

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Present: Councillor Moss in the Chair.

Councillors Bell, Chambers, A Clews, D Clews, Davey, Deakin, Dirveiks, Downes, Farrell, Farrow, Gosling, D Humphreys, M Humphreys, Jarvis, Jenns, Lees, Macdonald, McLauchlan, Osborne, Parker, Parsons, H Phillips, O Phillips, Reilly, Singh, Smith, Symonds, A Wright and D Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hayfield, Rose and Simpson.

10 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Planning Minutes 20/7 and 19/8 – D Clews, Singh, Jarvis, T Clews & Downes / Dirveiks (wife ATC), D Wright

Item No 7 Jenns, Bell, Dirveiks, Reilly, Farrell, Parsons, Downes, Osborne (dispensations)

11 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2020

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

12 Questions Pursuant to Standing Order No. 7

No questions had been received.

13 Minutes of Boards/Committees

a) Special Sub-Group – 11 February 2020

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 11 February 2020, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

b) Safer Communities Sub-Committee – 24 February and 16 March 2020

It was proposed by Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor D Clews and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 24 February and 16 March 2020, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

c) Planning and Development Board – 2 March, 20 July and 19 August 2020

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Planning and Development Board held 2 March, 20 July and 19 August 2020, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

d) Community and Environment Board – 9 March 2020

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 9 March 2020, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

e) Executive Board – 16 March, 8 July and 21 September 2020

i) Minute No 55 – Corporate Plan 2020/21

It was proposed by Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Gosling, by way of amendment

That Item 55 of Executive Board minutes of 16 March 2020 be amended as follows:

Council will support the residents, businesses and community of North Warwickshire through both the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recovery that must follow. Council will work through the task group established by decision of Executive Board on 8 July 2020 to deliver on that ambition. In doing so, the Council will make clear its firm belief that the economic wellbeing of local people and businesses must be a key consideration of Government and all public bodies and that economic support must be part of any future regional or national lockdowns.

ii **Minute No 16 – Planning Consultations**

It was proposed by Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor Parsons, by way of amendment

That Item 16 of Executive Board minutes of 21 September 2020 be amended as follows:

- (c) **That the Chief Executive write to Government and to our local Members of Parliament expressing our opposition to the white paper and the reforms contained within it. The Council believes in local decision making as part of the planning process and that local people must always be at the centre of both local plan making and planning determination.**

ii **Minute No 17 - Request for a Supplementary Capital Scheme – Parking**

It was proposed by Councillor Osborne, seconded by Councillor Downes, by way of amendment

That Item 17 of Executive Board minutes of 21 September 2020 be amended as follows:

- (b) **That the Board authorises the Director of Streetscape to bring back to the next meeting of Resources Board a report outlining the potential options for expansion of off-street parking in the three main conurbations of the Borough, Atherstone, Coleshill and Polesworth and undertake further work on what improvements to provision is needed for other areas of the Borough.**

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Executive Board held on 16 March, 8 July and 21 September 2020, together with the recommendations contained therein as amended above, be approved and adopted.

f) **Resources Board – 8 September 2020**

It was proposed by Councillor Symonds, seconded by Councillor Singh and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Board held on 8 September, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

14 **Notice of Motion under Standing Order No. 10**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor D Wright and Seconded by Councillor Farrell:

“This Council notes

That Warwickshire County Council cabinet has voted to submit plans to government for a single Warwickshire Unitary authority. Council expresses regret that Warwickshire County Council has decided to do this without regard for the views of districts. Council does not understand the rush, given the Government white paper on devolution is not yet published. This Council resolves to call on the County Council Full Council to withdraw the proposals and begin a full, open and transparent discussion on the future of local government with all stakeholders, including district councils, once the white paper is published.

In light of the County Councils plan, Council believes the status quo has now been put at risk and if local government reform is to happen then a solution that best protects the interests of our residents should be developed. Council therefore resolves to continue to work with the district and boroughs in Warwickshire to explore all the options available with a view to submitting detailed plans to government once the options appraisal and public consultation has been completed.”

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

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor D Wright and Seconded by Councillor Bell:

“This Council

- 1 Welcomes plans to increase testing for COVID-19 and suggests that this could be further improved if there was more stringent control on people without symptoms being sent for testing. The Council urges people not to routinely have a test without the specific COVID-19 symptoms; and
- 2 Notes that some schools are not providing Physical Education at the moment. Council requests that all schools continue to offer Physical Education as part of their timetables due to the health benefits to our children.”

It was proposed by Councillor Bell that (2) be amended to read:

- 2 Notes that some schools are not providing Physical Education at the moment but are managing to provide a wide curriculum. We would encourage these schools to share their practice with those who are still trying to reinstate PE in their schools.

Under Standing Order 19c it was proposed by Councillor Farrell and seconded by Councillor Deakin that the debate be adjourned

Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the Motion to be lost.

Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the substantive motion, including the amendment to (2) above to be approved.

15 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

The Mayor proposed from the chair that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the basis that, when the item was considered by the Resources Board a decision was made to exclude the public since the proposals concerned were at the formative stage and it could be harmful to publish details of the service area concerned where there is no certainty as to the ultimate outcome and prior to implementing the relevant internal consultation process. I therefore move that the public are again excluded whilst this item is considered on the same grounds as adopted by Resources Board and also on the basis that the report may reveal the identity of the individuals concerned and that it could be prejudicial to them to do so when the future of the service is in which they work is being reviewed. This was seconded by Cllr Jarvis.

Cllr Farrell spoke against the motion to exclude the public stating that the Labour Group will be voting against the motion to exclude the public. The decision that has been made at Resources Board, and it is a decision, to change the service has a huge impact on staff and service users and consultation should have taken place with trade unions, with staff and service users long before the Council made a decision. Councillor Farrell further stated that the Labour Group will not support going into secret session that could result in job losses, and nor would it do so to hide from the public cutting services that vulnerable people rely on.

Resolved:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.

16 **Confidential Extract of the minutes of Resources Board held on 8 September 2020**

It was proposed by Councillor Deakin, seconded by Councillor Dirveiks, by way of amendment

- a **That the need for savings in the General Fund be noted;**
- b **That consideration be given to changing the way the Council provides that service in order to provide savings and a sustainable service for the people of North Warwickshire;**
- c **That a Task and Finish Group be established of 5 Members, to consider other service delivery methods to report back within 4 weeks;**

- d That, any decision to change the service will be subject to a detailed report at a future meeting of Resources Board, setting out the full implications and feedback from consultation with unions, staff, customers and other agencies; and**
- e That the format of the communication with customers to consult with them on future changes be agreed through the Task and Finish Group.**

Councillor Deakin and Councillor Farrell requested a recorded vote.

In accordance with Standing Order No11(3) the recorded vote on the amendment was as follows:

For – Chambers, Deakin, Dirveiks, Downes, Farrell, Farrow, Gosling, McLauchlan, Osborne, Parsons, H Phillips, O Phillips,

Against – Bell, D Clews, T Clews, Davy, D Humphreys, M Humphreys, Jarvis, Jenns, Lees, Macdonald, Moss, Parker, Reilly, Singh, Smith, Symonds, A Wright, D Wright

Upon being put to the vote the Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

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

Resolved:

That the confidential extract of the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Board held on 8 September 2020, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

17 Common Seal

It was proposed by Councillor D Wright, seconded by Councillor Jarvis 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**