

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

16 OCTOBER 2024

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Ward), Councillors Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Daly, Dumbleton, S Edwards, Freeman, Garcia, Gillias, Harrington, Hassell, Henderson, Howling, Karadiar, J Keeling, Lawrence, Lewis, Livesey, Maoudis, Mistry, Moran, New, O'Rourke, Poole, Robinson, Roodhouse, Russell, Sandison, Simpson-Vince, Thomas, Timms, Trimble and Willis.

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors C Edwards, D Keeling, McKenzie, Parker, Picker, Sayani, Slinger and Willis.

32. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2024 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

School visits

The Mayor had attended Bilton High School with Lauren Henry, Paris Olympian, and had spoken to all students over six different assemblies. The Mayor also went with Kimberley Woods, Paris Olympian, to her former school St Marie's Catholic Primary where they met years 3-6. The students at both schools were just in awe at their achievements and were full of questions for them.

The Mayor also visited Clifton-Upon-Dunsmore primary school recently. The Mayor wished to give a special mention to the Head Boy and Girl and their deputies who showed him round and were so enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their school.

Visits into the Town Hall including Chamber and Parlour

Wolston St Margaret's Primary School Council (years 3-6) had written to the Mayor with concerns about flooding earlier in the year. The Mayor invited them in to have a debate and to ask questions and to give them a voice. The students did lots of research beforehand talking to residents and local

businesses to get a bit of an insight. Deputy Chief Executive, Dan Green, and Chief Officer for Regulation and Safety, David Burrows, were in attendance along with fellow Ward Councillors Derek Poole and Tim Willis. The students showed a really good understanding of climate change and some of the issues that we face as a society now and in the future.

Current Year 4 students from Abbots Farm Primary School had also written into the Mayor in practising writing complaint letters and using their imaginations. The theme was from the children's film "Cloudy with Meatballs". They imagined that, just like in the film, but specific to Rugby, rain from the sky was turning into food due to an invention and asked the Mayor what he could do about this. The Mayor invited the students to the Town Hall to debate their theme and give the children a voice. All students really articulated themselves well and spoke so confidently about the subject (albeit imaginary).

Rugby Police Cadets came into the Town Hall last week over two evenings (Tuesday for the Senior Cadets and Thursday for the Junior Cadets). On both evenings a debate was held about e-scooters and the legislation around them and whether they should they be made legal or not. On the Tuesday the Mayor was joined by the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Emma Daniell, and fellow councillor, Derek Poole, who is a former police officer and police cadet. On the Thursday the Mayor was joined by his cadet and Dawn Thurkettle, the new police chaplain. The debates brought out well thought out discussions and responses. The police cadets are a real credit to the youth engagement team.

Other engagements

On 12 October, the Mayor had the honour of presenting a Queens Award to Freya Morley for her service to Rugby Girls' Brigade. Part of Freya's voluntary work included three months in Tanzania teaching young children. The Mayor looked forward to inviting Freya and her family into the Parlour soon to hear more about her story. Freya is involved in so many different initiatives and a real credit to the community.

The Mayor had had the pleasure earlier that day of meeting Chelsie Giles, judo Olympian. I had been wonderful to hear all about her story so far and her aspirations for the future. The Mayor hoped to continue conversations with Chelsie about future upcoming events and potential visits.

The Mayor's charity, the Our Jay Foundation, would be unveiling the 200th 24/7 accessible defibrillator in Jamie Rees' name on 24 October which is an incredible achievement and an amazing legacy.

The foundation will have secured the following number of defibrillators:

OurJay accessible defibrillators - 200 (on 24th October 2024)

Snap Fitness defibrillators - 57

Pitchside defibrillators (grass roots clubs) - 22

Vehicle defibrillators - 8

Over the last 12 months there have been 178 deployments, some needed, some not used, with six deployments this week alone.

OurJay defibrillators have saved 11 lives with the Bleed control kits saving 1 life.

The Mayor and all those present at the meeting gave a round of applause to the Our Jay Foundation for its incredible achievements.

35. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

Councillor Daly submitted the following question to the Partnerships and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, Councillor O'Rourke:

“On Saturday 2nd November, Rugby Round Table will host 'Rugby's 71st annual Firework Spectacular' at Whinfield Park.

Last year, significant damage was caused to Whinfield Recreation Ground during the fireworks event, meaning large areas of the of the park were inaccessible to residents for weeks and the Saturday morning Parkrun had to be suspended.

Can the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Wellbeing please explain to Council what measures are being put in place this year to prevent a repeat of last year's damage?”

Councillor O'Rourke, Partnerships and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, provided the following response:

“Following the annual Rugby Round Table fireworks display delivered at Whinfield Recreation Ground in 2023, Council officers and Rugby Roundtable organising committee met to review the event and discuss the issues experienced post event.

The review also considered the location, event management, pre-event planning and post event outcomes.

This included an assessment of potential other sites with a final agreement that Whinfield Recreation Ground was the most suitable and appropriate location for future events due to a number of factors including physical size of the space.

The Round Table organising committee have worked hard to review the event and have considered improvements to help reduce and mitigate the impact as experienced in 2023.

The organising committee have completed an event plan including risk assessments and insurances to the Safety Advisory Group for approval as per Council event guidance.

All firework displays pose challenges to event spaces as they are often held on large open spaces that may be experiencing wet conditions due to inclement weather.

Through communication and information sharing with relevant Council departments, the risk of post event disruption is minimised but unfortunately cannot be guaranteed.

The event application form does enable a cancellation of the event but officers and the Round Table organising committee will work collaboratively to mitigate this requirement."

36. REPORT OF CABINET – 7 OCTOBER 2024

RESOLVED THAT – the report of Cabinet be confirmed and adopted.

37. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(a) Appointments to Outside Bodies – by virtue of office and miscellaneous appointments

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 7(a)) concerning appointments to outside bodies for 2024/25.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the re-appointments listed in the tables attached at Appendices 1 and 2 be approved;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Legal & Governance in consultation with Group Leaders to appoint to the Bilton Poor's Land and Other Charities, Rugby Borough Neighbourhood Watch, Coventry Airport Consultative Committee, Percival Guildhouse (AGM), and Butlin and Elborow Housing Trust; and
- (3) the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Wellbeing be appointed to the West Midlands Employers (WME) Shareholders Board.

(b) Conferment of Honour of Freedom of the Borough

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing (Part 1 – agenda item 7(b)) concerning a proposal to confer the honour of Freedom of the Borough on Chelsie Giles, Lauren Henry, Kimberley Woods, recent Olympian medallists from the borough.

RESOLVED THAT – subject to accepting the nomination, the conferment of the honour of Freedom of the Borough be bestowed upon the nominees as detailed in the report.

38. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, no motions on notice were considered at the meeting.

39. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

40. PRIVATE REPORT OF CABINET – 7 OCTOBER 2024

RESOLVED THAT – the private report of Cabinet be confirmed and adopted.

41. PRIVATE REPORT OF OFFICERS

(a) Temporary Technical Accountant

Council considered the private additional report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance concerning a proposed temporary Technical Accountant role.

RESOLVED THAT – the recommendation, as detailed in the report, be approved.

MAYOR