

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
HELD AT THERSTONE MEMORIAL HALL, LONG STREET, ATHERSTONE
ON WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 2021**

Present: Councillor A Clews in the Chair.

Councillors Bell, Chambers, D Clews, Davey, Deakin, Dirveiks, Farrow, Hancocks, Hayfield, D Humphreys, M Humphreys, Jenns, Jordan, Morson, Moss, Osborne, Parker, Parsons, H Phillips, O Phillips, Reilly, Rose, Singh, S Smith, Symonds, A Wright and D Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gosling, Jarvis, Lees, Macdonald, McLauchlan, Parker, Simpson and L Smith.

12 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were declared at the meeting.

13 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 24 May 2021

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 24 May 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

14 Mayor's Announcements

There were no reports on recent Mayoral events.

15 Questions Pursuant to Standing Order No. 7

The following question was received from Councillor Chambers pursuant to Standing Order No 7:-

“In view of the very high rates of COVID 19 infection in this Borough, does the Council intend to update and reissue the public health guidance on face coverings and other public health measures sent to Members on May 21st?

In particular, will the Borough Council continue to encourage the wearing of face coverings by everyone moving around the Council house or any other venues where Borough Council meetings are being held?

Will the Council encourage and actively promote these simple public health measures by placing clear notices at the Council House entrances and within main circulation areas in council offices with the message “ for the safety of our staff , Councillors and the public please wear a face- covering if you can “ ?

The response from Councillor D Wright was as follows:

“By way of context, I am pleased to advise that at the moment the cases of infection in the country and North Warwickshire are falling significantly.

We will need to see if this is sustained but it is very welcome news. As of last evening North Warwickshire cases rate was 403 per 100,000 which is high but significantly down from the 822 per 100,000 this time last week.

Hospital cases locally remain low as well thanks mainly to the excellent vaccine roll out in our Borough. As of last evening 86.1% of adults had received the first dose, with 72.5% having had both doses. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our GP network and health colleagues for this fantastic performance and also urge anyone who has not yet received the vaccine to do so as soon as possible.

Officers have asked Public Health for the updated guidance Councillor Chambers refers to and we will circulate this as soon as it is received
As we have throughout the outbreak we are in the process of revising our risk assessments and will ensure they are in accordance with the latest Government guidance.

With regard to face coverings Members will be aware that these are no longer legally required. For our workplaces we will follow the advice that the government expects and recommends that people continue to wear face coverings in crowded, enclosed spaces where people will come into contact with people they do not normally meet”.

16 Minutes of Boards/Committees

a) Resources Board – 22 March and 14 June 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Symonds, seconded by Councillor D Clews and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Resources Board held on 22 March and 14 June 2021, be approved and adopted.

b) Planning and Development Board - 12 April and 23 June 2021

It was proposed by Councillor T Clews, seconded by Councillor D Humphreys and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Development held on 12 April and 23 June 2021, be approved and adopted.

c) Special Sub-Group – 8 June 2021

It was proposed by Councillor D Clews and seconded by Councillor D Wright and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Special Sub-Group held on 8 June 2021, be approved and adopted.

d) Executive Board – 21 July 2021

It was then proposed by Councillor D Wright and seconded by Councillor Symonds and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Executive Board held on 21 July 2021, be approved and adopted.

In relation to the recommendation for Allocation of Seats on Boards to Political Groups it was moved by Councillor Jack Deakin and seconded by Councillor Hayden Phillips that the allocations be amended to allocate 65.77% of the seats to the Conservative Group, 31.53% of the seats to the Labour Group and 2.70% of the seats to the Independent Member. On being put to the vote the amendment was not carried.

It was then further suggested by Councillor Deakin that the recommendation was altered so that the number of members of Executive was increased to 12, comprising 8 members of the Conservative Group and 4 members of the Labour Group. Councillors D. Wright and Symonds agreed to the alteration and, on being put to the vote, the Appointments to Boards was agreed subject to that amendment.

e) Community and Environment Board – 26 July 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Jenns and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Community and Environment held on 26 July 2021, be approved and adopted.

17 Amendment of Constitution – urgent business and moving reports at Council meetings

The report proposed amendments to the Constitution to make provision for consideration of urgent items of business and for clarifying the procedure to be followed in moving recommendations in reports.

Recommended:

- a That Standing Orders are amended to incorporate the provision set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report in relation to urgent items of business; and**

- b That Standing Orders are amended to incorporate the provisions set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report in relation to moving recommendations in reports.**

18 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.

19 To Receive and Consider the Confidential Extract of the minutes of the Resources Board – 22 March 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Symonds, seconded by Councillor D Clews and

Resolved:

That the confidential extract of the minutes of the Resources Board held on 22 March 2021, in which it was resolved that a further report be brought back to a future meeting of the Board for final determination of any action to be taken in relation to High Street Coleshill together with the recommendations therein, be approved and adopted.

20 To Receive and Consider the Confidential Extract of the minutes of the Special Sub-Group – 8 June 2021

It was proposed by Councillor D Clews and Councillor D Wright and

Resolved:

That the confidential extract of the minutes of the Special Sub Group held on 8 June 2021, which resolved to restructure the Environmental Health Team, together with the recommendations therein, be approved and adopted.

21 To Receive and Consider the Confidential Extract of the minutes of the Community and Environment Board – 26 July 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Jenns and

Resolved:

That the confidential extract of the minutes of the Community and Environment Board held on 26 July 2021, which resolved that the expenditure as set out in the report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development be met from the New Initiatives reserve, together with the recommendations therein, be approved and adopted.

22 **Common Seal**

It was proposed by Councillor D Wright and seconded by Councillor Morson.

Resolved:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to affix the Common Seal to any document as necessary to give effect to the decisions of the Council, in accordance with Article 13.05 of the Articles of the Constitution.

**Chairman of the next ensuing meeting
of the Council**