

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
HELD ON 10 JUNE 2021.**

PRESENT:

Councillors Susan Rasmussen (Chair), Janet Alty, Alan Boad, Sarah Boad, David Brunson, Will Bryce, Mubarik Chowdry, Judith Clarke, Bill Gifford, Jennifer McAllister, Jade McGhee, Louisa Radice, Amanda Stevens and Nick Wilkins.

Officers: Town Clerk and Democratic Support Officer.

13. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs N Atwal and Cllr J Boulton

14. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr A Boad declared a prejudicial interest in relation to item 10 – South Warwickshire Local Plan – as joint chair of the Local Plan Working Group and indicated that he would leave the room and not participate in the discussion on that item.

Cllr B Gifford declared a non-prejudicial interest in relation to item 10 as a District Councillor.

15. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no representations from members of the public.

16. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FORUM**

Cllr S Boad noted:

Warwickshire County Council is currently consulting on cycling and walking infrastructure. Noted this matter will be considered at Policy & Resources Committee.

Parade – If national Covid restrictions are lifted on 21 June, Parade will be re-opened. But Parade will remain as it is until national restrictions are lifted.

Once its re-opened, there will be some time for reflection. Then in due course there will be further consultation in the future. County Councillors will be meeting to consider the consultation in the coming weeks.

It was noted that future options for the Parade are likely to be contentious – Town Council is likely to be heavily involved in any consultation.

Cllr A Boad noted:

Warwick District Council is still working closely with Stratford District Council, for example on the proposed South Warwickshire Local Plan.

WDC has installed 19 car park machines that enable card payments.

WDC has started holding its meetings in person.

Swimming pools have re-opened – 25% increase in attendance.

Rough sleeping – WDC has previously received £295k to address rough sleeping and has now received a further £535k to address the issue.

The grant of £10million from government’s Future High Streets Fund has now been confirmed.

WDC will be retrofitting 50 council houses to improve energy efficiency following receipt of £1million for this purpose.

17. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – Internal Auditor Report

Resolved that the Annual Internal Audit Report is noted and received.

It was noted that the internal auditor had been with the Council for some time and it was considered good practice to change auditors at suitable intervals.

18. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

Resolved that that the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 is approved with all statements being answered in the affirmative.

19. ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Resolved

that the Accounting Statements for 2020/21 are approved.

that the Council’s compliance with the requirements in relation to the exercise of public rights of inspection is noted.

20. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Resolved that the amended committee memberships for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix A of the report, are approved.

It was noted that a climate change task and finish group had previously existed to develop a climate change action plan and that climate change would need to be considered again in order to ensure suitable actions were being delivered. Agreed it would be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee.

21. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Resolved that

- i) Appointments to outside bodies are approved as set out in the Appendix 1 to the report.
- ii) That the Protocol for Representatives on Outside bodies as set out in Appendix 2 to the report is adopted.

It was noted that suitable feedback from these groups to the Town Council should be provided by the nominated representatives.

22. CLIMATE DECLARATION

Resolved that the Town Council signs ‘The Time is Now’ climate declaration.

23. LEAMINGTON SPA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Resolved that

- i) The Town Council notes the successful outcome of the Leamington Spa Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on 6th May 2021 and also notes that the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted as part of the strategic Local Plan.

- ii) The Town Council supports the minor amendments to the Leamington Spa Neighbourhood Plan as outlined and supports a report from Hayley Smith (Neighbourhood Plans Officer, WDC) to the WDC Executive recommending these minor amendments be adopted.

- iii) Policy RLS18 is retained until a formal review of the Neighbourhood Plan takes place in 2025 whilst regularly monitoring what (if any) effect retaining this Policy has on planning applications in Leamington Spa.

24. SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

Cllr A Boad left the room for this item.

Council discussed the consultation questions and the draft responses identified in the report. The Democratic Services Officer was thanked for her work in drafting the responses.

Cllr Gifford suggested replacing the response for question 52 ref the green belt with the following text:

The Town Council is very aware that the National Planning Policy Framework states that Green Belt boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified. This Council believes the Green Belt to the North of Leamington Spa is of great value to Royal Leamington Spa.

A number of other amendments and additions were identified and agreed:

Question 4 – Add evolving WCC transport strategy.

Question 6 – specific sites. General comment – facilities should be coalesced where possible – to encourage the idea of the 15 minute neighbourhood.

Question 8 – strategic road networks should avoid town centres.

Question 15 – want increased consistency in the infrastructure.

Question 16 – increased consistency. Provide alternatives to cars. Improve bus services dramatically. Encourage car clubs, car sharing etc.

Question 29 - Need a system to implement and monitor this policy. Add a requirement to 'facilitate biodiversity'

Question 18 – Recognise the increase in home working and its implications.

Question 33 – Insert transport as number 1 bullet point to tackle climate change.

Discussed better bus transport.

Question 43 – We should resist taking other areas housing shortfalls by default.

Question 45 – Bus depot / transport hub is lacking in Leamington Spa.

Question 9 - We wish to see stronger limits of HMOs to protect family homes.

Resolved that the draft consultation response is submitted, subject to the agreed amendments and additions.

25. MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

(i) Council

Resolved that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 04th May 2021 are confirmed as a correct record.

(ii) Cultural and Community Committee

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee held on 01st March 2021 are received.

(iii) Policy and Resources Committee

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 18th March 2021 and 15th April 2021 are received.

(iv) Planning Committee

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 18th Feb 2021, 11th March 2021, 01st April 2021, and 22nd April 2021 are received.

26. PAYMENTS

Resolved that the payments identified are approved

Cheque No	Payee	Details	Amount	VAT	Total
106743	Pinner & Sons Ltd	Repair to Red Telephone Box	£6,033.76	£1,206.75	£7,240.51
106744	WALC	CIlr Training - 11May21	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
106745	S Marks	Reimbursement - First payment - 2 new mobile phone contracts. Future payments to be paid by Town Council Direct Debit.	£19.00		£19.00
106746	S Marks	Reimbursement - Zoom subscription May21	£11.99		£11.99
106747	Warwick District Mobility Ltd	First quarter grant payment	£6,500.00		£6,500.00
					£0.00
			£12,589.75	£1,211.75	£13,801.50