

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

18th January, 2005

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Gazey)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Lakha)

Councillor Ahmed	Councillor Mrs. Lacy
Councillor Arrowsmith	Councillor Lee
Councillor Asif	Councillor Mrs. Lucas
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Ms. McKay
Councillor Mrs. Basu	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Batten	Councillor Mrs. Maskell
Councillor Benefield	Councillor Matchet
Councillor Bhyat	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor Mutton
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Nellist
Councillor Charley	Councillor H. Noonan
Councillor Chater	Councillor M. Noonan
Councillor Cliffe	Councillor Patton
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Miss Reece
Councillor Crookes	Councillor Ridge
Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Councillor Ridley
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Ruddy
Councillor Foster	Councillor Mrs. Rutter
Councillor Mrs. Griffin	Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Mrs. Harper	Councillor Mrs. Stone
Councillor Ms. Hunter	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Mrs. Johnson	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Williams
Councillor Kelsey	

Apology

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Field.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 23rd November and 14th December, 2004, were signed as true records.

Tsunami Disaster

The Lord Mayor led a minute's silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in the recent tragic tsunami disaster.

79. **New Year's Honours**

The Lord Mayor referred to the following awards made to Coventry citizens in the New Year's Honours List:-

MBE to Professor Roger Burrige from the University of Warwick, for his services to the Health and Safety Executive.

OBE to John Clarke, Vice-Chair of the NSPCC Coventry Business School for his services to the community across the city.

MBE to Marlon Devonish for his contribution to the 4 x 100 metre relay team who won a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

MBE to Janet Jones JP, current Chair of the Bench at Coventry Magistrates' Court, for her services to higher education and the community.

MBE to Roy Nowell, Band Director of 13th City of Coventry Scout Marching Band for his services to young people.

MBE to Stuart and Elaine Parker for their services to the community, particularly the Foleshill area. The Members noted that Mr. and Mrs. Parker were one of only two couples nationally to have been awarded the honour.

MBE to Angie Parks of Coventry Youth Offending Service for her work in the Youth Justice.

OBE to Pete Waterman for services to the pop industry.

Members noted that letters of congratulations had already been sent out, on behalf of the City Council, to all recipients.

80. **Denis Johnson**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent deaths of Denis and Mabel Johnson. Denis was a member of the Westwood Ward for many years.

Members paid tribute to the work undertaken by Mr. Johnson and noted that a letter of condolence would be sent on behalf of the City Council to their family.

81. **Petitions**

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that the following petition be referred to the City Council body as indicated:-

Opposing MacDonald's Extending Opening Hours – 47 Signatures presented by Councillor Patton (Planning Committee).

- (2) That the following petition be considered as part of this meeting (Minute 84/04 below refers):-

Coventry Older Peoples' Centre – 867 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs. Lucas (Main Debate).

- (3) That the following petition be referred to the Passenger Transport Authority:-

CENTRO Proposals on Primline Routes and New Bus Shelter – 54 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs. Dixon.

- (4) That the following petition be referred to the Magistrates Courts:-

Green Lane Residents' Objections to an Off-Licence at 13 Leasowes Avenue – 224 signatures presented by Councillor Sawdon.

82. **Declarations of Interest**

The following Members declared interests in the matters referred to in the minutes indicated. The relevant minutes recording decisions also record, where appropriate, the actions that the Members decided to take at the meeting indicated, having regard to the National Code of Local Government Conduct and the City Council's Constitution:-

(a) **Interests in Recommendations for the City Council**

Prejudicial

Member	Minute No.
* Councillor Benefield	84
* Councillor Sawdon	85
* Councillor Townshend	85

(b) **Interests in Other Minutes**

Personal

Member	Body	Minute No.
Councillor Ahmed	Scrutiny Board (3)	67
Councillor Benefield	Planning Committee	125
Councillor Chater	Scrutiny Board (5)	24
Councillor Field	Scrutiny Board (2)	28
Councillor Foster	Scrutiny Board (3)	67
Councillor Mrs. Harper	Scrutiny Board (3)	63

Prejudicial

Member	Body	Minute No.
Councillor Benefield	Planning Committee	127
Councillor Ms. McKay	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	58
Councillor Mulhall	Planning Committee	130
Councillor Ridge	Planning Committee	128
Councillor Sawdon	Scrutiny Co-Ordination Committee	55
Councillor Mrs. Stone	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	61

(c) Interests in Notices of Motion

Personal

Members	Minute No.
Councillor Mrs. Lucas	84
Councillor H. Noonan	84

(* The members indicated left the meeting during the consideration of these items.)

83. Statement by the Leader of the Council on the Tsunami Disaster which devastated South East Asia over the Christmas Period

Councillor Taylor addressed the Council on the recent tsunami disaster which affected South East Asia to which Councillors Mutton and Nellist responded.

Councillor Mutton moved the following Notice of Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Duggins:-

"We call upon Coventry City Council to make every contribution that can be made to assist the countries affected following the tsunami disaster."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Asif, seconded by Councillor Sawdon:-

"We call upon Coventry City Council, recognising the enormous contribution already made by Coventry people, to assist the countries effected by the tsunami disaster by promoting specific projects as outlined in the Leader's statement".

Members requested that a copy of the Leader's statement be circulated prior to taking a vote on the amendment and this was done. A copy of the Leader's statement would be appended to the minutes for ease of reference.

Councillor Mutton requested the Conservative Group to amend their own amendment by deleting the words "outlined in the Leader's statement" and inserting the words "agreed by the Leader's group". Councillor Nellist seconded the amendment, and Councillor Asif accepted the amendment which gave rise to the following substantive motion:-

"We call upon Coventry City Council, recognising the enormous contribution already made by the Coventry people, to assist the countries affected by the Tsunami Disaster by promoting specific projects as agreed by the Leader's group."

(NOTE: The vote on this was unanimous.)

Councillor Nellist then moved the following amendment to the Notice of Motion which was seconded by Councillor Ms. McKay and lost:-

"We call upon Coventry City Council to make every contribution that can be made to assist the countries affected following the tsunami disaster, and we believe that a major contribution for the long term future of the countries affected would be the cancellation of their foreign debts, and the use of the money presently paid to service those debts for the needs of local people in relief and reconstruction."

RESOLVED that the substantive Notice of Motion as set out above be adopted.

84. **Main Debate – Coventry Older Peoples' Centre (Selected by the Labour Group)**

Councillor Mrs. Lucas moved the following motion for the main debate, which was seconded by Councillor Clifford:-

"This Council reaffirms our support for a Coventry Older People's Centre. We believe that such a centre will bring increased activity to the City Centre and will make a contribution to the well being of older people."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor H. Noonan, seconded by Councillor O'Neill and carried giving rise to the following substantive Motion:-

"This Council notes its previous support for a Coventry Older Peoples' Centre. Such a Centre could bring increased activity to the City Centre and make a contribution to the well being of older people. Decisions made in relation to the Centre will be taken as part of the current PPR process."

RESOLVED that the substantive Motion as set out above be adopted.

85. **Statutory Consultation on the Future Support Arrangements for Patient and Public Involvement in Health**

Further to Minute 35/04 of Scrutiny Board (4) (Health), the City Council considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which outlined a draft response to a national consultation on future support arrangements for patient and public involvement in health.

The Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) was established in January 2003 as an independent multi-departmental body sponsored by the Department of Health. Its role was to establish and support the 572 Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIFs), one for each NHS Trust. On 22nd July, 2004, the Secretary of State announced that CPPIH would be abolished as part of the Department of Health's review of arms length bodies. After confirming that PPIFs would continue, the Secretary of State announced that there would be a consultation on future support arrangements. The consultation began on 5th November, 2004 and ends on 30th January, 2005.

The response indicated that future support for PPI Forums be provided by local authorities subject to there being statutory protection for their independence together with adequate funding being provided to local authorities to undertake this role.

RESOLVED that the City Council:-

- (1) Approve the draft response at Appendix 1 of the report and that a written response be made to the consultation.
- (2) Make the joint response with the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust.

86. Building Communities, Beating Crime: A Better Police Service for the 21st Century – Home Office White Paper on Police Reform

Further to Minute 136/04 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Head of Corporate Policy which sought agreement to a response to the Home Office White Paper on Police Reform – Building Communities, Beating crime: A Better Police Service for the 21st Century, published on 9th November 2004.

The report had also been considered by the Scrutiny Co-Ordination Committee at their meeting on 12th January, 2005, (Minute 80/04 refers).

The White Paper outlined how the Government intends to further reform the Police Service and detailed what they believe this reform would mean for the Police, local people, local neighbourhoods and authorities.

The White Paper also sought to enhance the current role of councillors and local authority Community Safety Officers to give them an explicit remit to provide the focal point for local community in terms of dealing with those agencies responsible for community safety.

The response to the proposals had been drafted in consultation with the Community Safety Partnership, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Members noted that Cabinet were advised that the proposed response indicated broad support of the proposals within the paper, with the exception of not providing enforcement powers to Police Community Support Officers (PSCOs). It was considered that if enforcement powers are not given to PCSOs, the public would see them as powerless and they would not be afforded respect, which will be detrimental to them performing their duties. It was accepted that the majority of their time would be spent on the street providing a physical and reassuring presence, but it was felt that enforcement powers should be available should the situation arise where they were needed.

The Cabinet decided to support the response as set out in the report.

RESOLVED that the City Council endorse the views of Cabinet.

87. **Functions Delegated to Planning Committee**

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, which sought approval to amend the City Council's constitution following the recent introduction of new regulations insofar as it relates to the functions of the Planning Committee.

The Local Authorities (Functions and responsibilities) (Amendment) (Number 2) (England) Regulations 2004 related to the powers of the Planning Committee and the Regulations dealt with changes brought about by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A copy of the amendments were appended to the report.

It was proposed to amend the City Council's Constitution insofar as it relates to the functions delegated to the Planning Committee in line with new regulations. The necessary amendments would be made to the City Council's Constitution when the Constitution is next updated.

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the amendments to the City Council's constitution insofar as it relates to the functions of the Planning Committee, as detailed in the appendix to the report.

88. **Notice of Motion – Tsunami Disaster**

Minute 84 refers.

89. **Question Time**

The following Members answered oral questions put to them by other Members as set out below:-

Question Asked by	Question Put To	Subject Matter
Councillor Nellist	Councillor O'Neill	Single Status
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Arrowsmith	Mobile telephone mast
Councillor Mutton	Councillor Blundell	Safety of children attending special schools
Councillor Patton	Councillor Matchet	Cabinet Member Advisory Panel – Domestic Violence
Councillor Mrs. Lucas	Councillor Matchet	Cabinet Member Advisory Panel – Domestic Violence
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor Blundell	School Clothing Grants
Councillor Ms. McKay	Councillor Arrowsmith	Public Rights of Way
Councillor Townshend	Councillor Foster	Refuse collections over the Christmas period
Councillor Mutton	Councillor Foster	Communication regarding the refuse collections over the Christmas period
Councillor Nellist	Councillor Foster	Refuse collections
Councillor Chater	Councillor Foster	Bins in Canley Ford
Councillor Skipper	Councillor Ahmed	Conservative decision to spend £3m

		on Arts
Councillor Skipper	Councillor Ahmed	25th anniversary of Two Tone music
Councillor Mutton	Councillor Taylor	Written responses from Cabinet Members
Councillor Chater	Councillor Kelsey	Policy guidance covering driver applicants who have been absent from the UK
Councillor Nellist	Councillor Arrowsmith	Residents parking scheme
Councillor Patton	Councillor Arrowsmith	Residents parking scheme
Councillor McNicholas	Councillor Arrowsmith	Costs associated with the opening of Pool Meadow

(NOTE: The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.)

Notes for the Leader's Statement at Council 18th January 2005
Our Response to the Tsunami
Response from Local People

The recent tragic events in the Indian Ocean have brought an overwhelming amount of support from the people of Coventry who have already responded magnificently to the Tsunami by raising funding for disaster emergency relief.

Fundraising efforts in Coventry have included events in schools, collections in workplaces, clubs, places of worship, raffles, a local Band Aid style project, the Coventry Evening Telegraph appeal – the list is endless.

I know that the City Council – members and officers – feel equally passionate about wanting to help the people who have had their lives devastated by the Tsunami. As a first response the City Council has encouraged people to contribute to the major charitable agencies which is the best way to provide emergency humanitarian aid and has set facilities so that local people can contribute to the Disaster Emergency Committee through our offices.

Taking it Further

However, we want to do more. Our City of Coventry has an honourable history of helping other communities to recover from disaster to help them re-build their future. This means providing help and working with local people over time and not just responding to the immediate crisis. The most recent example of this was our response to the earthquake in Gujarat in India.

I am pleased to say that all political groups have been working together to make sure that the City Council and the people of Coventry can provide support where it is most needed and after the Tsunami is no longer front page news.

The City Council has sought advice from the Local Government International Bureau and the Department for International Development. We have been advised that the best way that the City Council's can help is to:

- Provide medium-term technical assistance through release of staff – which will be co-ordinated through the LGIB;
- Provide long-term support and assistance to a linked local authority or community in the task of reconstruction.

Coventry was one of the first local authorities to register our intention to provide this assistance and will be looking to establish a partnership link to a specific place which the people of Coventry and the City Council will be able to support in the re-building of a community.

Because of the extent of the devastation that the Tsunami has been caused the current lack of communication and the uncertainty about what the longer term needs will be, we will be waiting for further advice from the Local Government International Bureau over the next months so that we can identify a community to support. This will mean that the city of

Coventry can give the best long lasting financial and practical support where it is most needed.

What we will do when

Once we have identified our partnership community we will work with them to identify the support that is required from Coventry – this is likely to include both providing practical assistance and the expertise of Coventry people and raising funding for re-building projects.

We are hoping to hold a special Coventry fundraising day for our partner community – probably in the early summer – and to involve the whole city in supporting them.

We also know that working in international partnership in this way brings real benefits to the Coventry people of Coventry too.