

# COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

12<sup>th</sup> January, 2010

## PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Harrison)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Kelsey)

Councillor Adalat	Councillor Lapsa
Councillor Andrews	Councillor Lee
Councillor Arrowsmith	Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Maton
Councillor Bailey	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Bains	Councillor J. Mutton
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor Mrs. M. Mutton
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Nellist
Councillor Charley	Councillor Noonan
Councillor Chater	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Cliffe	Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Miss Reece
Councillor Crookes	Councillor Ridge
Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Councillor Ridley
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Field	Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Foster	Councillor Skinner
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Smith
Councillor Mrs. Johnson	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Khan	Councillor Mrs. Waters
Councillor Lakha	Councillor Williams
Councillor Lancaster	Councillor Windsor

Apology: Councillor Asif

Public Business

### **89. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 were signed as a true record subject to Minute 76 headed 'Petitions' being amended by the deletion of the figure '6' and the insertion of the figure '158' relating to the petition submitted by Councillor O'Boyle and Minute 87 headed 'Debate – The Building of New Homes in Coventry' being amended by the insertion of the word 'overwhelmingly' in the fourth paragraph of the substantive motion prior to the words 'majority of brownfield sites'.

## 90. Coventry Good Citizen Award

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor and his Honour Judge Hodson, the Honorary Recorder, presented Anthony Pillage with the Coventry Good Citizen Award. His citation read:

"Anthony Pillage runs 'The Way of the Spiritual Warrior' martial arts school in Little Heath where he teaches about 250 students, aged from four to 54. He teaches children not only martial arts but also how to avoid bullies and resist peer pressure.

He works for the Positive Futures initiative and the Rathbone Organisation, teaching disadvantaged children and young adults, as well as teaching self defence to students at Bablake School.

He is a personal mentor to many of his pupils and people call him with their problems day and night. Anthony always has time and advice for them and goes out of his way to help and support them, whatever their situation. His non-judgmental approach has led him to be considered not just as a teacher, but also a friend to his students and their families alike.

He came to martial arts a number of years ago after a life-threatening illness meant he had to spend almost a month in hospital. During this time he realised that he was tired of the corporate 'rat-race' and he wanted to do something more from his heart, something that would help people improve themselves.

Tony is a pillar of the community and deserves to be recognised as a good Citizen of Coventry."

## 91. New Years Honours

The Lord Mayor referred to the awards made to the following Coventry citizens in the New Years Honours List:

- **MBE** to Victor Keene, Chairman of the Bonds Hospital trustees, for services to the community.
- **OBE** to Councillor Ram P Lakha for his services to the Sikh community in the city.
- **MBE** to Pru Porretta for her services to community cohesion and to the tourist industry in Coventry.

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

## 92. Death of Monsignor Thomas Gavin

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of The Right Reverend Monsignor Canon Thomas Gavin on Christmas Day. Monsignor Tom had been the Parish Priest of St Thomas More Church from 1978 to 2004, one of the longest serving priests in the

Archdiocese of Birmingham. He organised the open-air mass of Pope John Paul II at Baginton in May 1982.

Members noted that a letter has been sent to the family expressing the Council's sincere condolences.

### **93. Civic Engagements**

The Lord Mayor informed the Council of his recent civic engagements, which totalled 369 to date. During December and early January he had attended the visit of HRH Duchess of Cornwall to Emmaus and the Council's Christmas Carol Service. He had also hosted an event for the volunteers of the Coventry Half Marathon and the Civic Night at the Belgrade Theatre Pantomime for deserving families.

### **94. Petitions**

**RESOLVED that:**

**(i) the following petitions be referred to the appropriate City Council body or external organisation:**

- (a) Proposed Bablake Junior School, Duncroft Avenue, request for a modern traffic scheme – 151 signatures presented by Councillor Gazey.**
- (b) Request for traffic calming measures at Evenlode Crescent – 271 signatures presented by Councillor Ridley.**
- (c) Request to close the footpath running from Boyd Close to Narbeth Way by Sir Frank Whittle Primary School – 63 signatures presented by Councillor Maton.**
- (d) Objection to the new number 3 and 4 bus routes – 451 signatures presented by Councillor McNicholas.**
- (e) Request to replace the storage heaters at Alpha House – 28 signatures presented by Councillor Bains.**
- (f) Objection to the development of Harnall Lane West car park – 89 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs Lucas.**
- (g) Objection to the Implementation of the Improving Services for Young People plan – 33 signatures presented by Councillor Nellist.**

**(ii) The petition presented by Councillor Gazey concerning objections to proposed wind turbine at Bablake playing fields, Duncroft Avenue as detailed in a noise survey, and containing 138 signatures, be held in abeyance until such time as a planning application is submitted.**

### **95. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **96. Adjustment to Appointment to Outside Body**

The Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services recommending a change to their annual meeting nomination to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Limited for 2009/2010.

**RESOLVED that the City Council appoint Councillor Miss Reece to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Limited for the remainder of the current municipal year in place of Councillor Ridge.**

## **97. Question Time**

The appropriate Members provided a written response to all the questions set out in the Questions Booklet, together with an oral response to supplementary questions put to them at the meeting.

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

<b>No</b>	<b>Question Asked By</b>	<b>Question Put To</b>	<b>Subject Matter</b>
1	Councillor Mutton	Councillor Noonan	Problems with the Refuse Collection Service
2	Councillor Townshend	Councillor Blundell	The Youth Service Review and the Consultation with the Unions
3	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Noonan	The Publicity about the Changes to the Refuse Collection Service prior to the Christmas Period and the Problems for Broad Lane
4	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Noonan	The Excellent Gritting Programme to Keep the Main Roads Open in the City
5	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Mrs Johnson	Results of the Annual Performance Assessment of Adult Social Care in the City
6	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Blundell	The Ofsted Annual Ratings for the Council's Children's Services, in particular the Results for Special Schools
7	Councillor Duggins	Councillor Noonan	Information Given at the Meeting at Whitley Depot on 5 <sup>th</sup> January, 2010

8	Councillor Nellist	Councillor Charley	Daily/Weekly Notification of Licensing Matters for all Elected Members
9	Councillor Lucas	Councillor Charley	Taxi Drivers with Criminal Convictions
10	Councillor Townshend	Councillor Foster	Progress with Equal Pay Litigation
11	Councillor Mutton	Councillor Taylor	Support for Finham Residents regarding Development on Green Belt Land at Kings Hill. Reference to the Core Strategy
12	Councillor Auluck	Councillor Ridley	Radisson Hotel Development

**98. Statement by the Leader of the Council**

There was no statement.

**99. Debate – Government White Paper Regarding Policing**

Councillor Mutton moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Bains:

"This Council welcomes the recently published Government White Paper regarding policing and in particular this Council welcomes the clearest message conveyed by the Government so far, that Directly Elected Commissioners will play no part in the future governance of our police.

This Council also welcomes the most generous financial increase in the Country from the Government for the West Midlands Police. We believe that the additional sums of money made available will help in the restructuring of the Force and in particular Local Command Units."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Sawdon and seconded by Councillor Foster:

'On the first line of the first paragraph change 'welcomes' to 'notes' and on the second line delete 'clearest message conveyed by the government so far, that directly elected Police Commissioners will play no part in' and insert 'opportunity to debate'.

A further amendment was moved by Councillor Sawdon and seconded by Councillor Foster:

'After the words 'directly elected' delete the word 'Police' from the above amendment'.

This amendment was carried giving rise to the following substantive motion:

"This Council notes the recently published Government White Paper regarding

policing and in particular this Council welcomes the opportunity to debate the future governance of our police.

This Council also welcomes the most generous financial increase in the Country from the Government for the West Midlands Police. We believe that the additional sums of money made available will help in the restructuring of the Force and in particular Local Command Units."

The following amendment to the substantive motion was moved by Councillor Field seconded by Councillor Nellist:

'The following paragraph be added at the end of the Motion:

"This Council also believes that Neighbourhood Policing Team boundaries should, wherever possible, match the political boundaries in Coventry and should avoid dividing communities. We therefore call upon the Police Authority to review those boundaries that divide existing neighbourhoods and cross political boundaries, such as the split that affects the Upper Stoke Ward".

The above amendment was carried, giving rise to the further substantive motion:

"This Council notes the recently published Government White Paper regarding policing and in particular this Council welcomes the opportunity to debate the future governance of our police.

This Council also welcomes the most generous financial increase in the Country from the Government for the West Midlands Police. We believe that the additional sums of money made available will help in the restructuring of the Force and in particular Local Command Units.

This Council also believes that Neighbourhood Policing Team boundaries should, wherever possible, match the political boundaries in Coventry and should avoid dividing communities. We therefore call upon the Police Authority to review those boundaries that divide existing neighbourhoods and cross political boundaries, such as the split that affects the Upper Stoke Ward".

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

## **Private Business**

Nil

(Meeting closed: 7.30 p.m.)