

COUNCIL

10 DECEMBER 2019

PRESENT:

Councillors Powell (Chairman), Cross (Vice-Chairman), Anketell, Baker, Ball, Banevicius, Barnett, Binney, Birch, Brown, Cox, Eadie, Eagland, D Ennis, L Ennis, Evans, Grange, Greatorex, Gwilt, Ho, Lax, Leytham, A Little, E Little, Marshall, Matthews, Norman, Parton-Hughes, Pullen, Robertson, Salter, Silvester-Hall, Smith, Spruce, Strachan, Tapper, Warburton, Warfield, Westwood, White, M Wilcox, S Wilcox, A Yeates and B Yeates.

40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Checkland, Humphreys and Ray.

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Ball, Baker, Birch, Cox, Eadie, D Ennis, L Ennis, Evans, Grange, Ho, Marshall, Matthews, Norman, Spruce, Westwood and B Yeates declared interests as Trustees/Members of organisations/bodies with an interest in premises used as polling places (Agenda Items 12 and 14 – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – see Members' register of interests for details of bodies/organisations to which Members belong).

Councillor Pullen declared an interest in Disabled Facilities Grants as an application had been made for a Member of his family.

Councillor A Little and E Little declared interests in Agenda Item 16 (Amendments to the list of Buildings of Local Architectural and Historic Interest) as owners of a listed property.

42 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2019 were approved as a correct record subject to the final paragraph of Minute No.33 (Designation of Monitoring Officer) being amended to read 'It was proposed by Councillor Lax *and seconded by Councillor Norman.*'

43 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Previous Meeting

The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman for chairing the last meeting of Council.

(b) Armistice Day

The Chairman thanked all those that had attended the Armistice Day Commemoration at the Alrewas National Memorial Arboretum.

(c) Chairman's Charity

The Chairman invited Members to make a Christmas donation to his nominated charity, the food bank.

(d) Civic Lunch

The Chairman advised that his Civic Lunch would be held on 8 March.

(e) Neil Turner

The Chairman advised that Neil Turner, Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources was leaving the Authority and this would be his last Full Council. He thanked him for his work over many years and wished him good luck for the future.

44 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETINGS HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER AND 3 DECEMBER AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS.

The report of the Leader of the Council was received.

45 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

Councillor Eagland submitted the Minutes of the Community, Housing and Health (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 17 October 2019.

15 – Standing Items

Councillor Evans stressed the importance of keeping the George Bryan Centre open and called on Councillor Leytham to raise it at the Staffordshire County Council Health Select Committee.

17 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy

Councillor Evans noted that the data for rough sleeping in the District was due to have been updated at the end of November and asked for the latest figures.

Councillor Robertson referred to the excellent work undertaken by the emergency night shelter and the delay in national funding.

Councillor Banevicius asked about arrangements for running the alternative giving scheme and Councillor A Yeates advised that discussions were currently taking place.

20 - Discretionary Housing Payments

Councillor Robertson said the Council could look at providing affordable houses through the Property Investment Strategy to hopefully mitigate problems for those requiring financial assistance with housing costs.

Councillor Eadie said arrangements for Lichfield Housing Ltd were progressing and he was sure the shareholders would be listening to what was being said.

46 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

Councillor A Little submitted the Minutes of the Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 22 October 2019.

In addition to the Members listed in the Minutes, it was noted that Councillor Strachan had attended the meeting.

47 MINUTES OF THE LEISURE, PARKS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

Councillor Matthews submitted the Minutes of the Leisure, Parks and Waste Management (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 18 November 2019.

48 MINUTES OF THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor Barnett, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Employment Committee held on 15 October 2019 as amended be approved and adopted.

49 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor Marshall, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 28 October and 25 November be approved and adopted.

50 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND MEMBER STANDARDS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor Greatorex, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Member Standards Committee held on 14 November 2019 be approved and adopted.

51 MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor B Yeates, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory and Licensing Committee held on 26 November 2019 be approved and adopted.

52 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

It was reported that the Regulatory and Licensing Committee had been supporting the review of the District's polling places and polling districts. The Council was required to complete such a review at least every five years and by no later than 31 January 2020.

The Review was conducted in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 and guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

The Regulatory and Licensing Committee considered the findings of the review at its meeting on the 26 November 2019 and had proposed a series of recommendations for 2020 and beyond.

Councillor Norman suggested that due to the poor nature of one of the access routes to the polling place at Cherry Orchard information be provided about the best way to access the premises.

Councillor White said it was good to be pragmatic and avoid closing schools where possible. Councillor Evans noted that the school she served as governor only closed part of the school for elections. Councillor Greatorax advised that it could be difficult to keep schools open when car parking was poor.

Councillor L Ennis advised paragraph 3.25 of the report referred to Spring Hill Primary school whereas it should read Highfield Primary School.

Councillor B Yeates noted the reduction in the number of mobile polling stations would improve disabled access and reduce costs.

It was proposed by Councillor B Yeates, seconded by Councillor Binney and

RESOLVED:

In Burntwood

- (i) Move the polling place from St Joseph's and St Theresa's Primary School to The Old Mining College Centre.
- (ii) Move the polling place from a mobile unit at the Oakdene Road Island and incorporate within the polling places at Burntwood Area Youth Centre for voters in polling district CM and at Springhill Academy for polling district CS2.
- (iii) Move the polling place from Fulfen Primary School to Burntwood Memorial Institute.
- (iv) Move the polling place at Holly Grove Primary School to St John's Community Church.

In Lichfield

- (v) Move the polling place from the Co-op Superstore car park to Boley Park Community Centre.
- (vi) Move the polling place from The Willows Primary School to Curborough Community Centre.
- (vii) Move the polling place at St Michael's Primary School to the three primary schools – St Michael's Primary School, Five Spires Academy and St Joseph's Primary School – and define the polling place as 'Cherry Orchard schools'.
- (viii) Move the polling place at St Peter's and St Paul's Primary School and incorporate within the polling place at Chadsmead Primary Academy.

In Villages

- (ix) Move the polling place at Bexmore Drive, Streethay to Streethay Primary Academy.
- (x) Move the polling place at the Longwood Public House, Fazeley and incorporate within the polling place at Fazeley Town Hall.
- (xi) Move the polling place at The Highwayman Public House, Shenstone Wood End and incorporate within the polling place at Shenstone Village Hall.

53 COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Further to the approval of a community lottery by Cabinet on 12 November 2019, consideration was given to the policies that would support the application to the Gambling Commission for a licence.

In response to a question Councillor B Yeates confirmed that the policies would be kept under review by Overview and Scrutiny.

It was then proposed by Councillor B Yeates seconded by Councillor Eagland and

RESOLVED: (i) That approval be given to the policies listed below to govern the operation of the lottery:

- Social Responsibility in Gambling
- Protection from Crime and Disorder
- Implementation Procedures
- Fair and Open Gambling
- Children and vulnerable person protection.

(ii) That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Head of Regulatory Services Housing and Wellbeing be authorised to make any minor amendments that may be required to the policies in the future.

54 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

It was reported that the Council's Constitution was constantly reviewed and updated to ensure it remained fit for purpose, reflected changes in legislation, and provided appropriate delegations.

Due to recent staffing changes and findings from a scheme of delegation audit, several changes were proposed to the scheme of delegation to officers.

It was proposed by Councillor Lax, seconded by Councillor Pullen and

RESOLVED: (1) That the updated scheme of delegation be approved.

(2) That the temporary delegations to all Heads of Service be approved.

55 AMENDMENTS TO THE LIST OF BUILDINGS OF LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC INTEREST

Details were given of the results of the public consultation on the amendments to the Council's List of Buildings of Local Architectural and Historic Interest (commonly referred to as the "Local List").

Councillor Marshall thanked the Principal Design and Conservation Officer for her work and Councillor Evans welcomed the recognition of important buildings in Burntwood. She also commented on the interesting training provided to Members.

Councillor D Ennis said it was a good idea for Members to get involved and engage with owners of buildings of local architectural and historic interest.

It was proposed by Councillor Lax, seconded by Councillor Marshall and

RESOLVED: That the results of the consultation be noted and the amendments to the Council's List of Buildings of Local Architectural and Historic Interest be supported and ratified.

56 MOTION ON NOTICE

The following Motion was submitted by Councillor Norman:

"Lichfield District Council recognises that a climate change emergency exists and, in consequence, resolves to take this into account as a factor in all future policy and spending decisions of the Council, with an Environmental Impact Assessment, whenever appropriate."

Councillor Norman said this was not a political statement but was on behalf of future generations. He said the Council's contribution may only be small, but each issue should have an Environmental Impact Assessment.

It was proposed by Councillor Pullen to amend the motion to:

'Lichfield District Council recognises that a climate change emergency exists and in consequence, resolves to take this into account as a factor in future decisions of the Council and accepts that specific actions are necessary and therefore resolves that it will:

- Support the Government's target of Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2050
- Actively consider investment in green technologies
- Ensure that, where appropriate, decisions made by the Council consider Environmental Impact
- Ask an Overview & Scrutiny Committee to investigate initiatives that will reduce our impact on the environment
- Name a specific Cabinet member for Climate Change'

Councillor Yeates then seconded the amendment.

Referring to the Marches energy report Councillor Norman listed previous commitments and targets for 2020, and said actions rather than intentions were needed this time.

Councillor Ball said that he supported the motion and the amendment, and pointed out the linkages to local procurement.

Councillors Marshall, White and Strachan also spoke in favour of the amendment.

Councillor Anketell asked the net zero carbon emission date be brought forward from 2050 to 2040.

Councillor Eadie said while it was not true to say that no action had been taken to date, the Council could do more.

Councillor Binney said he did not support the term 'emergency' and that the word 'priority' was more accurate.

Councillor Robertson said he hoped the motion and the amendment would be passed and that the Council should look to bring the 2050 target date forward.

Councillor A Yeates then called upon the Council to act and for everyone to work together to make a difference. Following a vote the amendment, as proposed and seconded, was passed

RESOLVED: That the amendment to the Motion as proposed and seconded be agreed.

Councillor Norman referred to his environmental record and noted that in the 1990s Environmental Impact was included in every report and he hoped under Cllr Strachan's leadership and scrutiny the necessary action would be taken. He formally moved the substantive motion.

Councillor Pullen said the amended motion just passed included the good things put forward by Councillor Norman about ensuring that environmental impact was taken into consideration, so whilst he thought the amended motion did more in terms of putting pragmatic action into place, he would still certainly support Councillor Norman's motion because it had been included in the amendment.

Councillor White advised that the substantive motion had been amended to incorporate the amendment.

Councillor Greatorex said the amendment had been passed and the motion as amended should be voted upon.

Following a vote it was

RESOLVED: That the motion as amended be approved.

57 QUESTIONS

Q1. Question from Councillor Evans to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing

At the Community, Housing and Health meeting on the 17th October the Cabinet Member, Councillor Yeates was asked in 13, Minutes of the Previous Meeting, about the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants and the response expected from Staffordshire County Council (SCC) regarding the way they had contributed to the problem. Can he please inform us if any response has been received yet and if so what is the outcome? It is an important issue and we must continue to ensure improvements are made as we were promised.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing

There was detailed discussion on the issues at the October Strategic Project Board meeting, particularly around the quality of service provided to the end user when an Occupational Therapist (OT) assessment is completed and then a second assessment

has to be done by Millbrook. The SCC rep agreed to review this in line with SCC/Midland Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT) contract to ensure that the service specified is being provided and also set up a meeting with the SCC lead on the OT service to discuss in more detail.

Following this meeting we've had confirmation that the SCC rep has raised the issue about MPFT OTs only passing through minimal referral information with the county lead for the s75 contract with MPFT, and has been assured that it wouldn't happen again. The issue of information on the poor referrals has been raised with the First Contact Team Leaders who confirmed that they were going to ensure that all referrals were on the one form.

A fuller update by SCC was due for SPB meeting on 12th December, however this meeting has been cancelled due to the election and will be held early in the New Year. Please be assured that all issues over performance are being actively followed up.

Key:

SPB Strategic project board - the senior governing body of the SILIS contract comprising 6 Chief executives and SCC representatives MPFT Midland Partnership Foundation Trust - hold the s75 OT service contract with SCC

58 EXCLUSION OF 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

59 REPORT OF THE LEADER ON CONFIDENTIAL CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2019

The report of the Leader was received.

60 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

Councillor A Little submitted the confidential Minutes of the Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 22 October 2019.

(The Meeting closed at 7.22 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN