

COUNCIL MEETING

9 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT:

D. S. Smith (Chairman)
K. P. Humphreys (Vice-Chairman)

Allsopp, Mrs J. A.	Heath, H. R.	Salter, D. F.
Arnold, Mrs S. P.	Hogan, P.	Smedley, D.
Barnett, Mrs S. A.	Isaacs, D.	Smith, A. F.
Boyle, Mrs M. G.	Leytham, D. J.	Spruce, C.J.
Constable, Mrs B. L.	Marshall, T.	Strachan, R. W.
Constable, D. H. J.	Mosson, R. C.	Taylor, S. D.
Cox, R. E.	Mynott, G.	Tittley, M. C.
Derrick, B. W.	Norman, S. G.	Tranter, Mrs H.
Drinkwater, E. N.	Pearce, A. G.	Walker MBE, J.T.
Eadie, I. M.	Perkins, Ms E. C.	White, A. G.
Eagland, Mrs J. M.	Powell, J. J. R.	Wilcox, M. J.
Evans, Mrs C. D.	Pritchard, I. M. P.	Willis-Croft, K. A.
Fisher, Mrs H. E.	Pullen, D. R.	Wilson, B.
Greatorex, C.	Richards, Mrs V.	Woodward, Mrs S. E.
Hancocks, Mrs R.	Roberts, N. J.	

(APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Awty, Bacon, Mrs Bacon, Mrs Bland, Mrs Flowith, Mrs Stanhope MBE, Thomas, Warfield and Yeates).

PRAYERS:

Prayers were said by the Very Reverend Archimandrite S. Piers who made particular reference to the father of Councillor Warfield who had recently died.

151 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The following declarations of interest were made:-

- 1) Councillor Mrs Evans – Personal Interest in any items relating to the Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown and the Skills Centre in Burntwood.
- 2) Councillor Heath – Personal Interest in any items relating to the Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown.
- 3) Councillor Isaacs - Personal Interest in any items relating to the Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown.
- 4) Councillor Norman – Personal Interest in any items relating to the Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown.
- 5) Councillor Taylor – Personal Interest in any items relating to the Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown.
- 6) Councillor Walker – Personal Interest in any items relating to the Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown.

- 7) Councillor White – Non Pecuniary Interest in any items relating to the Burntwood Health Centre in view of his Staffordshire County Council involvement.
- 9) Councillor Willis-Croft – Personal Interest in any items relating to the Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown.
- 10) Councillor Mrs Woodward – Personal Interest in any items relating to the Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown.

152 MINUTES – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014:

It was proposed and duly seconded “that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 30 September 2014 (Volume 42 Part 3 Minute Book) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.”

Arising on the Minutes:

Minute No 92 – Report of the Leader of Cabinet Decisions from the Meetings held on 15 July and 9 September 2014 and Cabinet Members Decisions

Councillor Mynott referred to Item 2 of the Minute (Fazeley and Bonehill Townscape Heritage Application) and stated that he had also said that the scheme would be welcomed and that he hoped that the scheme would lead to further investment.

Minute No 99 – Notice of Motion

Councillor Mrs Woodward commented that the Minute showed that three Members had left the meeting before its conclusion and felt that it was important that when Members did leave early for whatever reason that was noted so that constituents might be aware. Councillor Wilson stated that the item should not be debated as the intention was to consider the approval of the Minutes as a correct record.

It was then:

RESOLVED: That subject to the comment of Councillors of Mynott and Mrs Woodward be noted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 September 2014 (Volume 42 Part 3 Minute Book) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

153 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(a) Mrs M. P. Bamborough

The Chairman informed Members that former District Councillor Mrs Bamborough had recently died and paid tribute to her service to the community. Councillor Mrs Constable added to the tribute and Members stood for a few minutes silence in memory of Mrs Bamborough.

(b) Awards

The Chairman informed Members that Burntwood had won the Silver Gilt Award in the large town category at the Annual Heart of England Bloom Awards in September 2014 whilst Kings Bromley was the winner of the large village category for the Best Kept Village Competition in the Lichfield/Cannock Chase area.

(c) Lichfield Sinfonia Concert

The Chairman informed Members that Lichfield Sinfonia had donated the proceedings from their Concert on 30 November 2014 to his charity and that the amount raised was £1,000.

(d) Christmas Pageant with Carols

The Chairman thanked everyone who had attended his Christmas Pageant with Carols Service on 5 December 2014 and informed Members that it had raised £211.61 for his charities.

(e) Christmas Cards

The Chairman asked if any Members wished to donate monies to his charity instead of sending Christmas Cards then they should be handed in to the Executive and Support Officer. The Chairman thanked Councillor Roberts for starting off the process with his donation.

(f) Diary Dates

The Chairman informed Members that a hosted event at the Cinderella Pantomime at the Lichfield Garrick would be held on 29 December 2014, a charity event featuring the Remi Harris Trio would be held on 16 January 2015 and that his Annual Dinner would be held on 6 March 2015.

154 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7 OCTOBER AND 4 NOVEMBER 2014 AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS:

The Leader of the Council submitted his report on Cabinet Decisions from the meetings held on 7 October and 4 November 2014 and on Cabinet Member decisions.

8 – Public Health Act 1925 – Street Naming

The Leader noted the typing errors in the heading and informed Members that in future street naming items would be dealt with by the Cabinet Member for Finance, Democratic and Legal Services.

9 – Annual Review of Core Prices of Leisure Activities

Councillor Mynott asked for details of the decision to be made available to the public as some concerns had previously been expressed about raising prices for children and that assurances had been given by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks that this aspect would not go ahead. Councillor Isaacs added that it was important for Members to see the decision as the Cabinet Member had changed his mind and there would therefore be no additional cost for children to use leisure activities.

Councillor Wilcox said that he had noted the comments and he would ensure that a report was sent out to Members.

155 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE:

Councillor Marshall submitted his report that was considered by the Community, Housing and Health (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 29 September 2014.

1 – Community Hospitals Consultation

With regard to the item on the Sir Robert Peel Hospital Councillor Mynott hoped that the Chairman of the Committee would agree with him that it was good news that there was to be a reprieve for the Day Case Theatre at the Hospital for six months and hoped that the Burton Hospitals NHS Trust would in future encourage GP's to give their patients a choice of which hospital they wished to attend. Councillors Cox, Mrs Constable and Mrs Richards commented that they felt that GP's did give a choice to patients but Councillor Isaacs disagreed with that.

Councillor Isaacs referred to Paragraph 1.7 and felt that the overspend on health in Staffordshire of around £217m pounds by 2018 would have a major impact and that therefore more information was required in order that any such impact could be minimised. Councillor White informed Members that a report on this issue was due to be released shortly however in the long term the figures involved were likely to be more significant than that indicated in Councillor Marshall's report. Councillor Mrs Woodward commended Councillor White for the work that he had done. However she noted that a report by KPMG about Staffordshire's distressed health economy had been awaited since the summer and had yet to be published and it was likely to have significant implications for Local Health Services.

Councillor Marshall welcomed the comments made and stated that funding issues were not limited to Staffordshire but were a problem across the Country.

With regard to the item on the Minor Injuries Unit in Cannock proposal Councillor Mrs Evans wished to thank Councillor Mrs Woodward for contributing to the content of the letter that Councillor Greatorex had submitted in response to the consultation exercise and stated that the health facilities at Burntwood continued to be inadequate..

2 – Burntwood Health Centres

Councillor Walker asked for an update on the current position and it was confirmed that the development of the new Health Centre at the Greenwood House is still due to commence in summer 2015. Councillor Heath commented that the Walk In Centre at the Burntwood Leisure Centre site was very good but raised concerns about staffing levels.

3 – Feedback from Staffordshire Health Select Committee

Councillor Marshall informed Members that a personal commitment had prevented his attendance at the December meeting of the Select Committee but he is endeavouring to attend whenever he can.

4 – Community Transport Review & Update

Councillor Mrs Evans reminded Members that the service had been saved by the Labour Group following the initial Fit for the Future proposals but that delays in revising the service seem to have been caused by a reduction in staff resources available and hoped that this would be rectified as soon as possible. Councillor Mrs Woodward stated that there was cross Party support for the service and asked what progress had been made with regard to suggested ways of marketing it.

Councillor Greatorex responded by saying that it was the Controlling Group that had retained the service following comments and representations made by the community and confirmed that progress was being made on the marketing of the service. Councillor Marshall confirmed that he would write to Councillor Mrs Woodward on this but emphasised that the service needed to be cost neutral.

6 – Lichfield District Council CCTV Annual Report 2013/14 and Code of Practice

Councillor Walker asked if the CCTV system was working properly as it had been established that an incident in Burntwood had not been properly recorded. Councillor Marshall undertook to look into this and report back to Councillor Walker.

7 – Commissioning Services from the Community and Voluntary Sector

Councillor Mrs Woodward reminded Members that the Task Group set up to consider funding of the community and voluntary sector had been supportive of the Commissioning Services in principle but they had concerns about the ability to influence decisions. Councillor Mrs Woodward had not been assured by the comments made by Councillor Greatorex in email correspondence about how this would be achieved. Councillor Mrs Woodward asked the Chairman of the Committee to ensure that the concerns would be addressed. Councillor Greatorex reminded Members that various sources of public funding was being used in the locality commissioning process, not just Council Tax, and that meant that a different process and approach needed to be used than in the past in order to maximise efficiencies. Councillor Marshall undertook to take on board the comments made by Councillor Mrs Woodward.

8 – Work Programme and Forward Plan

Councillor Drinkwater referred to hospital car parking charges and felt that the new system of paying when leaving was a lot fairer. Councillor Marshall in response said that he had received some positive and some negative comments about the new system.

156 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE:

Councillor Cox submitted his report on the matters considered by the Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 11 November 2014.

5 – HS2 Update

Councillor Norman asked the Chairman of the Committee if a Plan B was being looked at having regard to the possibility of a station at Stoke on Trent. Councillor Cox said that this had not been considered at the meeting.

157 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STRATEGIC (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE:

Councillor Strachan submitted his report on the matters considered by the Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 18 November 2014.

4 – Community Consultation 2014

Councillor Mynott hoped that the Chairman of the Committee would agree with him that the results received are very useful and gave an insight of the views of local residents on the activities of the District Council. He added that some issues stood out such as the funding of the Garrick Theatre. Councillor A. F. Smith reminded Members that the District Council were already following the will of the community shown in the results of the survey by reducing the grant to the Garrick Theatre over successive years. Councillor Strachan confirmed that he felt that the results were useful.

5 – Peer Review Report

Councillor Norman informed Members that during the Committee Meeting the Leader of the Council had said that he had not been surprised by any of the results in the Peer Review Report and Councillor Norman listed some issues raised which he felt should be of concern. Councillor Strachan reminded Members that the Task Group which had been set up would be looking at the report and suggesting prioritised areas for action.

158 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

(a) Audit Committee – 8 October 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Mosson, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 8 October 2014 (Minutes Nod 105 – 114) be approved and adopted.

(b) Planning Committee – 13 October 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Fisher, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 August 2014 (Minutes Nod 115 – 121) be approved and adopted.

(c) Planning Committee – 3 November 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Fisher, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3 November 2014 (Minutes Nod 122 – 135) be approved and adopted.

(d) Regulatory and Licensing Committee – 20 November 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Derrick, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory and Licensing Committee held on 20 November 2014 (Minutes Nod 136 – 145) be approved and adopted.

(e) Planning Committee – 24 November 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Smedley and duly seconded “that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 November 2014 (Minutes Nod 146 – 150) be approved and adopted.”

Arising on the Minutes:

Present and Apologies for Absence

Several Councillors highlighted contradictory information in the Minutes about those Members present and those submitting apologies for absence and it was agreed that those should be rectified.

It was then:

RESOLVED: That subject to the Minutes showing that Councillors Heath,

Mosson, Strachan and Walker were not present at the meeting whilst Councillor White was present the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 November 2014 (Minutes Nod 146 – 157) be approved and adopted.

159 GREATER BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Councillor Cox proposed and Councillor Spruce seconded “that the content of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 29 October 2014 be noted, that the Terms of Reference and Call In Document be approved and that Councillor Pullen be appointed as the required Alternate Member.

In submitting the proposal Councillor Cox explained the recommendations and gave details of the meeting held when it was agreed that back up Members should be appointed so that a quorum of Members would always be present to discuss items.

Councillor White considered that the item highlighted the importance of a Scrutiny Committee in the democratic accountability process and his experience was that this was not always the case with Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Councillor Norman whilst supporting the proposal hoped that a similar suggestion would come forward from the Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Councillor Drinkwater hoped that some of the money available to the Local Enterprise Partnerships would be spent for the benefit of Burntwood.

Councillor Mrs Woodward expressed concern that the District Council were a member of two Local Enterprise Partnerships as this could mean that costs were duplicated and added her support to the hope that a similar proposal would come forward from the Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

Councillor Wilcox informed Members that it was important to be a member of both Enterprise Partnerships and whilst accepting that there had been some concerns over the Governance of the Stoke and Staffordshire one informed Members that efforts were being made to improve it.

Councillor Cox assured Members that decisions would be fully scrutinised by the Joint Scrutiny Committee of which he had been appointed Chairman and informed Members that with regard to HS2 he, and Councillor Marshall, had discussed that with the Secretary of State for Transport when concerns were outlined about the proposed junction at Hanch

It was then:

- RESOLVED:** (a) That the content of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 October 2014 be noted.
(b) That the Terms of Reference and Call In Document as submitted be approved.
(c) That Councillor Pullen be appointed as the required Alternate Member.

160 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES:

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Pritchard and

RESOLVED: That the following changes be made to Committees:

- (a) Councillor Mrs Bacon to fill the vacancy on Planning Committee
- (b) Councillor Leytham to fill the vacancy on Audit Committee
- (c) Councillor Leytham to fill the vacancy on Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee
- (d) Councillor White to replace Councillor Leytham on Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee.
- (e) Councillors Mrs Eagland and Pullen to replace Councillors Mrs Arnold and White on Planning Committee
- (f) Councillor Leytham to be appointed as Vice Chairman of Audit Committee

161 NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATIONS:

It was proposed by Councillor Pritchard, seconded by Councillor Smedley and

RESOLVED: That the Parish of Hammerwich, the Fradley Ward of the Fradley and Streethay Parish and that part of the Whittington Ward which falls within Fradley and Streethay Parish be designated as Neighbourhood Areas for the purpose of preparing Neighbourhood Plans under Section 61(G) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

162 QUESTIONS:

Question 1

Question from Councillor Drinkwater to the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Tourism & Development.

“Could the Cabinet Member support me in making sure that Education S106 moneys from Taylor/Wimpey Burntwood Development is spread across schools in the town and not just one or two schools?”

Response from Councillor Pritchard:

“I would like to thank Councillor Drinkwater for his question, and would like to take this opportunity to remind him that Lichfield District Council is merely the collection authority for 106 monies which are destined for educational purposes within the District.

Nevertheless we have asked the County Council to consider the point made when they make a decision on where the education monies are spent. The County Council will be undertaking a feasibility study in due course to inform their decision.”

Councillor Drinkwater asked the following Supplementary Question:-

“Can the Cabinet Member or the Cabinet assure me that Section 106 money will not be used to determine social/affordable housing on major sites.”

Councillor Pritchard responded:

"I will give Councillor Drinkwater a written response to this Supplementary Question."

Question 2

Question from Councillor Norman to the Leader of the Council.

"Can he confirm that when a member of his Cabinet replies to a question at a meeting of the full Council for which he has responsibility, for example on IT or Waste Management, then they are expressing the view of the Cabinet as a whole and not just giving their personal view – unless expressly stated at the time?"

Response from Councillor Wilcox:

"Replies to questions by Cabinet Members at Full Council are entirely dependant upon the particular question being asked, therefore I cannot confirm that the answer given would necessarily be the view of the whole Cabinet.

In general terms replies given on a specific issue within their portfolio would under normal circumstances be the collective view of the Cabinet."

Councillor Norman asked the following Supplementary Question:-

"At the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2013 Councillor Greatorex stated in response to a question from Councillor Mynott "I consider that the number of people who had moved to accommodation of a more appropriate size to be a success and congratulate the Coalition Government on their Legislation on the Under Occupation Surcharge as it works and families can make better use of property available. Accordingly I do not support an exception from the surcharge." Can the Leader inform me if this was the view of the Cabinet and thus the Council."

Councillor Wilcox responded:-

"That response was a personal opinion of Councillor Greatorex at that time."

Question 3

Question from Councillor Norman to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Democratic and Legal Services.

"Can he a) set out the support, in personnel terms, that Scrutiny Members, including the Chairman of the Committees, receive to enable them to be effective in their particular role b) the personnel support that the Cabinet receives to enable them to be effective and c) does he think there should be any changes to that support following the Peer Review's recent report?"

Response from Councillor Spruce:

"Scrutiny Members receive support from a variety of Officers, including Leadership Team and of course, Christine Lewis, the Overview & Scrutiny Officer. The budget for Overview & Scrutiny support for 2014/15 is £138,730.

The Cabinet also receive support from various Officers of the District Council and the budget for Cabinet for 2014/15 is £95,830.

As agreed at the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee a Member Working Group is being set up to review the Overview & Scrutiny function in the light of the Peer Review Report and it is premature, pending the findings of that Working Group, to suggest any changes to the Overview & Scrutiny function.”

Councillor Norman asked the following Supplementary Question:-

“The response shows a figure of £138,730. Can Councillor Spruce say if that is specific to the role of serving Scrutiny Members.”

Councillor Spruce responded:-

“This figure relates to Officer costs.”

163 NOTICES OF MOTION:

- (a) Councillor Norman proposed that “the Notice of Motion submitted by him and Councillor Mynott and as detailed on the Council Agenda be approved.” In submitting the proposal Councillor Norman gave details of the background and emphasised that the proposed Private Members Bill was not intended to abolish the legislation concerning Spare Room Subsidy but was to make it fairer. Councillor Norman added that many residents were having to borrow money to stay and thus were building up debts and that there was a problem in identifying alternative accommodation available.

Councillor Mynott in seconding the motion reminded Members that he was opposed to the Bedroom Tax as he considered that it was unfair for people who had lived in properties for many years to move because their circumstances had changed. Councillor Mynott added that even if the tax was correct the opportunities to move were limited and the system currently enforced was unfair. Councillor Mrs Woodward in support of the proposal stated that unanticipated consequences had come out of the legislation that was in force and that many residents were having to choose between eating or heating and emphasised the particular impact on those with disabilities.

Councillor Strachan put forward his views on why the motion should not be agreed and felt that the Private Members Bill put forward had some flaws which would not assist if it was passed by Parliament and in any event for that to happen Parliamentary Procedures required that money issues arising out of the proposed Bill had to be addressed which in view of their size meant that this proposed legislation would not move forward in the short term. Councillor Strachan felt that the use of the word “reasonable” in the proposed legislation particularly the need to make a reasonable offer of alternative accommodation would mean that many legal cases would flow if the legislation was passed.

Councillor Greatorex, in supporting Councillor Strachan, considered that the legislation had been put forward for National Party Political reasons and felt that whatever the District Council determined it would not change the legislation. Councillor Greatorex informed Members that as well as under occupation of properties there was a significant amount of over occupation and that the District Council had recently had to start paying for residents to have bed and breakfast accommodation which had not been done for some time.

As a result of the debate Councillor Norman proposed and Councillor Mynott seconded that the Notice of Motion be amended so that paragraphs one, two and five be deleted with paragraph three remaining and paragraph four being amended by the addition of the words “however this Council support the Spare Room Subsidy Legislation in its present form” and asked that a Named Vote be taken.

Councillor Eadie proposed and Councillor Cox seconded “that the amendment be put to the vote.”

The vote was recorded as follows:

FOR (0)	AGAINST (20)	ABSTAIN (23)
	Constable, D. H. J.	Allsopp Mrs J. A.
	Drinkwater, E. N.	Arnold, Mrs S. P.
	Eadie, I. M.	Barnett, Mrs S. A.
	Evans, Mrs C. D.	Boyle, Mrs M. G.
	Greatorex, C.	Constable, Mrs B. L.
	Heath, H. R.	Cox, R. E.
	Isaacs, D.	Derrick, B. W.
	Mynott, G.	Eagland, Mrs J. M.
	Norman, S. G.	Fisher, Mrs H. E.
	Pritchard, I. M. P.	Hancocks, Mrs R.
	Pullen, D. R.	Hogan, P.
	Smedley, D.	Humphreys, K. P.
	Smith, A. F.	Leytham, D. J.
	Strachan, R. W.	Marshall, T.
	Taylor, S. D.	Mosson, R. C.
	Walker, J. T.	Pearce, A. G.
	Wilcox, M. J.	Powell, J. J. R.
	Willis-Croft, K. A.	Richards, Mrs V.
	Wilson, B.	Roberts, N. J.
	Woodward, Mrs S. E.	Smith, D. S.
		Spruce, C. J.
		Tranter, Mrs H.
		White, A. G.

(Councillors Ms Perkins, Salter and Tittley had left the meeting before the vote was taken).

The motion was declared **LOST**.

The substantive motion was then voted on with the vote being recorded as follows:

FOR (10)	AGAINST (30)	ABSTAIN (3)
Drinkwater, E. N.	Allsopp, Mrs J. A.	Arnold, Mrs S. P.
Evans, Mrs C. D.	Barnett, Mrs S. A.	Smith, D. S.
Heath, H. R.	Boyle, Mrs M. G.	Wilson, B.
Isaacs, D.	Constable, Mrs B. L.	
Mynott, G.	Constable, D. H. J.	
Norman, S. G.	Cox, R. E.	
Taylor, S. D.	Derrick, B. W.	
Walker, J. T.	Eadie, I. M.	
Willis-Croft, K. A.	Eagland, Mrs J. M.	
Woodward, Mrs S. E.	Fisher, Mrs H. E.	
	Greatorex, C.	
	Hancocks, Mrs R.	
	Hogan, P.	
	Humphreys, K. P.	
	Leytham, D. J.	
	Marshall, T.	
	Mosson, R. C.	
	Pearce, A. G.	
	Powell, J. J. R.	

Pritchard, I. M. P.
Pullen, D. R.
Richards, Mrs V.
Roberts, N. J.
Smedley, D.
Smith, A. F.
Spruce, C. J.
Strachan, R. W.
Tranter, Mrs H.
White, A. G.
Wilcox, M. J.

It was then:

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Motion be lost.

- (b) It was proposed by Councillor Norman “that the Notice of Motion submitted by him and Councillor Mrs Woodward as detailed in the Agenda be agreed.”

In submitting the Motion Councillor Norman referred to the results of the Peer Review which had referred to the scrutiny process within the District Council. Councillor Norman considered that the Scrutiny Officer employed by the District Council was a Clerk to the Committee and was not able to provide the scrutiny service that was required in order to undertake the process properly. Accordingly Councillor Norman considered that more resources were needed.

Councillor Mrs Woodward in seconding the proposal informed Members that she considered that good scrutiny made good decisions and enabled all Members of the Council to be fully involved in the decision making process of the District Council.

Councillor White noted that the proposal required that resources be included in the 2015/2016 budget and felt that the solution to any problems was not just to make more money available as it was up to Members themselves to commit to the scrutiny process and take part. Councillor Cox added that it was up to Members to drive the scrutiny process and felt that meetings of his Scrutiny Committee were robust with Members fully taking part.

Councillor Mynott in supporting the motion emphasised the need for proper resources to be made available and said that that was not just about money but could involve different roles for Officers who could assist with, for instance, identifying what alternative options were available for schemes. Councillor Mynott added that training would assist.

Councillor Eadie commented that the Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee had set up a Task Group to look at the outcome of the Peer Review and that therefore in his view the motion was premature. Councillor Eadie added that if scrutiny did not work at the District Council improvements needed to be made with maybe the emphasis being on less operational issues but more on strategic matters but that there needed to be an active Member involvement in order to ensure that there was a good contribution to the scrutiny process.

Councillor Drinkwater in supporting the views of Councillor Mynott felt that the District Council had never had an Officer dedicated to dealing with the scrutiny process and that is the resource that was needed.

Councillor Strachan as Chairman of Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee said that the Task Group had been set up and had met with the next steps being an input from the Peer Reviewers so that progress could be made but felt that any improvements would be more than just amending a job description.

Councillor Norman in summing up reminded Members that he did not define resources but felt that there was no one available at the District Council who had the dedicated job of researching issues for Members and undertaking specific scrutiny work.

The motion was then put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Motion as submitted be lost.

164 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS:

RESOLVED: That as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3, 4 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

IN PRIVATE

165 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7 OCTOBER AND 4 NOVEMBER 2014:

The Leader of the Council submitted his confidential report on Cabinet Decisions from the meetings held on 7 October and 4 November 2014.

1 – Hi Speed 2 Phase 1, Petitioning the Hybrid Bill

Councillor Cox informed Members that he had attended the meeting of Cabinet on 7 October 2014 and he was pleased with the decision that had been reached. Councillor Cox expressed frustration about the activities of HS2 Limited which seemed to change on a regular basis and gave details of a particular case when a sale of a house could not proceed.

Councillor Pritchard undertook to meet with Councillor Cox and relevant Officers to discuss the matters raised.

166 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE:

Councillor Marshall submitted his Confidential Report on the matters considered by the Community, Housing and Health (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 29 September 2014.

1 – Potential Transfer of the Old Mining College Centre

Councillor Marshall informed Members that this related to the potential transfer of the lease of the property to Burntwood Town Council.

167 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF LEISURE, PARKS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE:

Councillor Mrs Tranter submitted her Confidential Report on the matters considered by the Leisure, Parks and Waste Management (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee.

Present – Councillor Mrs Evans pointed out that she had attended the meeting but that this had

not been recorded.

(The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm)

CHAIRMAN