

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 14TH JULY, 2008
AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillor Burston (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs. P. Martin (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Adams, Ahmed, Ali, Mrs. Ameson, Mrs. Aston, Banks, Barlow, D. Blood, Mrs. E. Blood, Body, Ms. Boleyn, Caunt, Cotterill, Mrs. Coulter, Mrs. Cowell, Crumpton, G. H. Davies, J. D. Davies, J. R. Davies, M. Davis, Mrs. Dunn, Evans, Mrs. Faulkner, J. Finch, K. Finch, Ms. Foster, Mrs. Greenaway, Hanif, Mrs. D. Harley, P. Harley, Ms. Harris, Hill, Islam, James, Jones, Mrs. Jordan, Kettle, Knowles, J. Martin, Miller, Mrs. Millward, Ms. Nicholls, Nottingham, Perry, Mrs. Ridley, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Rogers, Ryder, Mrs. Shakespeare, Simms, Southall, Sparks, Stanley, Taylor, A. Turner, Mrs. H. Turner, K. Turner, Tyler, Vickers, Mrs. Walker, Waltho, While-Cooper, C. Wilson, Mrs. M. Wilson, Woodall and Wright; together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Attwood, Lowe, Mottram and Ms. Partridge.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, as follows:-

Councillors Mrs. Millward and Wright – Minute No. 86 of North Dudley Area Committee (Delegated Capital Allocations - application for funding from Baggeridge Welfare Centre) - Personal and prejudicial interests as trustees of the Centre.

Councillors Ryder and Stanley – Minute No. 85 of North Dudley Area Committee (Application relating to North Dudley Housing Garage Plot Sites) - Personal and prejudicial interests in view of their renting a garage from the Council.

Councillor Banks – Minute No. 14 of Stourbridge Area Committee (Capital Allocations – an application by the Thomas Pocklington Trust) - Prejudicial interest and Minute No. 15 of Stourbridge Area Committee (Grant Applications: Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trusts: Application for Grants) – Personal and prejudicial interest in view of his having advised the Trust about the sensory garden.

Councillor Hanif – Minute No. 14 of Stourbridge Area Committee (Capital Allocations – applications by the Rufford Primary School PTFA and the Lye and Wollescote United Communities Group) – Personal and prejudicial interest in view of his being a Governor of the School and a Member of the Communities Group, respectively.

Director of Law and Property (Mr. J. Polychronakis) – Minute No. 14 of Stourbridge Area Committee (Capital Allocations – an application by Pedmore Cricket Club) – Prejudicial interest in view of his membership of the Pedmore Cricket Club.

Councillor Woodall – Minute No. 11 of the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education (reference to the Leasowes Restoration) – Personal interest as a member of the Friends of Leasowes.

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs. P. Martin) – Minute No. 4 of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services (Directorate of Law and Property – Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2007/08) Personal and prejudicial interest in that she was the Cabinet Member for Personnel, Legal and Property during that period.

Councillor Vickers – Minute No. 6 of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - references to the Warehouse Project) – Personal interest as a Trustee of that project.

Councillor Mrs. H. Turner – Minute No. 91(v) of the Development Control Committee (Plan number P07/2141 – Struggling Man Inn Public House, Prospect Row, Dudley) – Personal and prejudicial interest as the developer making the application was known to her.

Councillor Wright – Minute No. 11(ii) of the Development Control Committee (Plan number P08/0638 – Land to rear of Helen House, Great Cornbow, Halesowen – erection of building to create offices and 4 one-bedroom apartments) – Personal and prejudicial interest in that the applicant was known to him as a friend.

Councillor A. Turner – As recorded in Minute No. 169(a) of the Taxis Committee - Personal and prejudicial interests in view of the complainants being personally known to him.

Councillor A. Turner – As recorded in Minute No. 169(b) of the Taxis Committee - Personal interest in view of him having reported a driver to the Licensing Enforcement Office.

Councillor Mrs. Faulkner – As recorded in Minute No. 169(c) of the Taxis Committee - Personal and prejudicial interest in view of her having reported two drivers to the Licensing Enforcement Office.

The Mayor (Councillor Burston) – Minutes Nos. 15 and 83 of North Dudley Area Committee (Transport Issues) - Personal interests on account of employment by CENTRO.

Councillor M Davis - All items relating to social services - Personal interest as a service user.

Councillor Vickers – Agenda Item No. 5(c) - Three year Community Safety Plan 2008 – 2011 (References to the Warehouse Project) - Personal interest as a Trustee of the Warehouse Project.

Councillors A. Turner and K. Turner – Minute No. 91(v) of the Development Control Committee (Plan number P07/2141 – Struggling Man Inn Public House, Prospect Row, Dudley) - Personal and prejudicial interests as friends of the applicant.

Councillors Mrs. H. Turner and K. Turner – Minutes Nos. 171 and 172 of the Taxis Committee - Personal and prejudicial interests as complainant personally known to members.

Councillor K. Turner - All references to Dudley Zoological gardens - Personal and prejudicial interest as a Trustee of Dudley Zoological Gardens.

Councillor K. Turner - All references to Groundwork Black Country - Personal and prejudicial interest as a Director and Treasurer.

Councillor K. Turner - All references to Black Country Consortium, Regional Spatial Strategy - Personal interest as member of West Midlands Regional Assembly.

Councillor K. Turner - All references to Age Concern - Personal interest as Vice Chair of Age Concern Halesowen.

Councillor Taylor – Agenda Item No. 5(a) – Capital Programme Monitoring - Personal interest as a Member of The Friends of Leasowes.

Councillor Ms. Harris - Agenda Item No. 5(c) - Three-year Community Safety Plan 2008-2011 - Personal interest as Chair of Dudley Primary Care Trust - one of the partners with the Council on the Dudley Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor Ms. Harris - Agenda Item No. 6(a) - Annual Report of the Select Committee on Children's Services and Agenda Item No. 6(b) - Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services - Personal interests as Chair of the Dudley Primary Care Trust - providers or partners in services mentioned in the reports.

Councillors Caunt and Knowles – Minute No. 11(ii) of the Development Control Committee (Plan No. P08/0638 – Land at Rear of Helen House, Great Cornbow, Halesowen) - Personal interest as agent/applicant referred to in the minutes was personally known/ known as a friend.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 15th May, 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Stourbridge Cricket Club

The Mayor reported that a cricket match had been held on 20th June, 2008 between a Team representing the Council and the young members of Stourbridge Cricket Club. Following comments from Councillor Hanif, the Mayor presented the representatives of the victorious Stourbridge Cricket Club Team with a trophy.

(b) St. Thomas's Community Games

The Mayor thanked the St. Thomas's ward Councillors for their work in connection with organising the recent St. Thomas's Community Games. He also congratulated Councillor Waltho on successfully completing the "Three-Peaks Challenge" for charity. Councillors Ali and Waltho responded accordingly.

(c) Jennifer McGregor – Directorate of Finance, ICT and Procurement

The Mayor informed the Council that Jennifer McGregor from Corporate Finance had been awarded a prize in her final Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) examinations. She had attended the presentation ceremony at CIPFA headquarters on 28th April, 2008. Following comments from Councillor Mrs. Millward, the Mayor presented Jennifer with her certificate.

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COUNCIL PLAN 2010: 2008 ANNUAL REVIEW

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Millward and

RESOLVED

That the Council endorse the policy framework of the revised Council Plan and note the alignment of the Council Plan and Directorate Strategic Plans to the Community Strategy.

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Millward and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the allocation of £0.882m extra Disabled Facilities Grant funding be noted, and that the Capital Programme be amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report now submitted.
- (2) That the expenditure on Stair Lifts be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report now submitted.
- (3) That the Capital Programme be amended to include the additional £82,000 of Kick Start funding, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report now submitted.
- (4) That the Council's allocation of £810,000 from the Regional Housing Pot be noted, and that the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted.
- (5) That the proposals in relation to the Kingswinford Library and the library modernisation programme be approved and that the project be added to the library modernisation capital programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report now submitted.
- (6) That the scheme to infill the Stourbridge Rock Caverns be approved, and that the Capital Programme be amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report now submitted.
- (7) That the Dudley Southern By-Pass resurfacing works be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report now submitted.

- (8) That the package of works to Future Skills Dudley Accommodation be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report now submitted.
 - (9) That subject to funding (and the availability of matchfunding) being confirmed, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Priority 3 Sustainable Urban Development South Black Country Package Plan scheme be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report now submitted.
 - (10) That the improvements at Lister Road Depot be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report now submitted.
 - (11) That the Fens Pool Gating scheme be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report now submitted.
 - (12) That £100,000 for Disabled Access works be included in the 2008/09 Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report now submitted.
 - (13) That the “Other Services” Capital Programme for 2008/09 be approved, as set out in paragraphs 16 -17 of the report now submitted.
 - (14) That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 19 of the report now submitted be noted.
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THREE-YEAR COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2008 - 2011

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Millward, seconded by Councillor Caunt and

RESOLVED

That the three-year Community Safety Plan 2008 – 2011 be approved and adopted.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The annual report of the Select Committee on Children's Services was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Nottingham, seconded by Councillor D. Blood and

RESOLVED

That the annual report of the Select Committee on Children's Services be approved and adopted.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The annual report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Vickers, seconded by Councillor D. Blood and

RESOLVED

That the annual report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services be approved and adopted.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ADULT EDUCATION

The annual report of the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor C. Wilson, seconded by Councillor D. Blood and

RESOLVED

That the annual report of the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education be approved and adopted.

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QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

During questions under Council Procedure Rule 11, there were no decisions that the Leader, Cabinet Members or Chairmen agreed to have reconsidered.

The meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

MAYOR

CL/23