

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

Held on 18th March 2014, in the Council House, Coventry

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Crookes)
Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Noonan)

Councillor Abbott	Councillor Lancaster
Councillor Akhtar	Councillor Lepoidevin
Councillor Ali	Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Auluck	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Bains	Councillor Maton
Councillor Mrs Bigham	Councillor Mrs Miks
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Caan	Councillor J Mutton
Councillor Clifford	Councillor M Mutton
Councillor Duggins	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Fletcher	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Galliers	Councillor Sandy
Councillor Gannon	Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Gingell	Councillor Sehmi
Councillor Hammon	Councillor Singh
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Skinner
Councillor Hetherton	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Howells	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Innes	Councillor Thay
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Kershaw	Councillor Townshend
Councillor A Khan	Councillor Walsh
Councillor T Khan	Councillor Welsh
Councillor Lakha	

Honorary Alderman

Present:

Mr J Gazey

Apologies: Councillor Chater

Councillor Foster

Councillor Taylor

Honorary Alderman, Mr T Webb

Public Business

149. Minutes

The minutes of Meeting held on 25th February 2014 were signed as a true record.

150. West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Awards – Outstanding Citizen Award – Rose and Allen Tyrrell

On behalf of Bob Jones, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, Yvonne Mosquito, the West Midlands Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, and Councillor Abbott, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, presented Rose and Allen Tyrrell with the Outstanding Citizen Award. Their citation read:

“Known to all partner agencies for their work and commitment to the area in which they reside (Henley Ward) and to the City as a whole.

Their Enthusiasm to make things better knows no bounds and they work tirelessly in their endeavours to make the area a safer and more pleasant place to live.

They both attend a number of different meetings to do with the area and the City and play active roles in all they participate in.

Despite their many commitments the couple have taken on the initial training of Police Dogs, something they take very seriously, giving the young dogs every opportunity and experience they can.

The couple have experienced significant personal problems and ill health, yet they are still dedicated to the work they do for the community and show no sign or indication that they wish to slow down.

All of the works they do within the community are voluntary and nothing is done for personal gain.

The nature of much of their work means that they rarely get any recognition as there is often a need for anonymity. Members of this panel feel that this is a justifiable and long overdue recognition for these valued members of a very difficult community.”

151. West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Awards - Outstanding Young Citizen Award – Daniel Read

On behalf of Bob Jones, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, Councillor Abbott and Yvonne Mosquito, the West Midlands Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, and Councillor Abbott, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, presented Daniel Read with the Outstanding Young Citizen Award. His citation read:

“Daniel decided he wanted to do more for his community so he joined ‘Grapevine’ (organisation that helps disabled children and adults cope with everyday life).

Through this organisation Daniel has contributed to the lives of many people being particularly helpful in raising the confidence of members in activities like cooking, using public transport, going on holiday and many others.

He also DJ's for some of the many fundraising events that help fund Grapevine.

Within the last year he has become a member of St Oswald's Church organising fetes and helping out at the Foodbank.

Wanting to 'give back' to his own community Daniel has become a member of the Bannerbrook Organisation arranging meetings, fundraising events and activities.

He is undertaking a Princes Trust Programme and fundraises for their chosen Charity (Barnardos).

He has taken his compassion for this community further still by becoming an active member of his local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. He takes it upon himself to ensure that neighbours and members get to the meetings when they are scheduled.

In summary Daniel fundraises for a number of charities and focuses lots of his attention on encouraging young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour into more positive activities."

152. Coventry Good Citizen Award – Sue and John Farrell

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor presented Sue and John Farrell with the Coventry Good Citizen Award. Their citation read:

"Sue and John Farrell are a couple who have spent nearly half their lives as foster carers, having welcomed nearly 100 youngsters in to their home since deciding to take to fostering 30 years ago.

Through their selflessness and dedication they have supported many young people through a variety of situations and had a positive effect on many lives. Sue maintains that fostering is in her blood, following in the footsteps of both her own mother and grandmother, who also spent many years looking after a variety of children.

Some of the children they have cared for still have regular contact with them and refer to them as 'mum and dad'. One young boy came to them at the age of 6 for a short stay and over 20 years later he still lives with and is cared for by them.

Sue and John have a thirst for learning anything which will help them with their role and maintain that there is always something new to learn about fostering.

Their nomination for this recognition is a true testament to the positive effect that they have had on many young lives and are fitting recipients of the Good Citizen Award."

153. Retirement of Members

The Lord Mayor referred to Councillors Foster and Williams, who were not standing in the forthcoming Municipal Election.

Members of the City Council paid tribute to the work carried out by Councillors Foster and Williams over the years they had been Members of the Council and wished them both well for the future.

154. Petitions

RESOLVED that the following petitions be referred to the appropriate City Council body:

- (1) Request to Remove the One-Hour Parking on Arden Street – 76 signatures – presented by Councillor Andrews.**
- (2) Request to Fund/Sponsor the Parking Project in Front of the Shops on Hipswell Highway.” – 1,774 signatures – presented by Councillor Townshend.**
- (3) Request for Traffic Calming - Styvechale Grange and Leamington Road – 33 signatures – presented by Councillor Blundell.**
- (4) Flooding Problems Around the City End of Broad Lane – 146 signatures – presented by Councillor Hammon.**
- (5) Request for Pedestrian Crossing - Lynchgate Road – 1,729 signatures – presented by Councillor Blundell.**
- (6) Request for Road Safety Measures on and around Lynchgate Road – 1,184 signatures – presented by Councillor Blundell.**
- (7) Request to Remove the Red Route, Ansty Road – 193 signatures – presented by Councillor Abbott.**
- (8) Request to Approve the Planning Application for a Kashmiri Restaurant, 603-611 Stoney Stanton Road – 143 signatures – presented by Councillor Auluck.**
- (9) Request to Retain a 50 Metre Swimming Pool in Coventry – 748 signatures – presented by Councillor Skinner.**
- (10) Request for the Resurfacing of Bruntingthorpe Way – 36 signatures – presented by Councillor J Mutton.**
- (11) Request to Make Cannon Hill Road a 20mph Zone - 222 signatures – presented by Councillor Sawdon**

155. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

156. **Social Value Policy**

Further to Minute 126/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, People that sought approval for a Social Value Policy that set out how the Council would meet its obligations under the Public Services Act 2012.

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 (the “Act”) came into force on 31st January 2013 and placed a requirement on public bodies to consider how the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area in which they operated may be improved through the procurement of their services.

In order to comply with the Act, the Council had developed a draft Social Value Policy (attached as an appendix to the report) that set out how Coventry City Council would deliver social value through its commissioning and procurement activities and the Council’s priorities in relation to social value.

The Policy proposed that consideration of social value would be built into the initial stages of the commissioning cycle – when reviewing service provision, conducting a needs analysis, consulting stakeholders and/or the marketplace, and specifying the services to be procured. This would offer more genuine opportunities to community and voluntary groups to become involved, whilst maintaining focus on obtaining value for money.

All procurement decisions would be managed through the procurement processes set out in the Council’s Constitution.

RESOLVED that the Social Value Policy be approved.

157. **Question Time**

Councillor Duggins provided written answers to all the questions set out in the Questions Booklet, together with oral responses to supplementary questions put to him 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:

No	Question Asked By	Question Put To	Subject Matter
1	Councillor Lepoidevin	Councillor Duggins	Feedback from schools on how domestic violence notifications were being received and how they are impacting on safeguarding practices.
2	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Duggins	Funding of Children’s Services in the previous year.
3	Councillor Hammon	Councillor A Khan	Proposals for use of Heatline in the Friargate development and within the Council’s redundant buildings

			once moved to Friargate.
4	Councillor Hammon	Councillor Lancaster	Concerns from cyclists in relation to potholes.
5	Councillor Andrews	Councillor Lancaster	Bus Lane enforcement on Sky Blue Way.
6	Councillor Skinner	Councillor Ruane	Update on the retention of a 50m swimming pool in the City.
7	Councillor J Mutton	Councillor Gannon	Government decision to decline the right for Councillors to join Local Government Pension Schemes.
8	Councillor Sehmi	Councillor Townshend	Work carried out with the Police Commissioner to achieve 20 additional special constables.

158. Statements by the Leader – Cabinet Member (Education)

The Leader, Councillor Lucas, reported that Councillor Kershaw had resumed his Cabinet Member (Education) role from 3rd March 2014, following his recent ill health. The Leader welcomed Councillor Kershaw back and requested that her gratitude be formally placed on record to Councillor Chater for deputising as Acting Cabinet Member (Education) during Councillor Kershaw's absence.

159. Debate – European Union Referendum

Councillor Hammon moved the following Motion which was seconded by Councillor Lepoidevin:

"That this Council fully supports the Prime Minister's commitment to hold a referendum on the United Kingdom's membership in the European Union in 2017."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Abbott, seconded by Councillor J Mutton, and carried:-

After the words "This Council" delete the remainder of the debate and insert the following:

"believes that the uncertainty caused by an arbitrary timescale for a referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union is potentially damaging to business and prosperity in Coventry, and welcomes the approach of the Labour Party in offering a referendum only when there is a proposal to transfer further powers from Westminster. As a City which is open for business, Coventry City Council welcomes this approach, on the basis that it will provide greater certainty for business, families and individuals."

RESOLVED that the amended motion, as set below, be adopted:-

“This Council believes that the uncertainty caused by an arbitrary timescale for a referendum on the United Kingdom’s membership of the European Union is potentially damaging to business and prosperity in Coventry, and welcomes the approach of the Labour Party in offering a referendum only when there is a proposal to transfer further powers from Westminster. As a city which is open for business, Coventry City Council welcomes this approach, on the basis that it will provide greater certainty for business, families and individuals”

160 Debate – City Open For Business

Councillor Mrs Lucas moved the following Motion which was seconded by Councillor Townshend:

“This Council reaffirms its commitment that it is a City “Open for Business” and that the promotion of economic prosperity must be combined with the delivery of social justice. This Council will continue to work in the coming municipal year with all partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to promote:-

- 1) The creation of jobs;
- 2) Improved health outcomes and a reduction in health inequalities;
- 3) Better social care for older and vulnerable individuals;
- 4) Better and safer children’s services;
- 5) Education, employment and training for all, but, especially, young people;
- 6) Greater community safety through the “Safer Homes” initiative;
- 7) The development of alternative energy sources and supplies, both for commercial and domestic users;
- 8) The development of a greener environment; and
- 9) The development of high quality public services.

This Council evidences the delivery of such policies, thus far, by:

- a) The approval for development and planning permission for the Friargate development;
- b) The introduction of the Coventry Investment Fund;
- c) The reduction in teenage pregnancy rate;
- d) The assistance given to those penalised by “the bedroom tax”;
- e) The improvement in Primary School achievement;
- f) An investment of £5.6m in priority areas of delivery of children’s services in the municipal year 2014/15;
- g) The recruitment of 20 additional special constables as part of the “Safer Homes” initiative, and increased partnership working with the West Midlands Police;
- h) The introduction of Heatline;
- i) The retention of floral displays in the City Centre and the main arterial roads, and the promise to plant two new trees for every tree removed as a result of development;
- j) The creation of high quality public realm;
- k) A new model of working for advice services across the City.”

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Blundell, seconded by Councillor Andrews, and lost:

In d), after the words “those” delete the rest of the line and insert the following: -
“affected by the removal of the spare room subsidy”.

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

NOTES:

- (1) The Lord Mayor wished Councillor Duggins and the Chief Executive luck as they were due to compete in the Coventry Half Marathon on Sunday, 23rd March 2014.
- (2) On behalf of the City Council, Councillor Townshend, thanked the Lord Mayor for the manner in which he had chaired Council meetings during 2013/14.

(Meeting closed at 6.20 pm)

Chair

Date