

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL
HOUSE, SOUTH STREET, ATHERSTONE ON
WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2016**

Present: Councillor Smitten in the Chair.

Councillors Bell, Clews, Davey, Davis, L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, Farrell, Ferro, Gosling, Hanratty, Hayfield, Henney, Humphreys, Jarvis, Jenns, Lea, Lewis, Morson, Moss, Simpson, Smith, E Stanley, M Stanley, Sweet, Waters, A Wright and D Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chambers, Ingram, Jones, Payne, Phillips, Reilly and Singh

Before the commencement of business the Brian Dimpleby, Polesworth Baptist Church, led the Council in Prayer.

28 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

29 Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 28 September 2016

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 September 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

30 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported that the Revenues and Housing teams had won the 'Public Sector Collections Team' at the Collections and Customer Service Awards held in Manchester at the end of November. He congratulated the teams and presented Jo Robinson, Head of Revenue Benefits, with the award. The Leader of the Council also offered his congratulations to the teams.

31 Questions Pursuant to Standing Order No. 7

The following Question was received from Councillor Davey under Standing Order No 7

“Would the Chairman of the Planning and Development Board agree that the main issue emerging from the consultation that has taken place so far into the draft Local Plan is the need to ensure sufficient infrastructure is provided to accompany the additional housing and employment to be provided in the Borough? Also, can Councillor Simpson inform us as to how the recent Inspector's decision at Dordon will affect the 'Meaningful Gap' and provide any scope for looking again at where this growth will go?”

The response from Councillor Waters, Chairman of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee, was as follows

“Initially, I would just like to thank everyone who has attended the consultation events that have been held so far. It really is important that we have as much feedback as possible to develop a robust and meaningful plan for all the people of North Warwickshire. I would also like to thank Dorothy Barratt and her team for their work in making the arrangements and attending each event.

Whilst a wide range of local issues have been raised at each event, infrastructure is the main item that people have wanted to talk about. We have an initial draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This details a lot of the areas we need to address and already includes some details from other agencies about what they will do to compliment the growth coming to the Borough, but there is still a lot of work to do. One of the main aims of the consultation was to ask residents what additional facilities they need and I think its fair to say we’ve been successful in finding that out! As we have repeatedly said - the development of the additional 6800 new homes by 2031 is dependent upon the provision of the necessary infrastructure.

In our view residents are making it clear that they would like to see more details before we take the Plan too much further. We have to be careful to maintain the current momentum as we have seen from recent Inspectors’ decisions that we are moving in the right direction but won’t regain full control of planning until we have an updated Plan. However I would now like a short pause whilst we work up as much additional detail as we can to add to the Infrastructure Plan to reassure residents that growth can lead to improvements in their areas, as it has with the recent planning decision on housing in Atherstone. We need to remember that we have seen very little improvement in recent years because we’ve had little housing. We will not get full details until planning applications are made but we can add to what we have at the moment.

We are very disappointed with the ‘Meaningful Gap’ decision – the Government has effectively offered local planning authorities a deal; if you provide the new houses and jobs our future generation need then we will give you maximum control over where that growth goes. We believe that this Council is doing what it should and therefore for the Inspector to overrule us on where growth goes is very disappointing. The decision, together with all the representations we have received so far on the draft Local Plan, does however give us the chance to reflect on where we are planning growth as we will need to reflect on what the Inspector is saying about the Meaningful Gap. I have asked Officers to

prepare the appropriate reports to discuss with Councillors as soon as they can.”

32 **Minutes of Boards/Committees**

a) **Area Forum (South) – 15 September 2016**

It was proposed by Councillor D Wright, seconded by Councillor Ferro and

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of Area Forum (South) held on 15 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

b) **Area Forum (East) – 20 September 2016**

It was proposed by Councillor Clews, seconded by Councillor Jarvis and

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of Area Forum (East) held on 20 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

c) **Area Forum (North) – 27 September 2016**

It was proposed by Councillor Hanratty, seconded by Councillor Davey and

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of Area Forum (North) held on 27 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

d) **Area Forum (West) – 29 September 2016**

It was proposed by Councillor Jenns, seconded by Councillor Moss and

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of Area Forum (West) held on 29 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

e) **Planning and Development Board – 10 October and 7 November 2016**

It was proposed by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor Davey and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Development Board held on 10 October and 7 November 2016, be approved and adopted.

f) Community and Environment Board – 17 October 2016

It was proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor D Wright and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Environment Board held on 17 October 2016, be approved and adopted.

g) Resources Board – 14 November 2016

It was proposed by Councillor D Wright, seconded by Councillor Davey and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Resources Board held on 14 November 2016, together with the recommendation contained therein, be approved and adopted.

h) Executive Board – 21 November 2016

It was proposed by Councillor Humphreys, seconded by Councillor D Wright and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Executive Board held on 21 November 2016, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

33 Notice of Motion under Standing Order No. 10

There were no Notices of Motion received under Standing Order No 10.

34 The Common Seal

It was proposed by Councillor Smitten, seconded by Councillor Ferro and

Resolved:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to affix the Common Seal to any document as necessary to give effect to the decisions of the Council, in accordance with Article 13.05 of the Articles of the Constitution.

Chairman of the next ensuing meeting of the Council