

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON  
SPA HELD ON 18 MARCH 2013 AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE,  
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA**

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

**52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATION**

Councillor Boad declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 12 (Community Right to Bid – Former Community Centre, Bath Place) as a member of Warwickshire County Council, the owners of the site.

**53. PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

**54. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

Consideration was given to a calendar of meetings of the Town Council for 2013-14.

**RESOLVED** that the calendar of meetings 2013/14 is approved.

**55. TOWN PLAN / AREA ACTION PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report (Report No. 6) setting out progress in relation to discussions with representatives of Warwick District Council concerning the possible development of a Town Plan for Leamington Spa.

It was noted that the timetable for preparing and implementing the Town Plan or Area Action Plan was lengthy due to the requirement for extensive consultation and examination in public prior to its adoption. The Council emphasised the importance of developing practical policies as part of this process. There was also an acceptance that the process of developing a Plan should not be pursued in isolation of other initiatives, such as the Old Town Portas project, Operation Footfall and similar projects.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the progress report (report No. 6) is noted; and
- (ii) that discussions with Warwick District Council are progressed with a view to developing a process and timetable for developing a Town Plan or Area Action Plan for Leamington Spa.

**56. WARWICK DISTRICT MOBILITY**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 7) regarding the review of Warwick District Mobility and the appointment of new Trustees. Councillors Morrison and Greenwood were proposed and seconded as the Council's representatives to the new Board of Trustees.

In answer to a question, the Town Clerk confirmed that the new Board would be invited to make subsequent presentations to meetings of the Town Council. An initial meeting of the Trustees was planned for April 2013.

**RESOLVED** that Councillors Morrison and Greenwood are appointed as this Council's representatives to the Board of Trustees of Warwick District Mobility.

**57. COUNCIL INSURANCE POLICY**

The Town Clerk reported that the insurance policy with Zurich Municipal was due for renewal in the sum of £3,274.79 which compared favourably with the premium paid during the last two years as part of the three year fixed agreement entered into with the company in 2010. He also confirmed that there had been no additional risks arising from Council activity during the year and that the only additional asset acquired was the War Memorial. This had not been included as an insured risk within the policy in view of the fact that it had not been insured during the whole of its existence when in the ownership of Warwick District Council.

The Council considered that, in view of the potential for damage and the cost of repair, a quotation should be obtained from Zurich Municipal so that this could be assessed appropriately.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the insurance policy and risks contained within the schedule are approved and the premium of £3,274.79 incurred; and
- (ii) that the Town Clerk obtains a written quotation from Zurich Municipal for indemnifying the Council against damage or loss of the War Memorial.

**58. ALLOTMENT RENT RENEWAL 2013/14**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 9) in which the Council was advised of increases proposed by the owners of land sublet by the Council to Allotment Associations for allotment purposes. The Town Clerk confirmed that the proposed increases by the land agent were in line with the rate of inflation. The respective Allotment Associations had been advised of the impending increases.

Reference was made to the demand for Allotments and the pivotal role of the Town Council in providing these facilities when demanded. The Town Clerk reminded the Council that Warwick District Council had adopted a Supplementary Planning Document (Open Space- June 2009) (SPD) in which future developments in excess of 100 dwellings would be accompanied by the provision of land for Allotment purposes. The management of these sites would be a matter that would need discussion between the Planning Authority, developer and Town Council.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the proposed increases in rental agreements for land sublet by the Town Council for use as allotments be increased as set out in Report No. 9 with effect from 25 March 2013; and
- (ii) that the land agent be asked to ensure that future increases are notified at the commencement of the calendar year in which they are to apply.

- (iii) that a report is obtained from Warwick District Council on the implementation of the Open Space SPD in relation to the provision of land for Allotments within future large scale housing developments.

**59. LOCAL LIST OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 10) enclosing a proposal from Warwick District Council to establish a local list of buildings of historic or architectural interest.

The Council was unanimously supportive of the concept of a local list being introduced in accordance with the criteria set out in Appendix A of the report.

**RESOLVED** that the District Council is advised of the Council's support for a local list of buildings of historic or architectural interest and that a list is obtained of all buildings within Leamington Spa that currently benefit from Listed Building status.

**60. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Town Clerk reported that 12 persons had confirmed their attendance at the Annual Town Meeting to be held on 11 April 2013 and that 6 presentations would be made by representatives on various matters pertaining to activities of organisations providing services in the town. He confirmed that over 60 invitations had been extended to various groups, associations and the elected Members representing Leamington on the County and District Councils.

**RESOLVED** that the arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting are noted and approved.

**61. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID – FORMER COMMUNITY CENTRE, BATH PLACE**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 12) concerning the application to Warwick District Council to nominate the former Community Centre premises at Bath Place as an asset under the Community Right to Bid within the Localism Act 2012.

**RESOLVED** that the nomination of the former Bath Place Community Centre is supported.

**Note: In accordance with the National Code of Conduct, Councillor Sarah Boad declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above item by reason of being a member of Warwickshire County Council, the owners of the site.**

**62. REFUSE CONTAINERS IN CONSERVATION AREA**

Consideration was given to correspondence from Dr Andrew Cave of 39 Portland Street, regarding placement of waste containers outside a Listed Building situated at 37 Portland Street.

The Council noted that the site was within the Conservation Area. However, due to the temporary nature of these refuse containers, no planning control could be exerted. The Council expressed disappointment that these facilities, which were detrimental to the visual amenity of the Conservation Area, had

been placed outside a Listed Building by Warwick District Council, which should be urged to remove them.

Several members commented on the unfavourable impression given to visitors to the town by such facilities in close proximity to the main retail area. There was general concern that, in view of the large number of houses in multiple occupation, similar refuse facilities were being located elsewhere and that this should be addressed by an appropriate planning policy to regulate domestic waste disposal facilities in the vicinity of such buildings.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that Warwick District Council is requested to remove the waste disposal facilities presently located outside 37 Portland Street and replace them with a more appropriate solution in keeping with the Conservation Area; and
- (ii) that consideration is given to acquiring appropriate measures for the storage of domestic waste containers where it is necessary for them to be placed at the front of dwellings which are in Multiple Occupation.

**63. MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

- (i) Planning Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013 are received.

- (ii) Policy and Resources Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> February and 5 March 2013 are received.

- (iii) Cultural and Community Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 are received.

- (iv) Council – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 are approved and signed as a correct record.

**64. ACCOUNTS**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Accounts is approved for payment.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30pm and ended at 8.10pm

Council Minutes – 18.03.13

Signed: ..... (Chair)

Date: .....