

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

12th July, 2005

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Lakha)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Ahmed)

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Councillor Arrowsmith | Councillor Mrs. Lacy |
| Councillor Asif | Councillor Mrs. Lancaster |
| Councillor Auluck | Councillor Lee |
| Councillor Mrs. Basu | Councillor Mrs. Lucas |
| Councillor Batten | Councillor McNicholas |
| Councillor Bhyat | Councillor Mrs. Maskell |
| Councillor Mrs. Bigham | Councillor Matchet |
| Councillor Blundell | Councillor Mulhall |
| Councillor Charley | Councillor Mutton |
| Councillor Chater | Councillor Nellist |
| Councillor Cliffe | Councillor H. Noonan |
| Councillor Clifford | Councillor M. Noonan |
| Councillor Crookes | Councillor O'Neill |
| Councillor Mrs. Dixon | Councillor Patton |
| Councillor Duggins | Councillor Miss Reece |
| Councillor Field | Councillor Ridge |
| Councillor Foster | Councillor Ridley |
| Councillor Gazey | Councillor Ruddy |
| Councillor Mrs. Griffin | Councillor Mrs. Rutter |
| Councillor Harrison | Councillor Sawdon |
| Councillor Ms. Hunter | Councillor Mrs. Stone |
| Councillor Mrs. Johnson | Councillor Taylor |
| Councillor Kelly | Councillor Townshend |
| Councillor Kelsey | Councillor Williams |

Apologies: Councillor Benefield
Councillor Mrs. Harper
Councillor Ms. McKay
Councillor Skipper

44. Minutes

The minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary meetings held on 21st June, 2005, were signed as true records.

45. Terrorist Attack in London

The Lord Mayor led a minute's silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in the recent terrorist attack in London.

Members noted that on behalf of the City Council, the Lord Mayor had written to the Mayor of the Greater London Authority and the Lord Mayor of the City of London expressing the City Council's condolences and sharing in their sorrow.

46. Petitions

RESOLVED that the following petitions be referred to the appropriate City Council body/external organisation:-

- (a) **Crossing Patrol on Woodway Lane** – 415 signatures presented by Councillor Patton.
- (b) **The Old Cinema Building at the Junction of Dovedale Avenue/ Windmill Road** – 87 signatures presented by Councillor Duggins.
- (c) **Objections to the Installation of a Telephone Mast proposed at the Land Between Dovedale Avenue and New Inn Bridge off Longford Road** – 94 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs. Bigham.
- (d) **Request to Close off or Gate the Walk Ways at the top of Chelwood Grove** – 32 signatures presented by Councillor Kelly.
- (e) **Poor Service from the Royal Mail** – 194 signatures presented by Councillor Duggins.
- (f) **Intended Road Works Between Bell Green and Singer Close** – 13 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs. Stone.
- (g) **Resurfacing of Dugdale Road** – 27 signatures presented by Councillor Ms. Hunter.

46. Declarations of Interest

The following Members declared interest in the matters referred to in the minutes indicated. The relevant minutes recording the 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 to the City Council's Constitution:-

Interests in Debates

Personal

| Member | Minute No. |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Councillor Field | 50 |
| Councillor Kelly | 50 |
| Councillor Kelsey | 50 |

47. Question Time

The following Members answered oral questions put to them by other Members set out below, together with supplementary questions on the same matters:-

| Questions Asked By | Question Put To | Subject Matter |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Councillor Nellist | Councillor Ridley | Job advertisement at Museum of British Road Transport with zero hours contract |
| Councillor Mutton | Councillor Taylor | Update on Phases 2 and 3 of the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum |
| Councillor Mrs. Bigham | Councillor Blundell | Percentage take up of free school meals |
| Councillor Chater | Councillor O'Neill | Officer support for Community based Committees |
| Councillor Townshend | Councillor Foster | Signage relating to completed road works |
| Councillor Williams | Councillor O'Neill | Godiva Festival |
| Councillor Gazey | Councillor Arrowsmith | Car parking in inner city areas |
| Councillor Nellist | Councillor O'Neill | Data relating to bankruptcy cases caused by action to collect Council Tax arrears |
| Councillor Ahmed | Councillor Taylor | Terrorist attacks in London |
| Councillor Gazey | Councillor Arrowsmith | Consultation in relation to new housing |
| Councillor Townshend | Councillor Taylor | Implementation of Single Status |
| Councillor McNicholas | Councillor Arrowsmith | City Hall |
| Councillor Mutton | Councillor Taylor | Comments in local paper relating to Whittle Arch |

48. Statement by the Leader of the Council on Terrorist Attack in London

Councillor Taylor addressed the Council about the bomb explosions in London which took place on 7th July 2005. Councillors Mutton, Field, Nellist and Mrs. Stone responded.

49. Best Value Review: Promoting Coventry

Further to Minute 41/05, the Council considered a report of the Head of Corporate Policy requesting the Council to nominate the Chair, Deputy Chair and Members of the Best Value Review Group on Promoting Coventry.

Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Local Government Act, 1999 to conduct best value reviews of their functions. The Council had agreed to use this process to review the value, effectiveness and impact of the activity by the City Council and its

partners to promote the City of Coventry and to recommend how improvements may be made. The terms of reference agreed for the review were set out in the report.

RESOLVED that the following Members be nominated as members of the Best Value Review Group on Promoting Coventry:-

**Councillor Batten
Councillor Charley
Councillor Mrs. Harper
Councillor Lee (Chair)
Councillor Mutton (Deputy Chair)
One member from a minority group**

50. Debate – City Academies

Councillor Field moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Basu:-

"This Council is concerned about the Government's proposals for City Academies and the current proposal to create Academies to replace Woodway Park, Barrs Hill and Sidney Stringer Schools.

The power to influence the curriculum and the 'ethos' of the school by the sponsor is disproportionate to the contribution made towards the cost of the school.

Of particular concern is the possibility that a sponsor with a strong religious agenda could turn a state school into a religious school, which pupils within the catchment area would have little choice but to attend. This totally contradicts the Parental Choice Agenda.

The concept of academies has yet to be proven and the Government's increasing pressure to force local authorities into setting them up is gambling with our children's future.

This Council therefore rejects the proposals to turn Woodway Park, Barrs Hill and Sidney Stringer Schools into city academies."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Blundell, seconded by Councillor Crookes and carried, giving rise to the following substantive motion:-

"This Council notes the Government's proposals for City Academies and the current expression of interest to create two academies to replace Woodway Park, Barrs Hill and Sidney Stringer Schools.

This Council also recognises that there are a number of legitimate concerns which will be addressed through the consultation process.

Therefore this Council supports the consultation concerning the proposals to turn Woodway Park, Barrs Hill and Sidney Stringer Schools into City Academies prior to the final determination being made by the City Council."

RESOLVED that the substantive motion, as set out above, be adopted.

(NOTE: A recorded vote was required in accordance with Paragraph 4.1.72 of the City Council's constitution on the resolution and the Members voting for and against the resolution were as follows:

For

Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Arrowsmith
Councillor Asif
Councillor Auluck
Councillor Batten
Councillor Bhyat
Councillor Mrs Bigham
Councillor Blundell
Councillor Charley
Councillor Chater
Councillor Cliffe
Councillor Clifford
Councillor Crookes
Councillor Mrs Dixon
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Foster
Councillor Gazey
Councillor Mrs Griffin
Councillor Harrison
Councillor Mrs Johnson
Councillor Kelly
Councillor Kelsey
Councillor Lacy
Councillor Lakha
Councillor Mrs Lancaster
Councillor Lee
Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Maskell
Councillor Matchet
Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Mutton
Councillor H Noonan
Councillor M Noonan
Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Patton
Councillor Miss Reece
Councillor Ridge
Councillor Ridley
Councillor Mrs Rutter
Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Townshend
Councillor Williams

Against

Councillor Mrs Basu
Councillor Field
Councillor Ms Hunter
Councillor Nellist
Councillor Ruddy
Councillor Mrs Stone

Abstain

Result: 44 for, 6 against, 0 abstentions.

51. **Debate – International Games**

Councillor Batten moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Duggins and unanimously carried:-

"This Council welcomes the success of the International Children's Games, and wishes to thank the children and delegation members from the participating cities and towns from across the world.

At the same time the Council recognises that Coventry has enjoyed wonderful publicity over the last few days, recognising the contribution Councillor John Mutton made in persuading the International Children's Games Executive to bring the games to Coventry, thanks to the International Children's Games Committee and impressive number of volunteers for their hard work and sponsors for their generosity."

RESOLVED that the motion set out above be adopted.

52. **Debate – Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005**

Councillor Charley moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Ridge and carried:-

"This Council supports the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and in particular the provisions for nuisance parking offences. Council therefore requests the relevant Cabinet Member to consider a report on how the Council plans to implement and use the new powers."

RESOLVED that the motion as set out above be adopted.

(NOTE: The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.)