

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

14 MARCH 2022

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Deepah Brojohomun-Roberts), Councillors Mrs Allanach, Mrs A'Barrow, Bearne, Brader, Mrs Brown, Cade, Mrs Crane, Daly, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Ellis, Mrs Garcia, Gillias, Mrs Hassell, Keeling, Miss Lawrence, Lewis, Lowe, McQueen, Mistry, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Mrs Parker, Picker, Poole, Rabin, Ms Robbins, Roberts, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Sandison, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Srivastava, Mrs Timms, Ms Watson-Merret and Dr Williams.

105. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Mahoney, Mrs Maoudis, Shera and Willis.

106. MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 22 February 2022 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 6(a) of Part 1 – Appointments to Outside Bodies – Miscellaneous Appointments – Councillor Mrs Roodhouse (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being Chair of Lawrence Sheriff Almshouses).

Item 6(a) of Part 1 – Appointments to Outside Bodies – Miscellaneous Appointments – Councillor Miss Lawrence (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a trustee of Hillmorton Charities).

Item 6(a) of Part 1 – Appointments to Outside Bodies – Miscellaneous Appointments – Councillor Gillias (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a trustee of Lawrence Sheriff Almshouses).

Item 6(b) of Part 1 – Housing Strategy 2022-2024 – Councillor Douglas (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of his employment).

108. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed all Members and officers back to the Council Chamber for the first Council meeting in the Town Hall since the start of the pandemic. Councillor Roodhouse had submitted an email to the Leader of the Council, the Labour Group

Leader and the Executive Director with the views of his Group on the return to the Chamber and these had been duly noted.

The Mayor recently wrote to the Mayor of Kyiv to express Rugby's concern regarding the current situation between Ukraine and Russia and to share the borough's solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Rugby is a proud, multi-racial and diverse town and home to people from many different countries, all of whom are part of our communities. Rugby supports Ukraine as a sovereign, self-governing state and hopes that the situation will be peacefully resolved soon.

The borough's thoughts were with all those affected by the conflict and everyone stood together with our Ukrainian friends at this desperate time.

Residents who may be moved to help those affected by this crisis could find information about how they could donate on the Council's website (www.rugby.gov.uk/Ukraine.)

Members had been informed that Canisius Fulmai, the Council's Environmental Education Officer, passed away on Tuesday 7 March after a long illness. Canisius joined the Council in October 2016 and was based in the Works Services Unit. Much of his work was focused on improving the borough's recycling rates and promoting community involvement in litter picking. All Members and officers present joined the Mayor and stood in a moment's silence in memory of Canisius.

109. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions.

110. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(a) Appointments to Outside Bodies – Miscellaneous Appointments

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 6(a)) concerning the appointment of Council representatives to outside bodies.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) Councillor J Roodhouse be appointed to the Trustees of Lawrence Sheriff Almshouses for a term of office expiring on 9 November 2023;
- (2) Councillor Miss Lawrence and Mrs Cameron be re-appointed to the Trustees of Hillmorton Charities for a term of office expiring on 14 March 2026; and
- (3) Mr Steele-Bodger be appointed to replace Mr Sewell to the Trustees of Hillmorton Charities for a term of office expiring on 21 May 2024.

(b) Housing Strategy 2022 - 2024

Council considered the additional report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes concerning the Council’s proposed Housing Strategy for 2022 – 2024.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Housing Strategy for 2022-24, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer of Communities and Homes to make any non-material amendments.

(c) Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers – Review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer – Regulation and Safety (Part 1 – agenda item 6(c) concerning an urgent decision taken under delegated powers with regard to a review of Public Space Protection Orders.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

111. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

In accordance with the Council’s Constitution, no motions on notice had been received for consideration.

112. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

113. COMMON SEAL

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, and

RESOLVED THAT – the Common Seal be affixed to the various orders, deeds and documents to be made or entered into for carrying into effect the several decisions, matters and things approved by the Council and more particularly set out in the reports adopted at this meeting.

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

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and

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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

115. PRIVATE REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(a) Former Biart Place development site

Council considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 2 – agenda item 1(a)) concerning the former Biart Place development site.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the development of Biart Place as social rented homes for inclusion in the Housing Revenue Account portfolio be approved, broadly in accordance with the mix outlined in section 6 of the report, subject to detailed design and planning permission being granted;
- (2) a supplementary capital budget outlined in section 11 of the report be approved to be financed from existing borrowing for the development of Biart Place and a Homes England grant;
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Executive Director to agree potential Homes England grant terms (the grant will reduce capital outlay); and
- (4) the project be delivered in accordance with the Council's Project Management and Governance process, detailed in section 12 of the report.

(b) Rugby Markets

Council considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 2 – agenda item 1(b)) the markets within Rugby town centre.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) Option C as outlined in the report be approved; and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director to enter into any necessary legal agreements to authorise the appointment of a third party to manage and promote the existing operating agreement in relation to the markets.

MAYOR