

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
COUNCIL HOUSE, ATHERSTONE ON
WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2012**

Present: Councillor Butcher in the Chair.

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

Mr Stan Orton (Chairman of the Standards Committee) was also in attendance.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Davis.

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

34 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 Fowler, Fox, Hayfield, May, Lea, B Moss and Sweet and membership of the various Town or Parish Councils of Councillors Barber (Ansley), Butcher (Polesworth), Fox (Shustoke), Freer (Atherstone), Lewis (Kingsbury), Moore (Baddesley Ensor), Morson (Dordon), B Moss (Kingsbury), M Moss (Kingsbury), Phillips (Kingsbury), Pickard (Atherstone), M Stanley (Polesworth), Y Stanley (Polesworth) and Winter (Dordon) all of which interests were deemed to be declared at this meeting.

35 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 14 December 2011 and 17 January 2012 were approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

36 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported that

- **his Annual Dinner Dance was to be held on Friday 30 March 2012; and**
- **his Charity Golf Day was to be held at the Belfry on Tuesday 17 April 2012**

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

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

38 **Minutes of Boards/Committees**

- a) **Planning and Development Board** – 19 December 2011, 16 January and 13 February 2012

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 19 December 2011, 16 January and 13 February 2012 be approved and adopted.

- b) **Community and Environment Board** – 23 January 2012

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Environment Board held on 23 January 2012 be approved and adopted.

- c) **Licensing Committee** – 30 January 2012

It was proposed by Councillor M Moss, seconded by Councillor Lewis and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 30 January 2012, together with the recommendation contained therein, be approved and adopted.

- d) **Resources Board** – 30 January 2012

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Resources Board held on 30 January 2012, together with the recommendation contained therein, be approved and adopted.

- e) **Executive Board** – 4 January and 6 February 2012

- i) **Minute No 68 - Nominated Governor – George Eliot Hospital**

It was proposed by Councillor Hayfield and seconded by Councillor

Smith that Councillor Humphreys be nominated as the Council's representative.

It was then proposed by Councillor M Stanley and seconded by Councillor Sweet that Councillor Winter be nominated as the Council's representative.

Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared Councillor Winter as the Council's representative to sit on the Board of Governors for the George Eliot Hospital.

ii) Minute No 75 - Corporate Plan 2012/13

It was proposed by Councillor Hayfield and seconded by Councillor Simpson by way of amendment

“a That the Chief Executive be instructed to revise the draft Corporate Plan to:

(i) Strike out targets that have no identifiable means of resource to support them; that are in effect only an aspiration rather than deliverable; and

(ii) In relation to those targets ‘to be funded from existing budgets’ to clarify those where an identified budget provision exists and those that can only be funded from existing budgets by making further savings within that area and that a report on the revised Corporate Plan be considered at the next meeting of the Executive Board;

b That any targets which do not fall into categories (i) and (ii) above be approved, subject to any further amendments which may be needed as a result of the adoption of the 2012-13 budget; and

c That the Service Plan for the Assistant Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be agreed.”

In accordance with Standing Order No. 11 (1) the recorded vote on the amendment by Councillor Hayfield was as follows:-

For: Councillors Barber, Fowler, Fox, Freer, Hayfield, Holland, Humphreys, Johnston, Lea, May, Payne, Sherratt, Simpson, Smith, Watkins and Wykes (16)

Against: Councillors Butcher, L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, Ferro, Forwood, Lewis, Moore, Morson, B Moss, M Moss, Phillips, Pickard, A Stanley, M Stanley, Y Stanley, Sweet, Turley and Winter (18)

The Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

iii) Minute No 77 - The Proposed 3 Year Capital Programme

It was proposed by Councillor Hayfield and seconded by Councillor Humphreys by way of amendment

“Recommended:

- a That the Revised Capital Programme for 2011/12 as set out in Appendix A be adopted;**
- b That the 3 Year Capital Programme for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15 as set out in Appendix B be adopted save that:**
 - (i) all capital spending allocations on the Council’s commercial and industrial properties remain unconfirmed pending a review of their future within the authority;**
 - (ii) an external land agent be appointed to do a rapid review of our property portfolio and make recommendations to the July meeting of the Council as to the cost benefits of retaining or disposing of those properties and the Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to meet the costs of the appointment from reserves, following consultation with the Chairman of Resources Board;**
 - (iii) following consideration of those recommendations, that Council reviews the capital spending programme;**
 - (iv) the future management of that property portfolio then be placed into the hands of an external agent to let/dispose of that portfolio as per the recommendations agreed by Council; and**
- c That the prudential indicators set out in Appendix F, subject to any changes that may be required as a result of decisions taken during this evening’s meeting, be approved.”**

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

iv) Minute No 80 - General Fund Revenue Estimates 2012 -2013 and

Setting the Council Tax 2012-13

It was proposed by Councillor Hayfield and seconded by Councillor Smith by way of amendment

“That the Council adds recommendations:

- a2 That a sum of £5,000 for each Area Forum be made available from balances as a one-off additional allocation to help fund local community and parish celebrations on the occasion of Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee, and that parish councils and community groups be notified immediately of the revised availability of funds; and**
- b2 That the additional savings set out on the sheet provided by the Leader of the Opposition be approved and taken out of the 2012/13 budget;**

and amends recommendation e to

- e That the preferred Council Tax option for 2012/13 be a 1% decrease on Band D with an increase in the required savings for 2013/14 to £532,000 included in the Financial Strategy.”**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 11 (1) the recorded vote on the amendment by Councillor Hayfield was as follows:-

For: Councillors Barber, Fowler, Fox, Freer, Hayfield, Holland, Humphreys, Johnston, Lea, May, Payne, Sherratt, Simpson, Smith, Watkins and Wykes (16)

Against: Councillors Butcher, L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, Ferro, Forwood, Lewis, Moore, Morson, B Moss, M Moss, Phillips, Pickard, A Stanley, M Stanley, Y Stanley, Sweet, Turley and Winter (18)

The Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

It was then proposed by Councillor Simpson and seconded by Councillor Phillips by way of further amendment

“That a sum of £20,000 for Area Forums (£5,000 per Forum) be made available from balances as a one-off additional allocation to help fund local community and parish celebrations on the occasion of Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee, and that parish councils and community groups be notified immediately of the revised availability of funds.”

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

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting

- “a That the total amount of growth to be included within the 2012/13 budget estimates be noted;**
- b That the reduction in support for Live and Local be amended from £1,500 to £500 and the reduced savings of £558,550 be approved;**
- c That Area Forums are required to set aside £500 per Forum for applications relating to the Arts;**
- d That a sum of £20,000 for Area Forums (£5,000 per Forum) be made available from balances as a one-off additional allocation to help fund local community and parish celebrations on the occasion of Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee, and that parish councils and community groups be notified immediately of the revised availability of funds;**
- e That the revised estimate for the year 2011/12, including the supplementary estimate, and the revenue estimates for 2012/13 be approved;**
- f That the preferred Council Tax option for 2012/13 be 0%;**
- g That the Deputy Chief Executive’s comments on the minimum acceptable level of general reserves be noted;**
- h That the manpower estimates for the year 2012/13 be approved; and**
- i That the Council Tax resolution be amended to reflect the revised savings, the 0% Council Tax increase and any change in format required under the Localism Act, and be forwarded to the Council for consideration.”**

Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the substantive motion to be carried.

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of Executive Board held on 4 January and 6 February 2012, together with the recommendations contained therein as amended at i) and iv) above and as set out in Appendix 1 hereto, be approved and adopted.

- f) Area Forum (East) – 7 February 2012**

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

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of Area Forum (East) held on 7 February 2012 be approved and adopted.

g) Area Forum (North) – 9 February 2012

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

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of Area Forum (North) held on 9 February 2012 be approved and adopted.

h) Scrutiny Board – 14 February 2012

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Board held on 14 February 2012 be approved and adopted.

39 Notice of Motion Under Standing Order No. 10

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

40 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