

County Council

Date: Tuesday 17 December 2024
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, Shire Hall

Membership

Councillor Chris Mills (Chair), Councillor Andy Jenns (Vice Chair), Councillor Jo Barker, Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne, Councillor Brett Beetham, Councillor Margaret Bell, Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi, Councillor Sarah Boad, Councillor Barbara Brown, Councillor Peter Butlin, Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Councillor Jeff Clarke, Councillor John Cooke, Councillor Andy Crump, Councillor Yousef Dahmash, Councillor Piers Daniell, Councillor Jackie D'Arcy, Councillor Tracey Drew, Councillor Judy Falp, Councillor Sarah Feeney, Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Councillor Bill Gifford, Councillor Peter Gilbert, Councillor Clare Golby, Councillor Brian Hammersley, Councillor John Holland, Councillor Dave Humphreys, Councillor Marian Humphreys, Councillor Kam Kaur, Councillor Dale Keeling, Councillor Jack Kennaugh, Councillor Justin Kerridge, Councillor Christopher Kettle, Councillor Sue Markham, Councillor Jan Matecki, Councillor Sarah Millar, Councillor Jeff Morgan, Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell, Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Councillor Daren Pemberton, Councillor Caroline Phillips, Councillor Wallace Redford, Councillor Will Roberts, Councillor Kate Rolfe, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Councillor Isobel Seccombe OBE, Councillor Ian Shenton, Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince, Councillor Tim Sinclair, Councillor Mejar Singh, Councillor Richard Spencer, Councillor Heather Timms, Councillor Mandy Tromans, Councillor Robert Tromans, Councillor Adrian Warwick, Councillor Martin Watson and Councillor Andrew Wright

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies for Absence

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

(3) Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting

(4) Chair's announcements

(5) Petitions

To receive any petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme.

(6) Public Speaking

To note any requests to speak on any item on the agenda in accordance with the Council's Public Speaking Scheme (see note at end of the agenda).

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| 2. | External Auditors' Annual Audit Report 2023/24 | 9 - 40 |
| 3. | Warwickshire County Council Statement of Accounts 2023/24 | 41 - 124 |
| 4. | Warwickshire Pension Fund Accounts 2023/24 | 125 - 184 |
| 5. | Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 | 185 - 218 |
| 6. | Appointment of Independent Members to Audit and Standards Committee | 219 - 222 |
| 7. | Developer Funded S278 A452 Europa Way - Gallows Hill / Harbury Lane / Heathcote Lane (The Asps 1D) Roundabout - £3.7m | 223 - 230 |

8. Notices of Motion

To consider the following motions submitted by members in accordance with Standing Order 5:

(1) Conservative Motion - Protecting British Family Farms and Preserving Rural Communities

This Council notes with concern the proposed changes to inheritance tax announced by the Government in the recent Autumn budget, which would see major changes to the Agricultural Property Relief (APR) regime.

APR has been instrumental in allowing British family farms to remain intact across generations, supporting food security, sustaining rural communities, and aiding environmental stewardship.

In Warwickshire this tax is estimated to impact over 1,700 family holdings, managing 144,400 hectares, leaving the average farming family with a tax bill of at least £240,000, which will force many to sell portions of their land or close entirely, paving the way for corporate ownership over family ownership.

The Council believes that this tax will have severe impacts for:

1. **Food Security:** British family farms are critical to ensuring a steady supply of homegrown food. The total income from farming in Warwickshire is estimated to be £57 million.
2. **Rural Community Stability:** Family farms are the foundation of rural Britain, contributing to local jobs, schools, and essential services. In Warwickshire circa 4,800 work on farms with

- 1,000 being casual labour.
3. Environmental Stewardship: Farms cover approx 70% of the UK's land, with family farms playing a leading role in nature recovery, biodiversity, and sustainable land management. Farmers in Warwickshire manage circa 6,500 hectares of farm woodland and help maintain approx 1,750 miles of public rights of way.

This Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs expressing this Council's opposition to the proposed changes to inheritance tax under the Agricultural Property Relief regime which would have a significant impact on Warwickshire's family farms and expressing support for the introduction of an exemption for such farms
2. Urge all Warwickshire County Councillors to stand with Britain's family farms, to support our rural communities, and to protect the environment by voicing their concerns about the proposed changes to Agricultural Property Relief and by signing such petitions as are available.

Proposer: Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell

Seconder: Councillor Isobel Seccombe

(2) Liberal Democrat Motion - National Bus Fare Cap

Council notes:

1. Buses are the most accessible, affordable and sustainable mode of public transport;
2. The £2 maximum single fare ticket has been fundamental to the success in growing the use of buses;
3. Buses are relied upon by many who don't have access to a car - to go to work and medical appointments;
4. The work of the Bus Services Improvement Plan working group which has been in place since July 2021 and is working to improve bus services in Warwickshire;
5. Warwickshire's successful 'Two Squid' campaign to encourage bus use via the £2 fare cap;
6. The Government's decision to replace and increase the £2 cap on single fares from January 2025 to a £3 cap representing a 50% increase in one go.

This Council resolves that:

The Leader of the Council writes to the Prime Minister expressing the Council's concern that the increase from £2 to £3 for a single capped fare will undermine Warwickshire's success in growing bus patronage, negatively impact disadvantaged groups in the County and have a negative effect on attempts to increase modal shift away from the car to the use of buses.

Proposer: Councillor Sarah Boad

Seconder: Councillor Jerry Roodhouse

(3) Labour Motion - Bus Service Improvement Funding

This Council notes that the Government has announced an additional allocation of £8.9 million (comprising capital and revenue) to Warwickshire in support of the county's Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Warwickshire County Council strongly believes that local bus services are vital to the wellbeing of residents across the county, particularly those who have no access to their own private transport. Bus services are vital as a means to travel to work, school, appointments, shops and to meet friends and family.

This Council resolves to:

1. re-affirm its support for the delivery of improved local transport services with residents' needs placed at the heart of decision making.
2. bring forward for approval at the earliest opportunity a mechanism for guiding the use of BSIP revenue funding allocations towards maintaining and improving bus services and
3. in so far as the grant conditions allow, seek to encourage activity that
 - promotes the resident voice in route planning
 - influences the market to provide bus routes that link with key sites such as hospitals given the changes to the way health services are managed; and
 - encourages sector led research into passenger safety

Proposer: Councillor Sarah Feeney

Seconder: Councillor Sarah Millar

9. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)

A period of up to 40 minutes is allocated for questions to the Leader, Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

10. Any Other items of Urgent Business

To consider any other items that the Chair considers are urgent.

11. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider passing the following resolution:

‘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. A46 Stoneleigh Junction Update

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Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

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Disclaimers

Webcasting and permission to be filmed

Please note that this meeting will be filmed for live broadcast on the internet and can be viewed on line at warwickshire.public-i.tv. Generally, the public gallery is not filmed, but by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed. All recording will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter that features on the agenda for that meeting. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two clear working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.