

**Minutes of the proceedings of the Council
Monday, 11th April, 2022 at 6.00 pm
in the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Millward (Mayor)
Councillor S Greenaway (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors K Ahmed, R Ahmed, S Ali, A Aston, M Aston, P Atkins, N Barlow, C Barnett, C Bayton, D Bevan, I Bevan, R Body, D Borley, P Bradley, R Burston, R Buttery, B Challenor, S Clark, J Clinton, R Clinton, R Collins, D Corfield, J Cowell, T Crumpton, A Davies, P Dobb, P Drake, C Elcock, M Evans, A Finch, J Foster, B Gentle, M Hanif, D Harley, P Harley, S Henley, A Hopwood, Z Islam, L Johnson, S Keasey, I Kettle, A Lees, K Lewis, P Lowe, P Miller, S Mughal, C Neale, N Neale, S Phipps, K Razzaq, S Ridley, M Rogers, P Sahota, S Saleem, K Shakespeare, D Stanley, W Sullivan, A Taylor, E Taylor, L Taylor-Childs, M Westwood, T Westwood and Q Zada together with the Chief Executive and other Officers

Prayers

The Mayor led the Council in saying the international prayer for peace. Councillor D Stanley led the Council in saying the Lord's Prayer.

67 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Finch, A Goddard, E Lawrence, P Lee, J Roberts and S Waltho.

68 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members:

Councillor A Aston – Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting his employment by the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Councillor M Evans - Any matters relating to the Castle Hill development and all references to Dudley Zoo - Non-pecuniary interest as a member of Dudley and West Midlands Zoological Society Ltd.

Councillors D Stanley and A Taylor - West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) – Transport Delivery Committee - Non-pecuniary interests as a Member of the Committee.

Councillor P Miller - Any matters relating to adult social care - Non-pecuniary interest as his wife received visits from Gateway Dementia Centre in Brettell Lane.

Councillor R Burston – Agenda Item No. 5(a) – Capital Programme Monitoring (Metro Complementary Measures and Dudley Interchange) and Agenda Item No. 6 – Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report (West Midlands Local Transport Plan, Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Extension and West Midlands Combined Authority Investment) – Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting his employment with West Midlands Combined Authority.

Councillor I Bevan – Any references to Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust / Russells Hall Hospital – Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting his employment.

Councillor Q Zada – references to health issues and any matters affecting his portfolio of property investments – Pecuniary interest in any matters directly relating to his employment or relevant to his portfolio of property investments.

Councillors N Barlow and P Miller – Any references to West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority - Non-pecuniary interests as Members of the Authority.

Councillor E Taylor – Any references to Russells Hall Hospital - Non-pecuniary interest relating to her daughter's employment.

Councillor N Neale – Minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and health issues generally - Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting her employment with Dudley Group of Hospitals (NHS) Foundation Trust.

Councillor C Neale - Non-pecuniary interest in view of his wife's employment with Dudley Group of Hospitals (NHS) Foundation Trust.

Councillor Z Islam – Matters relating to Children's Services – Non-pecuniary interest due to his daughter's employment with Fort Advocacy Services Ltd. who were occasionally commissioned by Children's Services to provide independent advocacy services and her involvement with the Dudley Advocacy Charity as an independent parent advocate.

Councillor S Greenaway – Minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (Home to School Transport Policy) – Non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Appeals Committee.

Councillor K Lewis – Minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Non-pecuniary interest as an Early Years Provider.

69 **Mayor's Announcements**

(a) **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination and Transphobia**

The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination and Transphobia would take place on 17th May, 2022. Dudley Council would be marking this day with a civic event on Coronation Gardens at 11:30am and everyone was welcome to join.

(b) **Freedom of the Borough Garden Party**

The Freedom of the Borough Garden Party would take place at Himley Hall on 17th May, 2022 between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. The Freedom of the Borough would be presented to the National Health Service (NHS), Public Health, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Bereavement Services and the Voluntary Sector.

(c) **Councillors Not Seeking Re-election**

The Mayor reported that Councillors R Burston, C Elcock, A Finch, B Gentle, Z Islam, J Roberts and S Waltho were not seeking re-election on 5th May, 2022. The Mayor placed on record her appreciation of the dedicated public service given by those Members. The Council then paid individual tributes to the retiring Members and expressed best wishes for the future.

70 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor P Harley, seconded by Councillor S Clark and

Resolved

- (1) That progress with the 2021/22 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted.
- (2) That the amendment to the capital programme relating to Red House Glass Cone Hot Glass Studio, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report, be confirmed.

- (3) That the recommendations of the Cabinet concerning Extra Care Provision/ Development in Dudley, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report, be approved.
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71 **Appointment of the Director of Housing and Communities**

A report of the Appointments Committee was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor P Harley, seconded by Councillor S Clark and

Resolved

That, subject to the necessary pre-employment checks, Kathy Jones be appointed to the post of Director of Housing and Communities, in accordance with the salary and terms and conditions of employment applicable to the post, with effect from a date to be agreed.

72 **Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2021/22**

A report of the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor A Lees, seconded by Councillor S Clark and

Resolved

That the annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2021/22 be received and noted.

73 **Notices of Motion**

The Mayor reported that following consultation with the Group Leaders, consideration of the notices of motion on the agenda would be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

74 **Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11**

The Mayor reported that, following consultation with the Group Leaders, the Question Time session would be limited to thirty-minutes for this meeting only.

Written Questions

No written questions were submitted in advance.

Verbal Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members and Chairs

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise (Councillor S Phipps) responded to questions from Councillor S Saleem concerning the next stages of the Black Country Plan particularly in relation to two green belt sites in the Kingswinford North and Wall Heath ward that had initially been included in the Plan for possible development.

The Leader (Councillor P Harley) responded to a question from Councillor D Bevan concerning regeneration and inward investment into the Borough arising from attendance at important events such as MIPIM.

The Cabinet Member for Digital, Customer and Commercial Services (Councillor S Keasey) responded to a question from Councillor D Corfield concerning the future of the Netherton Arts Centre.

The Leader (Councillor P Harley) responded to a question from Councillor R Collins concerning the Brockmoor Community Centre and adjacent land.

The Leader (Councillor P Harley) responded to a question from Councillor S Keasey on the importance of working with community groups, with particular reference to the achievements of the Friends of All Saints Graveyard in Sedgley.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care (Councillor N Barlow) undertook to arrange for a written response to questions asked by Councillor C Elcock relating to block contracts provided by agencies involving carer services.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (Councillor R Buttery) responded to a question from Councillor P Bradley regarding the SEND Improvement Programme and an update on ongoing actions.

The Leader (Councillor P Harley) responded to questions from Councillor C Barnett regarding the lack of funding for improvements at Stevens Park, Quarry Bank and whether funding had been committed to attend the MIPIM event in 2023.

A further question was asked by Councillor A Aston regarding attendance at the MIPIM event and seeking confirmation whether any private sponsorships had been sought or obtained together with the details of any subsequent signed contracts.

At this juncture, the Mayor indicated that the time allowed for questions had expired. Any Members indicating to ask a question could either submit it in writing or raise the question at the next appropriate meeting.

75 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business for consideration at this meeting.

76 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

77 **Dudley's Temporary Workforce Project**

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor S Keasey, seconded by Councillor S Clark and

Resolved

That the recommendations of the Cabinet, as set out in the report, be approved and adopted.

The meeting ended at 7.46 pm

MAYOR

