

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2021.**

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

Officer: Town Clerk.

51. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Boulton and Cllr J McGhee.

Resolved to accept the apologies from Cllr J Boulton,

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52. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr B Gifford declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council DC.

Cllr A Boad declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Warwick District Council.

53. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no representations from members of the public.

54. **UPDATES FROM GRANT FUNDED ORGANISATIONS**

The Council considered report number 4 and received a verbal update from Julie Robinson (Chief Executive) of Citizen's Advice South Warwickshire. The following points were made:

Primarily volunteer advisers - receive lots training.

Lost volunteers due to pandemic. Need to recruit more, which is challenging.

Small cohort of paid case workers on specific projects – including face to face visits.

Leamington & Stratford offices – supported 4000 clients – often debt / welfare benefit issues.

Demand is high. Jun20–Jun21: 12,000 phone calls received. Helped 4000 people.

Often complex issues.

Biggest challenge – 2 sites. Hamilton terrace in Leamington – not that suitable for service provision. Need to support people differently. And more efficiently. Need to get into the community – make themselves accessible. – provide community advice in different venues. Help people increase their income

The Council also considered the written update reports from Barnardo's and Lillington Library.

Resolved that the Town Council notes the updates from the identified organisations.

55. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FORUM

Cllr Gifford noted that consideration was being given to 20mph speed limits or zones, through a working party. The differences between a 20mph limit and Zone were discussed.

Cllr A Boad noted that Warwick District Council was concentrating on a merger of services with Stratford District Council. The possible political merger will be considered in December.

Budget constraints were being considered – WDC had not yet had to close services. WDC had passed a motion on buses, changing it to refer to a possible low emission Zone across Leamington Spa.

Cllr S Boad noted that the County Bus Service Improvement Plan had been approved by WCC and was the basis for a bid for substantial government funds to improve bus services.

56. ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

The Council considered report No. 6 regarding the use of electronic payments

Resolved

- i) That the proposals for use of electronic banking to make payments are considered and approved.
- ii) That the proposed amendments to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations (as identified in paras 5.3) are approved.
- iii) That the use of a debit card is approved, in accordance with the existing arrangements identified in the Town Council's financial regulations.
- iv) That the necessary arrangements to enable the use of electronic payments are made.

57. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The Town Council considered a report regarding a proposed revision of the Town Council's corporate objectives.

Resolved that the revised corporate objectives are adopted.

It was noted that the Corporate Objectives would provide the basis for future action plans and activities.

58. LEAMINGTON SPA TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK / BOARD

The Town Council considered and discussed report No. 8 regarding the proposals for a Leamington Spa Transformation Framework and Board.

It was noted that this will bring together the governance relating to a range of projects in the Town.

Resolved that Councillor Susan Rasmussen be the Town Council representative for the Leamington Spa Transformation Board.

59. **UPDATES FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL BODIES**

The Town Council considered updates from its representatives on external bodies, as contained in report number 9 and with the following noted.

Christmas Lights

The lights switch on event had taken place and had been very busy.

WALC

Town Clerk to circulate the dates of the two further WALC climate change workshops.

Resolved – that the updates are noted.

60. **CASUAL VACANCY – WILLES WARD**

The Town Council considered report No. 9.

Resolved

i) That the Town Council notes the situation regarding the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr Atwal.

ii) That the financial implications are considered further during the Town Council's budget setting process.

61. **CITY STATUS COMPETITION – UPDATE**

The Town Council considered report No. 10 regarding the City Status Competition.

It was noted that Warwick Town Council was considering a bid.

Resolved

i) That the Town Council notes the views of the Communications Working Group.

ii) That the matter of City Status is not pursued.

62. **MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council on 16th sept 21 are confirmed as a correct record.

Resolved that the minutes of the following meetings are received and noted:

Culture & Community Committee 14June21, 20Sept21
 Planning – 02Sept21, 23Sept21.
 Policy & Resources Committee – 09th Sept21

63. PAYMENTS

The Town Council noted payments made under delegated powers, as detailed in the report.

Resolved to approve the following payments.

Payee	Details	Amount	VAT	Total
Warwick District Council	Contribution to Christmas Lights 2021	£20,000.00		£20,000.00
Shrubland Street Primary School	Leam in Bloom - Green Grant	£200.00		£200.00
WCC Briar Hill Infant School	Leam in Bloom - Green Grant	£200.00		£200.00
St Margaret's CofE Junior School	Leam in Bloom - Green Grant	£200.00		£200.00
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Leam in Bloom - Green Grant	£200.00		£200.00
Clapham Terrace Primary School WCC	Leam in Bloom - Green Grant	£200.00		£200.00
MTYE (Music To Your Ears)	Event listing / promotion.	£17.50		£17.50
Rollason Fencing	Cliffe Allotments Grant (Sheds purchase)	£535.00		£535.00
Campion Hills Allotments Association	Allotment grant payment	£1,100.00		£1,100.00
Anne Goodey	reimbursement - expenses for Charity event	£69.25		£69.25
Citizen's Advice South Warwickshire	Grant funding 2021-22	£20,000.00		£20,000.00
Barnardo's	Grant funding 2021-22	£7,500.00		£7,500.00
Lillington Library (WCC)	Grant funding 2021-22	£2,800.00		£2,800.00
Rotary Club of Royal Leamington Spa	Community Grant	£1,750.00		£1,750.00
Warwick District Shopmobility Ltd	Grant funding 3rd quarter	£6,500.00		£6,500.00
Identity Studio Ltd	Neighbourhood Plan web domain	£18.00	£3.60	£21.60
				£0.00
		£61,289.75	£3.60	£61,293.35