

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL  
HOUSE, SOUTH STREET, ATHERSTONE ON  
WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2019**

Present: Councillor Moss in the Chair.

Councillors Bell, Chambers, D Clews, T Clews, Davey, Deakin, N Dirveiks, Farrell, Gosling, Hayfield, M Humphreys, Jarvis, Jenns, Macdonald, McLauchlan, Morson, Osborne, Parker, Parsons, H Phillips, O Phillips, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, Smith, Symonds, A Wright and D Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Humphreys, Lees, Rose and A Wright.

**10 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

**11 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 15 May 2019**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**12 Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor reported on recent Mayoral events.

**13 Questions Pursuant to Standing Order No. 7**

There were no questions pursuant to Standing Order No 7.

**14 Minutes of Boards/Committees**

**a) Planning and Development Board – 20 May 2019 and 10 June 2019**

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

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Development Board held on 20 May 2019 and 10 June 2019, be approved and adopted.**

**b) Resources Board - 3 June 2019**

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

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Board held on 3 June 2019, be approved and adopted.**

**c) Community and Environment Board - 11 June 2019**

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

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of Community and Environment Board held on 11 June 2019, be approved and adopted.**

**d) Executive Board – 17 June 2019**

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

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of Executive Board held on 17 June 2019, be approved and adopted.**

**e) Appointments Sub-Committee – 17 June 2019**

It was proposed by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Symonds and

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Appointments Sub-committee held on 17 June 2019, be approved and adopted.**

**15 Notice of Motion Under Standing Order No 10**

a The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Farrell and Seconded by Councillor Downes.

**This Council notes:**

The increase in Islamophobia & the regular occurrences of weaponising terror attacks to attack, harm, discriminate or otherwise disparage and discredit Britain's Muslim community, as recorded and monitored by 'Tell MAMA' (Measuring Anti Muslim Attacks). North Warwickshire Borough Council therefore resolves to ask the Executive Board of the council to

review all equalities & equal opportunity policies and to adopt the below working definition of Islamophobia, as set out by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims.

APPG on British Muslims – Working Definition of Islamophobia

***“Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.”***

*Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:*

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/ fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism, and claims of a demographic ‘threat’ posed by Muslims or of a ‘Muslim takeover’.
- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.
- Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the ‘Ummah’ (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying Muslim populations the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, eg loyalty tests.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia (e.g. Muhammed being a paedophile, claims of Muslims spreading Islam by the sword or subjugating minority groups under their rule) to characterise Muslims as being ‘sex groomers’, inherently violent or incapable of living harmoniously in plural societies.

- Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.

**Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the motion to be lost.**

- b The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Deakin and Seconded by Councillor Parsons.

**This Council notes:**

This Council is concerned by the rise in hate crime and racism across the UK and the wider world. North Warwickshire believes that tackling discrimination in all its forms should be a joint effort and something to be proud of and as part of this work we believe that we need to build in clearer definitions of what is and isn't acceptable, whether this relates to gender, sexuality or discrimination against people on the grounds of race, religion or culture.

North Warwickshire Borough Council expresses alarm at the rise in antisemitism in recent years across the UK. As well as physical manifestations through violence and criminal damage it has also been seen in the use of antisemitic tropes in criticism of Israel. It is legitimate to criticise the policies and practices of Israel but not if this involves using tropes and imagery of antisemitism. North Warwickshire Borough Council therefore resolves to join with the Government and the major political parties in the UK in signing up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance guidelines on antisemitism which define antisemitism thus:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.

- Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.
- Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).
- Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.
- Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism in all its manifestations

- 2) Adopt and use the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of racism.
- 3) Asks the Executive to look to adopt any similarly agreed definitions to confront and challenge all forms of racism and discrimination that exist within our society.
- 4) Asks the Council Executive in light of this motion to review the equal opportunities and any equalities policies, and to bring a report to the Executive Board of reviewed policies by the end September 2019.

**Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the motion is carried.**

## 16 **The Common Seal**

It was proposed by Councillor Morson, seconded by Councillor Wright 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**