

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
HELD ON 24th MAY 2012 AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE, ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA**

Present: Councillors Yvonne Moore (Chairman), Sarah Boad, Roger Copping, Judith Clarke, Bill Gifford, Balvinder Gill, David Greenwood, Sue Ingleby, John Knight, Simon Lytton, Ann Morrison, Mota Singh, Amanda Stevens and Alan Wilkinson.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tim Crockford and Gurpreet Dulay.

10. COUNCILLOR ALAN WILKINSON

Councillor Stevens wished to record the Council's formal thanks to Councillor Alan Wilkinson for his contribution as Chairman and Mayor during the year 2011/12. The proposal was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that this Council formally records its thanks to Councillor Wilkinson for his contribution as Chairman and Mayor during his year of office.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no Members of the Public present.

12. THE CHALLENGE NETWORK

The Meeting received a presentation from Josie Whitworth on behalf of the Challenge Network, an organisation established with financial assistance from various partners to deliver programmes with the aim of developing young people in the target age range of 16 plus. Ms Whitworth outlined the principal objective of the programme of bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds through a set of challenges. These challenges included preparing young people to design and deliver a project that would make a difference in their community, learning key skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication and encouraging them to develop trust in others and responsibility for themselves. Each programme would last approximately three weeks with a further period allocated for follow up of actions. The programme had achieved considerable success with 89% of participants completing the programme and 96 % indicating a positive outcome in terms of improved levels of confidence.

In answer to questions Ms Whitworth confirmed that the Challenge Network was an independently funded Charity and that funding had also been provided by the Cabinet Office. The network recognised the important contribution made to the development of young people by existing youth Groups and therefore linkages were made to such groups as the Youth Service and the Prince's Trust. The Council was encouraged to support the programme through POSSIBLY nominating Community Leaders to assist further development.

The Council thanked Ms Whitworth for her presentation and it was agreed that further details of the programme would be circulated to Members following the Meeting.

13. TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman welcomed Mr Joe Baconnet and Mr David Butler of Warwick District Council to the meeting.

Mr Baconnet introduced Mr Butler who had been appointed to the position of Town centre Development Officer, following the recent review of the Town Centre Management Partnership.

Mr Butler explained that the review had initiated a restructure of the Partnership into the new Town Team which would develop along a business orientated approach utilising some of the good practice instigated as part of the recent "Portas" pilot. It was also intended to incorporate data gained from other consultation exercises and work done for the BID Company. It was hoped that the first Board meeting would be within the next 6 weeks.

In answer to questions, Mr Butler noted that the absence of the Town Centre Management Partnership had meant that there had been a democratic deficit over the short term but that the new arrangements would provide a sound basis for engaging all the groups with an interest in the vibrancy of the Town Centre. In relation to funding support, he confirmed that whilst there was no additional resources available closer partnership with the BID Company and access to external funding streams represented new opportunities to move forward.

RESOLVED that the presentation of the Town centre Development Officer is welcomed and noted.

The Chairman thanked both Mr Baconnet and Mr Butler for their presentations and both then left the meeting.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported correspondence from Warwick District Council regarding the District Local Plan Consultation. An eight week period of consultation on the District Council's Preferred Options would commence on 1st June and run until 27th July. Representatives of Town and Parish Councils were invited to a Local Plan briefing and discussion at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 16th June, 2012. Further details would be circulated to Members in due course.

15. ANNUAL RETURN OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12

Consideration was given to a Report, (Report No. 8) setting out the Annual Return of Accounts, together with supporting financial records of the Council's financial activity for the year 2011/12.

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement, as set in the Report (Report No.8), are approved.

16. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Town Clerk reported that following a procurement exercise, the Audit Commission had agreed to appoint Grant Thornton UK to audit the Council's Annual Return of Accounts for a five year period commencing 1st September 2012. The Commission was consulting with the Council under the obligations of the Audit Commission Act, 1998 and intended to confirm the proposed appointment unless good reason was indicated to the contrary.

RESOLVED that no objection is raised to the appointment of Grant Thornton UK by the Audit Commission to conduct the audit of the Council's Annual Return of Accounts for a five year period commencing 1st September 2012.

17. NEIGHBOURHOOD BUDGET – CROWN WARD

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 10) setting out progress in relation to the Crown Neighbourhood Led budget project.

The progress set out in the Report was welcomed.

RESOLVED that the Report (Report No.10) is received.

18. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 11) setting out the appointment of Members of Council to external bodies and internal working groups.

Reference was made to the possibility of nominating a further Member to the Town Centre Partnership though it was unclear whether this would be possible.

RESOLVED

- (i) that subject to the following amendments, the Appointments in the Report are approved for the Municipal year 2012/13:
 - (a) Tourism and Visitor Strategy Working Group – Councillor W. Gifford and Councillor A. Wilkinson
 - (b) Community and Hospital Exchange Forum – Councillor R. Copping
 - (c) Blue Plaques Working Group – Councillor W. Gifford
 - (d) Communications Working Group - Councillors W. Gifford, J. Knight, T. Crockford and S. Lytton
- (e) Shopmobility Working Group – Councillors S.Boad, W.Gifford, S.Ingleby, A. Morrison and A. Stevens
- (ii) that further clarification is obtained from Warwick District Council regarding the possibility of an additional appointment to the Town Centre Partnership.

19. MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

- (i) Planning Committee – 15th March and 5th and 26th April 2012
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 15th March, 5th April and 26th April 2012 are received.
- (ii) Policy and Resources Committee – 24th April 2012
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 24th April 2012 are received
- (iii) Cultural and Community Committee – 2nd April 2012
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 2nd April 2012 are received and the recommendation contained therein approved as follows:-
Twining Conference: Bruhl 24-25 March 2012 Minute 56 (ii)
(i) that Royal Leamington Spa supports the bid for European Union Funding for a series of Twining Conferences at Sceaux, Bruhl, Leamington Spa and Kunice during 2013 and 2014;
(ii) the role of the Town Council in terms of organising and funding the Conference to take place at Leamington Spa is clarified and an estimate of the cost to this Council obtained at the earliest opportunity.
- (iv) Urgent Matters Committee – 8th May, 2012
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Urgent Matters Committee held on 8th May, 2012 are received
- (v) Council – 19th May 2012
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19th May, 2012 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

20. ACCOUNTS

A schedule of accounts arising for payment since the last meeting were circulated and a copy is attached to the signed Minutes.

RESOLVED that the schedule of Accounts is approved for payment.

21. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

RESOLVED that the following Members of the Council are approved for signing cheques and all orders for payment (any two signatories per transaction):-

Councillors S. Boad, W.Gifford, D. Greenwood, Y. Moore, A. Morrison and A. Wilkinson.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm. and ended at 7.55 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Council – 24th May, 2012

Date.....