribution to the UK's Carbon Reduction targets.

## **(2) Climate Change**

Combined with Motion 1.

*Council adjourned from 1.30 to 14.15*

## **(3) Women Against State Pensions Inequality**

The following motion was moved by Councillor Kate Rolfe. It was seconded by Councillor Bill Gifford.

'That, in light of the fact that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected (particularly those born in the 1950s), leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements, the Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1950, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.'

Councillor Rolfe explained the basis of her motion adding that it was not a matter of equality but one of fairness.

Members made the following points.

- The increase in state pension age had been made too fast and with too little notice.
- Women who were affected by these changes had had too little time to amend their retirement plans.
- Government's own advice is that 10-15 years' notice should be given for changes such as this.
- In 2004 government research indicated that half of women were unaware of the changes that would affect them.
- Some women are lucky in that the changes have not had a serious detrimental effect on them. However, there are many that are facing financial hardship as a result.
- WASPI women entered into a contract with the government when they contributed to the state pension scheme. That contract was simply ripped up.
- There needs to be a sensible discussion around pensions liabilities looking to the future. There should be good legislation that ensures everyone receives a fair pension.

### **Vote**

The motion was put to the vote. It was agreed unanimously.

## **Resolved**

That, in light of the fact that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected (particularly those born in the 1950s), leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements, the Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1950, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

### **(4) Affordable Housing**

Deferred to next meeting

## **9. Member Question Time**

### 1) Developer Money for a New Cycleway from Hampton Magna to Warwick

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers to Councillor Jeff Clarke.

Councillor Chilvers informed Council that a recent proposal to build a new cycleway had missed out on developer funds as it was not part of a costed scheme. He asked how the Council would ensure that this was not repeated and that resources be provided to ensure that schemes can be properly costed out. In reply, Councillor Clarke responded saying that whilst the established procedure had been followed there had been a disagreement with the planning Inspector over the criteria for CIL. The County Council is an adviser in matters such as this and the decision rests with the Planning Inspector and Planning Authority. The County Council will examine this case and establish what lessons can be learned for the future.

### 2) Gipsy Lane, Bedworth

Councillor Keith Kondakor to Councillor Jeff Clarke.

Referring to two developments at Gipsy Lane, Bedworth, either side of the Coventry Canal, Councillor Kondakor highlighted the need for safe cycle and pedestrian access to the Bermuda Park railway station. This, he said could be provided via the "Turnover Bridge". However, the Canal and River Trust which has liability for the bridge does not wish to see it used in this way. He asked the Portfolio Holder to intervene in the matter to find a resolution.

In reply, Councillor Clarke confirmed that the bridge in question is not the responsibility of the County Council. He did, however add that were there to be a pedestrian/cycleway provided as part of the development it would be expected that some contribution would be made by the developers.

### 3) Delegated Budgets and Crossings

Councillor Keith Kondakor to Councillor Jeff Clarke.

Councillor Kondakor Keith stated that the developer of housing in Weddington is providing a crossing on the Weddington Road. However further along the road is

Weddington School which has lost its crossing patrol. Councillor Kondakor having saved his delegated budget to pay for a crossing outside of the school asked for support of the Portfolio Holder to achieve this.

In response, Councillor Clarke stated that it was likely that any barrier to the construction of the crossing may lie with it not meeting design criteria. He agreed to speak to officers about the proposal and to undertake a site visit.

#### 4) Warwickshire Rail Strategy

Councillor Keith Kondakor to Councillor Jeff Clarke.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked the Portfolio Holder what plans were in place for members to be involved in the development of the emerging strategy.

In response the Portfolio Holder stated that workshops for members will be arranged to gather their views on the strategy.

#### 5) Safer Routes to School Programme

Councillor Helen Adkins to Councillor Andy Crump.

Councillor Helen Adkins, acknowledging the success of the Safer Routes to School Scheme requested whether funding for it would continue.

Having cited a number of examples of successfully implemented schemes Councillor Andy Crump confirmed that he will endeavour to secure ongoing funding for the Safer Routes to School scheme as part of the budget process.

#### 6) Warwickshire Rail Strategy

Councillor Dave Parsons to Councillor Jeff Clarke.

Councillor Dave Parsons asked how long the Rail Strategy consultation will continue for.

Councillor Clarke agreed to pass the dates to Councillor Parsons.

#### 7) Corporate Games

Councillor Dan Gissane to Councillor Izzi Seccombe.

Councillor Gissane asked of the Leader whether there is still time to register for the games and whether there would be plenty of support for the members and officers taking part.

In reply Councillor Seccombe confirmed that there remains time to sign up and encouraged all members to engage with it.

#### 8) Mill Road Tunnel, Rugby

Councillor Alan Webb to Councillor Jeff Clarke

Councillor Alan Webb asked whether Network Rail could be asked to paint the inside of the tunnel to make it lighter and to address the problem of bright sunlight dazzling users.

Councillor Clarke confirmed that this would be looked in to.

9) WASPI

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke to Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Councillor O'Rourke requested that Councillor Seccombe lead a cross party group of "WASPI women" to London to lobby government on the issue.

Councillor Seccombe agreed to discuss this after the meeting with Councillor O'Rourke.

**10. Any other items of urgent business**

None

**11. Exclusion of Public and Press**

**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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**12. Land Acquisition and Education and Social Care Provision – Nuneaton & Bedworth**

Following debate Council agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt minutes.

**13. Land at Higham Lane, Nuneaton**

Following debate Council agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt minutes.

The meeting closed at 15.25.

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Chair