



THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
TOWN HALL, PARADE,
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
WARWICKSHIRE CV32 4AT
TELEPHONE: 01926 450906

ROBERT NASH ACIS DMS
Clerk to the Town Council

www.leafingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk

Clerk@leafingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk

15th May 2014

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Town Council of Royal Leamington Spa will be held in the **Assembly Room, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa** on **SATURDAY 24th MAY 2014** commencing at **11.30 am**.for the purpose of transacting the business specified below.

All Councillors are asked to be seated by **11.20 a.m.**

Yours faithfully,

CLERK TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY INTEREST THEY MAY HAVE IN ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR DISCUSSION AT THIS MEETING

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS, INCLUDING DISBURSEMENT OF MAYOR'S CHARITY FUND 2013/14**
4. **MAYOR'S ANNUAL AWARDS**
5. **TO ELECT THE TOWN MAYOR OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA FOR 2014/2015 AND RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE**
6. **TO ELECT THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA FOR THE YEAR 2014/2015.**
7. **TO APPROVE A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING TOWN MAYOR**

8. **PUBLIC FORUM**

To receive any questions or representations from members of the public in accordance with Council Standing Order No. 36.

9. **MINUTES**

To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 5th March 2014. (Report No.9)

10. **APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

To appoint the Council's Standing Committees for 2014/15 (Report No. 10).

Councillors are asked to advise the Town Clerk prior to the meeting of any proposed changes to Membership of the Council's Standing Committees.

Report 9

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE, ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA ON 5 MARCH 2014

Present: Councillors John Knight (Chairman), Sarah Boad, Heather Calver, Roger Copping, Gurpreet Dulay, Bill Gifford, David Greenwood, Sue Ingleby, Simon Lytton, Yvonne Moore, Ann Morrison, Mota Singh, and.

Apologies for absence received from: Councillors Judith Clarke, Balvinder Gill, Amanda Stevens and Alan Wilkinson.

Councillor Jerry Weber, Warwick District Councillor for Clarendon ward was also present.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations were made:

Councillor Gifford –Warwickshire County Pension Fund and Warwickshire Electoral Review

Councillor Boad- Warwickshire County Pension Fund and Warwickshire Electoral Review

Councillor Morrison - Warwickshire County Pension Fund

68. ADOPTION OF PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOXES

Consideration was given to a report (Report No 5) concerning the possible adoption of the public telephone boxes situated on Clarendon Avenue.

The Council noted that adoption of the boxes in perpetuity would require the Council to accept responsibility for future maintenance. As a listed feature, it was advisable that the Town Council consider insuring these facilities which was estimated at an annual cost of £25. It was acknowledged that these facilities were an iconic landmark in the Town and that the Leamington Society had expressed an initial interest in the possibility of assisting with helping to define and end use for them and identifying possible external funding. The boxes had recently been re-painted by British Telecom but were in need of further minor repairs and it was considered prudent to obtain an undertaking that this work would be completed prior to formal adoption. British Telecom had also indicated its intention to maintain at least one of the boxes as an operating landline.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Leamington Society is formally invited to confirm its interest in developing options for the management of the boxes as a community asset and possible fundraising initiatives when necessary to assist with the cost of maintenance;
- (ii) that discussions are commenced with British Telecom for this Council to acquire two of the boxes in perpetuity, at Peppercorn consideration, subject to a commitment that at least one box will be maintained as an operational telephone facility and the undertaking of all necessary repairs prior to formal adoption.

Councillor Weber thanked the Council for its consideration of this matter and then left the Meeting.

69. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR 2014/15

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No.6) concerning the procedure for formal appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2014/15

It was noted that under the current policy, newly elected Councillors at the next elections would not become eligible for appointment as Mayor until May 2017. For 2014/15, nominations were made that Councillor Knight be appointed Mayor and Councillor Stevens as Deputy Mayor.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Councillor John Knight is approved as the preferred nominee for appointment as Mayor in 2014/15;
- (ii) that Councillor Amanda Stevens is approved as the preferred nominee for appointment as Deputy Mayor in 2014/15;
- (iii) that the current policy that any Councillor with a minimum of two years' service is eligible to be appointed Mayor remains unchanged.

70. WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY PENSION REPORT

The Meeting was circulated with a letter from the Pension Authority indicating that the rates of employer contribution for the next three years would be as follows:-

2014/15	19.1%
2015/16	20.6%
2016/17	22.1%

These revised rates represented an increase on the Council's current contribution rate of 17.6% but were considerably improved from the initial rate notified to the Council by the Pension Authority of 31.1%. Correspondence received in respect of this matter had failed to indicate the reasons for the proposed increase or for the introduction of deficit recovery rate of 5.9%. This was also at variance with information provided at the Annual General Meeting of the Pension Fund which had conveyed the impression that the Warwickshire scheme was in a sound financial position that required only marginal changes to employer contribution rates. Councillor Greenwood expressed his concern that information reported to the Council previously had been somewhat misleading in the light of the adjustments now necessary.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the revised rates of employer contribution to the Local Government pension Scheme for the years 2014-2017 are accepted;
- (ii) A letter is sent to Warwickshire Pension Fund to express the Council's concerns at the manner in which the revised rates have been communicated to Member Authorities.

- (iii) Councillor Greenwood is thanked for his diligence in providing the Council with reports on the Council's responsibilities under the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor Gifford, having previously declared a pecuniary interest in the above item as a Trustee of Warwickshire County Pension Fund, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting.

Councillors Boad and Morrison, having previously declared non-pecuniary interests in the above item as members of the Warwickshire County Pension Fund, remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion.

71. WARWICKSHIRE ELECTORAL REVIEW

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No.8) setting out details of the process for the review of electoral boundaries and levels of representation within Warwickshire. It was noted that the Electoral Commission was seeking a general reduction in numbers of Councillors across the County Council and that this could result in one less Councillor within each of the Districts/Boroughs. There was general support for the principle of co-terminus boundaries at County/District/Town level and equality of representation across the respective Districts and Boroughs in the County.

RESOLVED that the Council's observations are conveyed to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

72. LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Council was advised that Warwick District Council had now published its draft recommendations for public consultation in pursuance of the Local Governance Review. The recommendations had adopted all of the representations made by the Town Council in relation to the alignment of Town Ward boundaries with those approved by the Local Government Boundary Commission at District level and the proposed increase in the number of Councillors from 16 to 24 to represent the 8 new Wards with effect from the next elections in May 2015.

Councillor Gifford expressed misgiving at the decision to increase the Council constitution by eight members and referred to the fact that in the case of the Principal Authorities the number of Councillors was being reduced.

RESOLVED that a review of the decision of the Council in relation to the number of Councillors to represent the new Wards of Leamington Spa Town Council is delegated to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

73. INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL

The Town Clerk reported that the Annual Insurance policy renewal from the Council's insurers had been received for an initial sum of ££2960 (1 year agreement) or £2769 (3 year agreement). Following an invitation to other insurance brokers, the present insurer, Zurich Municipal, had reduced these quotations to £2516 (1 year agreement) and £2354 (3 year agreement)

RESOLVED that the insurance policy is renewed for a three year term with Zurich Municipal at an annual cost of ££2354.36.

74. PURCHASE OF MAYORAL ROBE

The Town Clerk reported that the existing robe worn by the Mayor on formal occasions was now in need of replacement. Two quotations had been received the lower being in the sum of £820.00. The replacement garment would be made of a lightweight cloth with simulated fur trim and be purple in colour.

RESOLVED that a new robe is acquired in the sum of £820.

75. CONCERT AND DRUM HEAD SERVICE

A formal request had been submitted by Warwick District Remembers for financial assistance with the costs of a commemorative concert and service to be held on 31st October at the Royal Spa Centre on the occasion of the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1. The Concert would also raise funds for the Royal British Legion.

RESOLVED that a contribution of £125 is made to the cost of the Concert and Drum head service to be held on 31st October, 2014.

76. MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

- (i) Planning Committee – 9th and 30th January and 20th February 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9th and 30th January and 20th February 2013 are received.

- (ii) Cultural and Community Committee – 2nd January and 13th February 2014

A member sought clarification for the decision by the Committee at the meeting on 13th February with regard to the award of community grants and the rationale applied in relation to determining applications, particularly those which are for schemes in areas of social deprivation.

RESOLVED

- (i) that a report is submitted to the next meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee to enable a review of the Community Grant criteria in the light of the award of Community Grants at the meeting held on 13th February 2014.
- (ii) that the Minutes of the meetings of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 2nd January and 13th February 2014 are received.
- (iv) Council – 15th January 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15th January 2014 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

77. ENVIRONMENT ACT – 1995 – AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

Consideration was given to a letter (Report No. 14) from the Environmental Health Officer, Warwick District Council, with regard to the extension of the Air Quality Management Area to include the new development of student halls of residence at Station House on Old Warwick Road.

It was generally agreed that the extension of the area was prudent and would enable inclusion of the student accommodation in the air quality action plan.

RESOLVED that the extension of the Air Quality Management Area to include Station House, Old Warwick Road is supported.

78. ACCOUNTS

A schedule of accounts arising for payment had been circulated and a copy is attached to the signed Minutes.

RESOLVED that the schedule of accounts is approved for payment and that the following payments under Section 137 of the Local Government Act are approved:-

Payee	Item	Amount
Warwick District Council	Blue Plaque reception costs	£70
Leamington Rugby Football Club	Community Grant 2013	£500.00
Entrust Care Partnership C.I.C.	Community Grant 2013	£1,995.00
New Hope Counselling	Community Grant 2013	£1,500.00
The PBC Foundation	Community Grant 2013	£128.00
Age UK Warwickshire	Community Grant 2013	£2,000.00
Hindu Religious Society	Community Grant 2013	£500.00
RoSA	Community Grant 2013	£1,500.00
Friends of Sydenham Children's centre	Community Grant 2013	£1,000.00
Kids Run Free	Community Grant 2013	£865.00
Warwickshire Clubs for Young People	Community Grant 2013	£1,500.00
Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs	Community Grant 2013	£900.00
Friends of the Dell	Community Grant 2013	£227.00
Myton Church	Community Grant 2013	£500.00
St Mary's Church	Community Grant 2013	£2,000.00
All Saints' Church	Community Grant 2013	£1,000.00
Girlguiding Leamington Arden 2014	Community Grant 2013	£770.00
Potential Plus UK	Community Grant 2013	£500.00

Council – 5th March 2014

Payee	Item	Amount
NCT Warwickshire Central	Community Grant 2013	£500.00
Community Arts Workshop	Community Grant 2013	£1,000.00
Push Projects	Community Grant 2013	£500.00
Heritage Matters	Community Grant 2013	£500.00
Leamington Night Shelter	Community Grant 2013	£688.00
BID Leamington	Community Grant 2013	£1,600.00
Warwick District Council	Reception - Mayor of Bo	£30.00
Cadman Printers	Printing - Leamington in Bloom portfolios	£130.00
Warwick District Mobility Ltd	4th Quarter grant	£5,500.00

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and ended at 8.10 pm

COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2014-15

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (8)

Councillor Sarah Boad
Councillor David Greenwood
Councillor Bill Gifford
Councillor Sue Ingleby
Councillor John Knight
Councillor Simon Lytton
Councillor Ann Morrison
Councillor Alan Wilkinson

CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE (8)

Councillor Heather Calver
Councillor Judith Clarke
Councillor Roger Copping
Councillor Gurpreet Dulay
Councillor Sue Ingleby
Councillor Yvonne Moore
Councillor Mota Singh
Councillor Amanda Stevens

PLANNING COMMITTEE (6)

Councillor Bill Gifford
Councillor Balvinder Gill
Councillor John Knight
Councillor Simon Lytton
Councillor Ann Morrison
Councillor Amanda Stevens

STAFFING COMMITTEE (3)

Councillor Judith Clarke
Councillor David Greenwood
Councillor Sue Ingleby

URGENT MATTERS COMMITTEE (5)

Councillor Sarah Boad
Councillor Bill Gifford
Councillor Balvinder Gill
Councillor Mota Singh
Councillor Amanda Stevens

(ex-officio Councillor John Knight)

ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE (4)

Councillor Sarah Boad
Councillor Bill Gifford
Councillor John Knight
Councillor Ann Morrison

FORWARD PLAN COMMITTEE (6)

Councillor Heather Calver
Councillor Gurpreet Dulay
Councillor David Greenwood
Councillor Simon Lytton
Councillor Ann Morrison
Councillor Alan Wilkinson