

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL
HOUSE, SOUTH STREET, ATHERSTONE ON
WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2018**

Present: Councillor Clews in the Chair.

Councillors Bell, Chambers, Davis, L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, Farrell, Gosling, Hanratty, Hayfield, Henney, D Humphreys, M Humphreys, Ingram, Jarvis, Jenns, Lea, Lewis, Morson, Moss, Payne, Phillips, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, Smith, Smitten, E Stanley, M Stanley, Sweet, Symonds, Waters, A Wright and D Wright

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ferro.

27 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were declared at the meeting.

28 Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 26 September 2018

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26 September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

29 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that she had recently attended the IRRV Awards Ceremony in Telford and was delighted that the Council had won the "Best Innovation Award" for the Ediblelinks Project, its third National Award in 2018, and was highly commended in the category "Excellence in Non-Domestic Rates and Excellence in Financial Inclusion".

She also announced that the Council had been included in a National Money Advice Service publication as a best practice case study, showcasing its innovative approach and outstanding results in supporting customers in financial difficulty.

The Mayor thanked officers and, more importantly, the volunteers, for all the hard work that they had put in to deliver these fantastic outcomes.

30 Questions Pursuant to Standing Order No. 7

There were no questions received pursuant to Standing Order No 7.

31 Minutes of Boards/Committees

a) Planning and Development Board – 8 October and 5 November 2018

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Development Board held on 8 October and 5 November 2018, be approved and adopted.

b) Community and Environment Board – 15 October 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Smith and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Environment Board held on 15 October 2018, be approved and adopted.

c) Resources Board – 12 November 2018

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Resources Board held on 12 November 2018, be approved and adopted.

d) Executive Board – 19 November 2018

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Executive Board held on 19 November 2018, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

32 Notice of Motion under Standing Order No. 10

The following amended Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Farrell and seconded by Councillor D Humphreys:

“Amended Motion relating to Modern Slavery

This council notes

- Though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million

people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.

- There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.
- Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

This council believes

- That action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.
- That councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.

This council resolves

In principle to adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery to ensure our procurement practices don't support slavery and that a report be considered by the Council's Executive Board on the practical steps that need to be taken to implement the key issues raised in the Charter."

Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the amended Motion to be carried.

The following amended Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Farrell and seconded by Councillor D Humphreys:

"Amended Motion relating to Parental Leave

This Council notes:

That analysis of the 2018 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 34% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2017.

As of summer 2017, only 4% of councils in England and Wales have parental leave policies, according to research by the Fawcett Society;

That the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors;

That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

This Council resolves:

In principle to improve parental and adoption leave for Councillors and to ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate and that a report be considered by the Council's Executive Board on the practical steps that need to be taken."

Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the amended Motion to be carried.

37 **Retirements**

The Mayor reported that Jerry Hutchinson, Chief Executive and David Harris, Democratic Services Manager, were retiring from the Council at the end of March and January respectively. Jerry had worked at North Warwickshire for over 23 years and David for over 33 years. Members paid tribute to their service to North Warwickshire and wished them well for a long and happy retirement.

34 **The Common Seal**

It was proposed by Councillor Clews, seconded by Councillor Sweet 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