

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL
HOUSE, SOUTH STREET, ATHERSTONE ON
22 OCTOBER 2019**

Present: Councillor Moss in the Chair.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Downes, Parsons and Simpson.

29 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were declared at the meeting.

30 Notice of Motions under Standing Order No 10

- a The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Rose and Seconded by Councillor Osborne:

“Motion on Warwickshire Police

This council notes:

- That Warwickshire Police is going through a significant period of change following the decision by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to end the ‘Strategic Alliance’.
- That negotiations with West Mercia Police are ongoing and that the situation remains fluid and uncertain as to what will happen in the future.
- That HM Inspector of Constabulary Wendy Williams has said she has “serious concerns about the force’s efficiency”. She went further to say, “I have concerns about the performance of Warwickshire Police in keeping people safe and reducing crime.”
- That this is a serious time in the history of Warwickshire Police and that all efforts must be taken to ensure the viability and future stability of the service.

This council resolves to:

- a Write to Warwickshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner asking for:

- i An urgent update meeting on the break from West Mercia, with particular regard to the short-term arrangements that will be put in place to protect vital services currently provided by West Mercia.
 - ii A public inquiry into the 'Strategic Alliance' to include how and why it was established and why safeguards surrounding withdrawal were not stronger in regard to protecting services not just finance and what lessons can be learned for the future.
- b Publish this motion, once agreed, with a cross party statement confirming our support for:

A new and urgent plan to secure the long-term future of policing in Warwickshire.”

It was then proposed by Councillor Reilly and seconded by Councillor T Clews by way of amendment (and as subsequently amended by consent):

“This council resolves as follows:

- **Work to end the Strategic Alliance is ongoing and strategically important to the future policing arrangements in North Warwickshire;**
- **That whilst Warwickshire Police have expressed concerns regarding the negotiations, the Alliance has now been extended at the direction of the Home Secretary;**
- **That the Council continues to monitor the position via the Safer Communities Sub-committee and through the consultation planned in January on the 2020 Police and Crime Plan for Warwickshire; and**
- **That the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to address Members to give further details of the end of the Alliance and policing generally in North Warwickshire by the end of 2019.”**

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

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Deakin and Seconded by Councillor Gosling:

“Motion on Climate Change

This council notes:

- That North Warwickshire Borough Council is ranked as the joint lowest performing Council in the West Midlands for the measures it has taken to tackle climate change;
- That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world;
- That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;
- That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;
- And that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motion.

This council therefore commits to:

- Undertake a baseline audit of what measures are currently in place to address climate change;
- Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action;
- Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030;
- Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030;
- Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030;
- Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;
- Ensure that political and senior officer leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the main Policy Boards review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;

- Request that the Council establish a Task and Finish Group of 5 member (2 Labour, 3 Conservative) to consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;
- That a report be brought to each meeting of Executive Board outlining the actions taken by the Council to tackle climate change;
- Consider the appointment of a shared Climate Change Officer with neighbouring authorities to lead and support the Council in tackling climate change;
- Each report brought to the Council or any of its Boards, Sub-Committees or Task and Finish Groups contain an impact assessment on climate change;
- Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
- Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
- Set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. Over the following 12months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
- Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;
- Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the Council will take to address this emergency;
- Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise; and
- Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to) renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net

carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice.”

It was then proposed by Councillor Lebrun and seconded by Councillor D Clews by way of amendment (and as subsequently amended by consent):

“This council resolves:

- **To declare a climate emergency, in that it is acknowledged that a rise in temperatures above 1.5°C will cause enormous harm, as described in the ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C’, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change in October 2018**

- **That, as set out at the Council meeting on 25th September 2019, the new Corporate Director be tasked with preparing a costed strategy, targets and action plan for consideration by March 2020 by Members to include:**
 - **A baseline audit of what measure are currently in place to address climate change and the current emissions of the Council;**
 - **Steps to ensure the Council’s direct and indirect activities achieve net-zero carbon emissions and the date by which this can be achieved;**
 - **Ensuring that measures to reduce carbon emissions as well as an assessment of the carbon consequences of all major projects or decisions are considered at Board meetings and Working Groups;**
 - **How to engage with residents, workers and businesses to reduce emissions across the Borough; and**
 - **How progress against the plan will be reported.”**

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

**Chairman of the next ensuing meeting
of the Council**