WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9 August 2017, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashford, Barrott, Mrs Bunker, Butler, Cain, Mrs Cain, Coker, Cooke, Cross, D'Arcy, Davies, Davison, Day, Doody, Edgington, Mrs Evetts, Mrs Falp, Gallagher, Gill, Miss Grainger, Grainger, Heath, Howe, Mrs Knight, Margrave, Mobbs, Morris, Murphy, Noone, Parkins, Phillips, Quinney, Shilton, Mrs Stevens, Thompson, Weed and Whiting.

(In the absence of Councillor Boad, Councillor Cross, as Vice-Chairman, chaired the meeting.)

19. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boad, Bromley, Gifford, Mrs Hill, Illingworth, Mrs Redford and Rhead.

20. Declarations of Interest

Minute 25 – Report of the Executive

Councillor D'Arcy declared a personal interest in Executive Minute 17 of 28 June 2017 because she was a Friend of St Mary's Lands.

21. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 June 2017 were taken as read and, subject to the addition of apologies from Councillor Gallagher were duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

22. Communications & Announcements

The Chairman led thanks on behalf of the Council to Mr C Wiggins who after forty years of service to the Council, most recently as Chauffeur to the Chairman, was retiring. Councillors Mrs Bunker, Coker, Doody, Heath, Mrs Knight and Shilton all offered their thanks for the service provided by Mr Wiggins.

The Chairman presented the Federation of Small Business awards to the Food Safety Team and Procurement Team for their work in supporting small and medium enterprises.

The Chairman informed Council that there was no business to be conducted under Item 5 Petitions, Item 6 Notices of Motion and Item 7 Public Submissions.

23. Leader's and Portfolio Holders' Statements

The Leader, Councillor Mobbs, informed Council that the Local Plan had been found to be sound by the inspector. He had noted the statements from interested parties that this was a disaster, however the Council believed in the Plan and what it delivered for the District.

The Leader, Councillor Mobbs, informed Council that the leisure centres transfer of staff had gone well with significant training being provided, no TUPE issues, more staff were being recruited and over 9,600 people had signed up to the everyone active cards.

The Leader, Councillor Mobbs, informed Council that following the Houses in Multiple Occupation Task & Finish Group report to Executive, when the recommendations had been accepted, an officer working group had been established to bring this work forward.

The Leader, Councillor Mobbs, took the opportunity to thank Councillors Cross and Shilton for all their work during their time on the Executive.

The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Grainger, informed the Council that her service area had been working closely with Warwick University in preparation for the new students arriving in September/October 2017. This work involved the promotion of our recycling service and the need for recycling to be sorted appropriately.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Council Coker, informed Council that with regard to the Audio system in the Council Chamber, investigations were underway with a current supplier under framework. This was with a view to provide a new solution at the Town Hall for all rooms used for meetings, allow for streaming of meetings plus contain a vision that the system would be transferable to the new HQ.

24. **Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders**

Councillor Barrott asked the Portfolio Holder for Business whether in view of the recent Gypsy/Traveller illegal encampments in the District, if it was possible to have an update on progress on future site provision; and if there was any possibility of using some Council land?

In response the Leader confirmed that £170,000 had been allocated by the Council to prevent illegal encampments on Council land. With regard to permanent site provision, this matter had moved forward and officers were liaising with interested parties to move forward as quickly as possible. A briefing on 14 September for all Councillors would provide further detail on this matter.

Councillor Davison, asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services why trees within Riverside House grounds that were afforded Tree Preservation Order Status were no longer present and without Council records of the reason they were removed or were no longer present?

Councillor Grainger explained that this would be a matter for Councillor Rhead, as Development Portfolio Holder but he was currently away.

Councillor Davison, asked the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services about the problems with pigeons in Leamington especially in the railway bridge over Clemens Street. While he noted the work by the District Council to ensure Network Rail maintained the netting on the bridge, this had not come to fruition and therefore would it be possible to pursue them under section 74 of the Public Health Act to stop this nuisance?

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Councillor Grainger explained that she had been shocked and disappointed with yet more delay from Network Rail and asked for Councillor Davison to pass her the details of the Public Health Act so she could follow this up.

Councillor Mrs Falp, thanked the Portfolio Holder for Business for his most recent email on St Mary's Lands and asked if he would be responding to the other emails Councillors had received from the Friends of St Mary's Lands and other residents?

In response Councillor Butler confirmed he would be.

Councillor Quinney asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing, if he could provide the Council with a timescales for the actions outlined in his fire safety report update; and if there had been any feedback on the cladding test that had been undertaken?

In response Councillor Phillips confirmed that there was a Senior Officer Group meeting weekly to ensure that the action plan was kept on track and in four weeks there would be another meeting with Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS). The majority of the work would be completed this financial year. Decisions needed to be informed as information became available from the Grenfell Tower investigation, followed by prioritisation of this work and ensuring it was completed. There was no ACM Cladding on any Council buildings and at present advice from WFRS was that our cladding did not need to be tested.

Councillor Quinney asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing for clarification on the timescales for safety checks on mid and low rise blocks?

In response Councillor Phillips confirmed that there were regular monthly and weekly checks which would continue.

25. **Report of the Executive**

Council considered the minutes of the Executive meetings held on 12 April 2017, 1 June 2017, along with excerpts of the minutes of 28 June 2017 and 26 July 2017 which detailed the part 1 items for Council to determine.

Councillor Barrott asked a question of clarification regarding Executive minute 17 of 28 June 2017 regarding St Mary's Lands and consultation on future aspects of the project. Councillor Butler confirmed that consultation would be undertaken as appropriate.

Councillor Davison sought clarification of the savings that would result from the revised Leisure Contract, which the Portfolio Holder agreed to clarify and have circulated to all Councillors.

Councillors Barrott, Mrs Bunker, Coker, Doody, Mrs Falp and Parkins all made statements regarding Minute 16, Review of Warwick District Council Members' Allowances Scheme, of the Executive meeting on 28 June 2017.

Councillor Mobbs proposed an amendment to the Mission Statement of the Council so that it read:

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"To deliver our ambitions for the communities of Warwick District by: investing in our services; working as One Council and in partnership with others; being Enterprising in our approach; making the most of our creativity and innovation; transforming our services through the use of digital and other technologies; maximising the use of our assets; employing, engaging and empowering great staff."

The minutes along with the amendment were duly seconded and

Resolved that the minutes of the Executive meetings held on 12 April 2017, 1 June 2017, along with excerpts of the minutes of 28 June 2017 and 26 July 2017 which detailed the part 1 items for Council to determine, were approved.

26. **Employment Committee Report**

Council considered to consider the report from Employment Committee on 22 March 2017

Resolved that the report of the Employment Committee on 22 March 2017 be approved.

27. **Appointment as a Planning Committee Substitute**

Resolved that Councillor Ashford be appointed as a substitute for the Conservative Group on Planning Committee.

28. **Councillor Attendance at meetings 2016/17**

The Council considered a report that outlined Councillors attendance at Council, Executive, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings during the municipal year 2016/17.

Resolved that

(1) the attendance of Members at Council, Executive, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings during the municipal year 2016/17, be noted;

(2) during the municipal year 2016/17 some Councillors had health problems that resulted in them being unable to attend meetings for a period of time be noted.

29. **Press and Public**

Resolved that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government

(Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

Item Nos.	Para Nos.	Reason
15	1	Information relating to an Individual
15	2	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
15	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
15	5	Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

30. **Confidential Executive Report**

Resolved that the confidential minutes of the Executive meetings held on 12 April 2017 and 1 June 2017 be noted.

31. **Common Seal**

It was

Resolved that the Common Seal of Warwick District Council be affixed to such documents as may be required for implementing decisions of the Council arrived at this day.

(The meeting ended at 7.26 pm)

Signature Redacted
The minutes were signed 20 September 2017