



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
HELD ON 19th MARCH 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor P Thurgood (Chair), Councillors R Kingstone, J Chesworth, R Bilcliff, A Bishop, R Claymore, T Clements, D Cook, M Cook, C Cooke, S Doyle, J Faulkner, R Ford, M Gant, M Greatorex, T Jay, K Norchi, J Oates, M Oates, Dr S Peple, B Price, R Pritchard, R Rogers, P Standen and M Summers

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Stuart Evans (Solicitor to the Council) and Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant)

69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Bailey, Councillor S Goodall, Councillor A James and Councillor S Peple

70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

71 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The following announcements were made:

Mayor P Thurgood – We have one item we need to go through, we have a certificate for the Honorary Alderman of the Borough, Councillor Steve Claymore. He meant a lot to us and I would like to present this certificate to Rosey.

Councillor R Claymore – Can I just say how proud I am to receive this on Steve's behalf, I know he would think it was a real honour, but in true Steve fashion just get on with the business now

72 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr. Simon People will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-

“At the State of Tamworth Debate, the Council said it would be undertaking a Peer Review. Will the Council commit to implementing the review in full?”

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor.

In short, - No! Basically we will not commit to anything we have not read yet”

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr. Simon People will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-

“At the state of Tamworth Debate, Cllr Greatorex put forward the view that Tamworth’s boundaries need to be expanded in order to accommodate its needs, does the Leader of the Council agree?”

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor.

I could answer that the opinions and comments of Cllr Greatorex are those of Cllr Greatorex. Contrary to any popular belief, I do not regulate the thoughts and opinions of controlling group members. That said.....

Border expansions were indeed an option I put on the table on my visit to the Home Office in July 2018 to speak with the Housing minister on infrastructure and the assault on Tamworth’s borders.

I think we all need to remember that Local Plans set a minimum level of development, not a maximum. The reason I say that is that in reality Councils do not exactly choose where developments happen. Willing landowners and housing developers do. The Council work up the Local Plan from this point to where possible control and plan for development.

Therefore moving the border would not protect us entirely from the developments around our border today. However, it would mean we could tighter control it and reap the additional benefits that currently go to our neighbouring Councils.

Tamworth is a growing place and we need to expand, but I can fully confirm boundary changes are on no one’s radar across any national party in our near future, certainly cross county lines.

In short, I think I would wish to understand it better, know what the pro's and cons are"

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 3

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Sheree Peaple will ask the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships, Councillor S Doyle, the following question:-

"Would the Portfolio Holder please update the Council on the consultation over the extension of the Public Space Protection Order covering Warwickshire Moor, to include the area known as the "Monkey Bridge?"

Due to Councillor Sheree Peaple not being present at the meeting, a written response will be provided. The response provided is attached to these minutes as Question 3.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Sheree Peaple will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-

"Would the Leader of the Council update the Council regarding the steps taken to identify the correct ownership of the land occupied by the former Tamworth Youth Centre and confirm who owns the land?"

Due to Councillor Sheree Peaple not being present at the meeting, a written response will be provided. The response provided is attached to these minutes as Question 4.

73 TAXI LICENSING POLICY – AMENDMENT TAXI LICENSING POINTS SYSTEM & DRESS CODE

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships to seek Council adoption of amendments to Tamworth's Taxi Licensing Conditions to include

A Taxi Licensing Points system for drivers and operators that breach conditions; and

Guidance on appropriate dress to ensure those drivers licenced by Tamworth Borough Council present their selves in the best possible light.

RESOLVED That Council;
Adopted the amended Taxi Licensing Conditions at

Appendix A

(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor B Price)

74 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

The Report of the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee advising Members on the key areas of business taken by the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 2018/19 was considered.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be endorsed

(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor J Faulkner)

75 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - 2018-2019

The Annual Report of the Chair of Corporate Scrutiny Committee was received.

RESOLVED That the contents of the report be endorsed.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor M Summers)

That Council agreed to continue to support the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in its current form;

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor C Cooke)

That Council agreed to planning 8 Corporate Scrutiny Committee Meetings for 2019/2020, 4 for the Quarterly Performance Report and 4 for general business of the Committee;

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor C Cooke)

The following additional recommendations were moved and carried

RESOLVED That Council thanked all the Members who have sat on Corporate Scrutiny

Committee for the last 12 months for the work they have done; and

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor C Cooke)

That Council thanked Jo Hutchison, Scrutiny Officer for her enthusiasm and the challenge she has brought to the Chair.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peuple)

The Annual Report of the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was received.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be endorsed

(Moved by Councillor R Ford and seconded by Councillor R Bilcliff)

The Annual Report of the Infrastructure Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee was received.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be endorsed

(Moved by Councillor R Kingstone and seconded by Councillor R Bilcliff)

At the Close of the Council meeting Councillor M Gant advised Members this was her last Council meeting as she is stepping down. Councillor M Gant proceeded to thank Members for their help and advice over the years.

The Mayor

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 3

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Sheree Peale will ask the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships, Councillor S Doyle, the following question:-

Would the Portfolio Holder please update the Council on the consultation over the extension of the Public Space Protection Order covering Warwickshire Moor, to include the area known as the “Monkey Bridge”?

Councillor S Doyle gave the following answer.

“It was agreed at the Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny that complaints from the area in question would be monitored with regard to extending the Bolehall PSPO by Community Safety Officers.

The police have not reported further complaints at this location over the winter months.

So at this point it is proposed to continue to monitor the effectiveness of the approved PSPO and to consider further extension at a later date, via public consultation.

It is intended that at Cabinet in June 2019 (as per process) and as we approach the summer months we will have a better indication of how effective the current PSPO is and also the evidence to support extending the PSPO further.

The application of PSPOs can be quite broad but the focus should remain on the impact of anti-social behaviour on victims and communities.”

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Sheree Peaple will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-

Would the Leader of the Council update the Council regarding the steps taken to identify the correct ownership of the land occupied by the former Tamworth Youth Centre and confirm who owns the land?

Councillor D Cook gave the following Answer

“Thank you Mr Mayor,

No title deductions have been undertaken for this land as until any master planning work is completed we have no need to incur any unnecessary expense or workload but...

Officers from SCC attend the project group looking at all opportunities available with both Gungate and the wider site. They have indicated this is within their ownership albeit there is a covenant in relation to youth provision. They have previously worked through this covenant when looking at other schemes on this particular area of the site.

We are aware the position with this land is not straightforward (will involve the charity commission and county council to resolve any matters arising) however until there is a clear option that demonstrates it is essential for regeneration we will not be in a position to confirm definitively who does indeed own the land”

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