



THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
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ROBERT NASH ACIS DMS
Clerk to the Town Council

Our Ref: RN/

Date: 7th November, 2018

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** will be held in Meeting Room 5A, Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa on **TUESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER , 2018 at 6.00 pm.**

The business will be as set out below.

Yours faithfully,

CLERK TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To Councillors: Janet Alty, Sarah Boad, Judith Clarke, Hayley Grainger, David Greenwood, Daniel Howe, John Knight and Ann Morrison.

(All other Members of the Town Council – Agenda for information only)

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Committee are invited to declare any interest they may have in items identified for discussion at the Meeting.

3. **PUBLIC FORUM**

To receive representations from members of the public in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

4. **MINUTES**

To consider and approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th October, 2018 (Report No. 4)

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6. TOWN HALL ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP

To discuss the recent visit to Brackley Town Hall and points of relevance to the review of the future use of Leamington Town Hall.

7. STAGECOACH PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES - KENILWORTH/LEAMINGTON/STRATFORD AREA

The County Council has been notified by Stagecoach of its intention to cease certain non-subsidised bus services in Warwickshire. Those services to and from Leamington are summarised in the enclosed Report (Report No.7)

8. BUDGET 2019/20

To consider budget out-turn for 2018/19 and budget options for 2019/20

(Report No 8 to follow)

9. WARWICKSHIRE MINERALS PLAN CONSULTATION

Following earlier consultation on the preparation of Warwickshire Minerals Plan, Warwickshire County Council has now approved the publication of the Plan which will open to public consultation for a period from 31st October – 12th December 2018. The Plan and consultation portal can be accessed on the website at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mdf

The Council considered the initial draft Plan on the 9th January 2017. It was noted that only two extraction sites were in proximity to Leamington Spa. The site at Bourton on Dunsmore had raised concerns in relation to potential loss of flood plain but this would be appropriately managed by detailed flood risk assessment covering both the site and elsewhere and the provision of safeguards to the risk of pollution of the River Leam.

The Committee is invited to consider the Plan and make observations.

10. ACCOUNTS

To approve a schedule of accounts arising for payment since the last meeting.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8th OCTOBER, 2018 AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE, ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

Present: Councillors Ann Morrison (Chair), Sarah Boad, Jill Barker (substituting for Cllr Clarke), Daniel Howe, Tom Kenyon-Brown (substituting for Cllr Greenwood), John Knight and Amanda Stevens (substituting for Cllr Grainger).

24. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Greenwood, Hayley Grainger, Janet Alty and Judith Clarke.

25. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Howe and Stevens declared non-pecuniary interests in Agenda items 6 and 7 – Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Air Quality SPD.

26. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no representations from the public.

27. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 3rd September, 2018 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

28. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Boad reported that the award of the grant to Lillington Library had been most gratefully welcomed by the Chief Librarian and staff.

29. **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2019/20 CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No.6) regarding changes proposed by the District Council to its Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Persons of working age living within the District were entitled to claim up to 85% discount on the household Council Tax subject to various criteria relating to income and other related factors.

The Committee noted that due to the abolition of the Housing Benefit Scheme and the introduction of the system of Universal Credit many of the current processes when assessing applications could no longer continue without causing extensive rebilling of applicants and confusion concerning how much they need to budget. Having considered the respective options outlined in the Report, the Committee agreed that the following response is made to the District Council:

RESOLVED that the following Options outlined in the Consultation Paper, are not supported :-

- (1) **Option 2 To limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of two for all applicants**

The Council is concerned at the financial hardship that may arise to those families with more than two dependent children and will be especially regressive for those making a claim under the new benefit system.

(2) Option 5 Removing the current earnings disregards and replacing them with a standard £25 disregard irrespective of a person's circumstances

This option is considered to be particularly harsh in terms of the financial penalty imposed on families with children and those with high child care costs. The Council suggests that the imposition of a single disregard for each category is very inflexible and takes no account of individual families circumstances

(3) Option 7. Removing the extended Payment provision

The immediate removal of the extended payment provision will have an adverse impact on those claimants moving into Universal Credit from other benefits. As this provision is paid for a limited period only, its removal appears to be for reasons primarily of administrative convenience.

(4) Option 9 Simplifying the capital rules and reducing the capital limit to £6,000

The reduction in the Capital allowance entitlement of £10,000 is particularly large and will impact on a potentially large number of claimants as the new limit is a relatively small sum. The proposal does not explain on what basis the figure of £6,000 has been calculated and it therefore appears to be arbitrary. This option is considered to be likely to lead to financial hardship for those with relatively limited savings.

30. **AIR QUALITY AND PLANNING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 7) setting out a draft Supplementary Planning Document dealing with local air quality and planning.

The Committee endorsed the draft SPD and considered that it represented a balanced approach, ensuring that all future development respected the environment and, through measures of mitigation, minimised potential adverse effects on air quality in the District. Following detailed discussion it was

RESOLVED that the following observations are made to Warwick District Council

- 1) The SPD is welcomed and represents an important document to be used in conjunction with other Planning Policies to achieve an acceptable balance between the need for development and environmental protection.
- 2) Measures to seek financial compensation through the use of Section 106 Agreements, where mitigation measures cannot be integrated into a planning proposal, are welcomed.
- 3) The SPD does not indicate a time span or date for review. Given the pace of technological change in terms of both vehicles and societal attitudes, it is suggested that a review is conducted no later than on the fifth anniversary of the SPD adoption.
- 4) It is pleasing to see a Section (5.56) devoted to "green infrastructure". Whilst there remains some conflicting evidence on the benefits of the green environment to managing air quality, the Town Council firmly endorses the principles within the District Council Green Spaces Strategy and advocates the retention of trees within the sites of future developments wherever possible. Where trees need to be removed there should be compensatory planting elsewhere within the same site.

31. **TOWN HALL ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of a meeting of the Accommodation Working Group held on 6TH September, 2018 (Report No.8)

The Town Clerk confirmed that the invitation to Complex Development Projects to attend the Meeting on the 6th September had been declined as there was insufficient information available on the proposals for the Creative Quarter. It was accepted that options for the future use of the Town Hall would be dependent on the relationship of the Town Hall to the Creative Quarter brief, the aspirations of Warwick District Council and the ability of the community to present a viable business case for possible alternative uses. The Committee awaited with interest the outcome of the visit by Councillors Clarke and Morrison to Brackley Town Hall on 18th-19th October.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 6th September are received.

32. **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

Town Clerk reported that the current Members allowances scheme had been adopted in 2003 following the recommendations of the District Remuneration Panel. The scheme had not been reviewed since and was now overdue in terms of assessment of the allowances paid to Members of Council. It was necessary to request Warwick District Council to reconvene the Panel to consider this matter which would possibly require the Town Council to meet the associated costs. There was no current budget provision for this item.

RESOLVED that a decision relating to reconvening the Remuneration Panel is deferred to a meeting of the Council held after May, 2019.

33. **WALC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 17TH November 2018**

Consideration was given to nominations for attendance of Member representatives at the Annual General Meeting of the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils on 17th November 2018. The Town Clerk reminded members that the AGM also represented an opportunity to place a proposal before the meeting which offered an opportunity to give further weight to the Council's resolution concerning the establishment of common boundaries between District Council Wards and Parish (Town) Wards, following the recent boundary review.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Councillors Boad and Alty are approved as the Council's voting representatives at the AGM of the Association of Local Councils
- (ii) that the Town Council's directly appointed representative to the County Committee of WALC for the year 2018/19 is Councillor Sarah Boad
- (iii) that the Town Clerk prepares an appropriate motion to be put before the Annual General Meeting which reflects the Council's resolution concerning the

establishment of common boundaries between District Council Wards and Parish (Town) Wards, .

34. **ACCOUNTS**

Consideration was given to a schedule of accounts arising for payment since the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the schedule of accounts in the sum of £37,989.73, including Section 137 expenditure of £306, is approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.30 pm.

STAGECOACH PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES KENILWORTH/LEAMINGTON/STRATFORD AREA

Mondays to Saturdays

Service G1: Warwick – Woodloes - Leamington - Whitnash - South Farm

Service G1 is to be renumbered service 1. Existing Goldline vehicles will be replaced by standard single deck vehicles. Minor changes to the timetable except for peak only extensions to Bishops Tachbrook that are withdrawn due to little or no use. Johnsons provide an alternative service between Leamington and Bishops Tachbrook via their X77.

Service X17: Coventry - Kenilworth - Leamington – Warwick – Wellesbourne – Stratford – West Green Drive

Service X17, currently operating between Coventry & Stratford, will operate between Coventry and Warwick only with the frequency reduced from every 15 minutes to every 20 minutes.

A new service 17 will operate from Warwick to Stratford and West Green Drive. The frequency will be reduced from every 30 minutes to every hour on the section of route between Warwick and Wellesbourne. A 30 minute service will continue to operate on the Wellesbourne to Stratford & West Green Drive section of route.

Charlecote will be served on the Warwick to Wellesbourne section so the HRI stop on A429 will not now be served. HRI can still be accessed though from an alternative stop at the rear.

There will no longer be a direct link from Wellesbourne & Barford to Leamington. Passengers would need to change at Warwick bus station. Peak special journeys operating from Warwick direct to Gaydon JLR will be withdrawn due to very poor usage.

Services 63/64: Rugby – Southam – Leamington

Stagecoach are proposing to operate an hourly service 63 from Rugby to Leamington via Dunchurch, Stockton, Southam and Radford Semele. Hourly service 64 is to be withdrawn completely. This change leaves Long Itchington without a regular service. The frequency operating between Rugby, Southam and Leamington Spa is reduced from half hourly to hourly.

WCC are currently considering how to provide alternative services for Long Itchington within the limited resources available.

Service 67: Sydenham – Leamington – Stud Farm – Lillington

Service 68: Hatton Park – Hampton Magna – Leamington – Cubbington

Service X68: Coventry – Kenilworth – Leamington – Cubbington

Services 68 & X68 are to be withdrawn. The section of route 68 between Leamington and Hatton Park and the section of route X68 between Leamington and Kenilworth are currently supported by S106 funding which is expiring.

Service 67 will be renumbered 67/67A and continue to operate every 15 minutes from Sydenham via Leamington and Stud Farm to Crown Way. The service will then split to operate every 30 minutes as current service 67 route to Lillington and every 30 minutes as 67A over the current 68 route to Cubbington.

Stagecoach will no longer be providing regular services for Hatton Park, Hampton Magna, Hampton on The Hill, Leek Wootton or the Rouncil Lane area of Kenilworth. There will be no service operating between Warwick and Leamington via Warwick Technology Park, Heathcote Hospital and Leamington Shopping Park. There will be no regular service picking up at stops at the bottom end of Cubbington Road or on Pound Lane.

Stagecoach are however proposing to introduce an hourly evening service operating between Sydenham and Cubbington via Lillington. Green Farm will no longer be served in the evenings.

WCC are currently considering how to provide alternative services for those areas left without a service within the limited resources available.

Service 665: Napton - Southam - Bishops Itchington – Harbury - Leamington

Stagecoach has given notice on this WCC contracted service. It will be retendered in its current format.

Sundays

X17: Coventry – Kenilworth - Leamington

18: Coventry – Leamington – Warwick – Wellesbourne – Stratford – Evesham

X18 will now operate on a Sunday to standardise with Mondays to Saturdays. The service will operate every hour between Coventry & Warwick with the service extending to Stratford & Evesham every two hours.

X17 will be extended to Warwick to standardise with Mondays to Saturdays. The service will operate every hour.

17 will operate every two hours between Warwick and Stratford via Wellesbourne to standardise with Mondays to Saturdays. The service will operate every two hours.