

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
COUNCIL HOUSE, ATHERSTONE ON WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2011**

Present: Councillor Butcher in the Chair.

Councillors Barber, L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, Ferro, Forwood, Freer, Hayfield, Holland, Humphreys, Johnston, Lea, Lewis, May, Moore, Morson, B Moss, M Moss, Payne, Pickard, Sherratt, Simpson, Smith, A Stanley, M Stanley, Y Stanley, Sweet, Turley, Watkins and Winter.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davis, Fowler, Fox, Phillips and Mr Stan Orton (Chairman of the Standards Committee).

Before the commencement of business, Father Philip Wells led the Council in Prayer.

11 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest other than those declared in the minutes of the meetings of Boards/Committees and any personal interests arising from the membership of Warwickshire County Council of Councillors Hayfield, May, Lea, B Moss and Sweet and membership of the various Town or Parish Councils of Councillors Barber (Ansley), Butcher (Polesworth), Freer (Atherstone), Lewis (Kingsbury), Moore (Baddesley Ensor), Morson (Dordon), B Moss (Kingsbury), M Moss (Kingsbury), Pickard (Atherstone), M Stanley (Polesworth), Y Stanley (Polesworth) and Winter (Dordon) all of which interests were deemed to be declared at this meeting.

12 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

13 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported that BOB - the Branching Out Bus project had scooped the 'Best Partnership Award' from the Institute of Money Advisers at their annual conference in Kenilworth in May. He presented the award to Bob Trahern, Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services).

The Mayor then announced:

- that the charities he would be supporting during his year in

office were the Scoliosis Association UK and Help for Heroes;

- that his Civic Service would be held at Polesworth Abbey on Sunday 9 October 2011;
- that his Civic Dinner would be held in early March 2012 at Oakridge Golf Club;
- that his annual charity golf day was being held at the Belfry on 17 April 2012; and

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

The following question was received from Councillor Hayfield

“Will the Leader of the Council agree to an immediate reduction in the mileage allowance for all Councillor travel to 45 pence per mile?”

The response from Councillor M Stanley, Leader of the Council, was as follows

“We have no problem with the 45 pence per mile as we had already suggested a reduction in the budget. In the Leaders letter to the residents on the 1st March he said “The Council has also agreed to look at reducing the amount of money spent on Councillors allowances and subsistence” Nothing happened! It is a pity the leader of the Conservatives had to wait to be in opposition to agree with us to get it done. We would expect subsistence allowance within North Warwickshire to be removed as this was recommended by an independent panel and was rejected by the Conservative Council. We will refer this to the Resources Board to be introduced without delay.”

The following question was received from Councillor Hayfield

“Will the Leader of the Council instruct the CE to begin appropriate consultation/negotiations with staff for a similar reduction in their mileage allowances?”

The response from Councillor M Stanley, Leader of the Council, was as follows

“At Executive Board on Monday evening, officers were asked to review travel arrangements for staff. It would be sensible to wait for the outcome of that review, so that decisions are taken in the light of the whole policy on staff travel. Also that way, any consultation or negotiation needed is dealt with at one time.”

The following question was received from Councillor Hayfield

“Will the Leader of the Council confirm that all rail fares for official travel for both staff and Councillors remain at no more than the standard class fare?”

The response from Councillor M Stanley, Leader of the Council, was as follows

“I can confirm that all rail fares for official travel for both officers and staff are at no more than the standard class fare, which was the case just a few weeks ago when the Conservatives were the administration.”

The following question was received from **Councillor Fowler (presented by Councillor Hayfield)**

“To the Leader of the Council:

Given the election pledges of Cllr Ferro, can the Leader of the Council inform us what his Administration's intentions now are towards Coleshill Car Park?”

The response from Councillor M Stanley, Leader of the Council, was as follows

“With regard to Coleshill car park the Conservative controlled Council entered into a contract with Limes Development against the wishes of local people and Labour Councillors disagreed with the sale. Limes Development was then given a 12 month extension to the contract. At the end of that period we will look at the whole thing again.”

The following question was received from **Councillor Smith**

“To the Leader of the Council:

Can the new Administration advise when or if the Safer Neighbourhood Team will be relocating to Old Bank House, in order to ensure the continued police presence in the Atherstone Area?”

The response from Councillor M Stanley, Leader of the Council, was as follows

“No date has yet been agreed for the Safer Neighbourhood Team to be relocated to OBH. The Police have some IT issues that they need to resolve and once they have done this we should be in a position to confirm a date. The Police have now engaged a property agent to handle the

rental of office space at OBH on their behalf.

We support Atherstone's need for a police presence, but it's not just about Atherstone but the whole of North Warwickshire. We oppose the closure of police stations in Coleshill and Atherstone supported by Conservatives on the police authority. Government funding cuts have resulted in police numbers going down and crime going up. This Council will continue to work with the police and the community to help tackle crime in our area."

15 Minutes of Boards/Committees

a) **Planning and Development Board – 23 May and 20 June 2011**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 20 June 2011 were circulated at the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor Sweet, seconded by Councillor Winter and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Development Board held on 23 May and 20 June 2011, be approved and adopted.

b) **Licensing Committee – 6 June 2011**

It was proposed by Councillor Morson, seconded by Councillor Winter and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Licensing Committee held on 6 June 2011, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

c) **Resources Board – 6 June 2011**

It was proposed by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Winter and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Resources Board held on 6 June 2011 be approved and adopted.

d) **Community and Environment Board – 13 June 2011**

It was proposed by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Winter and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Environment Board held on 13 June 2011, be approved and adopted.

e) Executive Board – 27 June 2011

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27 June 2011 were circulated at the meeting.

(i) Minute No 14 – Earmarked Reserves 2011/12

It was proposed by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor M Stanley and

Resolved:

That the report and recommendation be referred back to the Executive Board for further consideration.

It was then proposed by Councillor M Stanley, seconded by Councillor Simpson and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Executive Board held on 27 June 2011, together with the recommendations contained therein as amended at (i) above, be approved and adopted.

16 Notice of Motion Under Standing Order No. 10

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

17 The Common Seal

It was proposed by Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Winter 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