

# MINUTES OF COUNCIL

4 FEBRUARY 2020

## PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor W H Lewis), Councillors Mrs Allanach, Mrs A'Barrow, Bearne, Brader, Mrs Bragg, Mrs Brown, Butlin, Cade, Mrs Crane, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Eccleson, Ellis, Mrs Garcia, Gillias, Leigh Hunt, Keeling, Miss Lawrence, Lowe, McQueen, Mahoney, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Mrs Parker, Picker, Ms Robbins, Roberts, Mrs Roberts, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Stokes and Mrs Timms.

## 69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Brown, Cranham, Mistry, Pacey-Day, Poole, Sandison, Shera and Srivastava.

## 70. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 71. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor was very pleased to announce that Rugby's Urban Meadows programme had received a Bees' Needs Champion Award 2019 from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for its contribution to supporting pollinators and increasing the range of plant species, invertebrates, birds and other wildlife. Gladstone Green pocket park and Centenary Park in Newbold also picked up the award. The Bees' Needs award, which celebrates bee-conservation efforts through active support for pollinating insects, had been made to just 33 winners across the UK in 2019. The judges were impressed by the rapid increase of biodiversity and bee-friendly wildflowers evident at the Urban Meadows sites as well as the continuing success of the nectar-rich planting at Gladstone Green and Centenary Park.

The Mayor congratulated all officers and volunteers involved in the project.

The Mayor had attended contrasting events last weekend. On Friday night he joined a group of ten to sleep out in the open on a car park and on Saturday night he attended a formal dinner to celebrate the 52<sup>nd</sup> year of Rugby Rokeby Lions.

From 11pm on Friday night to 6.30am on Saturday morning the Mayor took part in the Hope4 Sponsored Sleepout. His sponsorship was still open and Members were encouraged to make a donation on the Hope4 Sleepout website or direct to the Mayor after the meeting.

## **72. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **(a) Draft Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2020/21**

Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 5(a) concerning the draft Housing Revenue Account capital and revenue budgets for 2020/21.

#### **RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) the proposed revenue and capital budget estimates for 2020/21 at Appendices A and B inclusive of a 2.7% increase in rents be approved;
- (2) service charges be amended as outlined in the report; and
- (3) following the abolition of the statutory HRA Limit on Indebtedness (“debt cap”) a local indicator of £152m is agreed for the period 2020-2024.

**MAYOR**