

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

4 FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENT:

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

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Henderson, Parker, Russell and Slinger.

61. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2024 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5 of Part 1 – Questions pursuant to Standing Order 10 – Councillor Lawrence (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a trustee of Bilton Poor's Land Charity and Ward Councillor).

Item 6(a)(3) – Climate Change Adaptation Plan – Councillor Timms (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being Warwickshire County Council's Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate and Culture).

63. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the meeting of the achievements so far of Rugby Borough Women's football team. On 9 February, the team would have their FA Cup fifth round tie against Liverpool Women at home at Kilsby Lane, Rugby. The Mayor was looking forward to personally attending the match and showing his support. The whole of Rugby would be supporting them. The game will also be shown live on TV. This will be a great occasion for the team and the community and will no doubt help to raise the profile of the women's game and that of Rugby Borough Women.

The Mayor had recently had the pleasure of welcoming two singer songwriters from Rugby, Emily Burns and Jessie May, plus their families and friends into the Mayor's Parlour on separate occasions. Both Emily and Jessie performed some of their songs acoustically in the Parlour.

Emily had recently celebrated the release of her debut album “Die Happy” which came out in November, and she has a whole catalogue of songs, being a signed artist who has supported the likes of James Arthur, Rag n Bone Man and collaborated with J P Cooper.

Jessie was celebrating the release of her debut single “Easily” which came out on 27 January. Jessie wrote the song when she was just 13/14 years old and has now released it aged 19. Jessie will also be looking to release further songs throughout the year.

The Mayor announced that he would be hosting a charity ball on 29 March from 7.00pm until late at the Benn Hall for his mayoral charity, the OurJay Foundation. The theme will be to dress up smart and wear something blue as that was Jamie Rees’ favourite colour. Emily and Jessie would be performing as well as other local talented artists, including Thea Watson, DJ Rob Facer and a Killers tribute act plus an auction with some great items. All funds raised will go to the OurJay Foundation. If anyone is interested in tickets and/or sponsorship opportunities, then please email ourjaymayoralball@yahoo.com.

64. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

Councillor Lawrence submitted the following question to the Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mistry:

"Could the Portfolio Holder clarify the process by which an appointment was made to Bilton Poor's Land and how the administration engaged with the charity in order to confirm this appointment?"

Councillor Mistry, Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio Holder, provided the following response:

“An appointment was made by the Council with a view to this being confirmed by Bilton Poor’s Land. Following a response by the charity, I have requested further legal advice and an overall review. The conclusions of this advice will form the basis of the Council’s response to Bilton Poor’s Land charity.”

Councillor Lawrence then asked the Portfolio Holder if the leadership of the Council would respect the wishes of Bilton Poor’s Land charity and withdraw its nomination. Councillor Mistry referred to his earlier response provided and informed the Council that a report would be brought back to Council and a written response provided for Councillor Lawrence.

65. REPORT OF CABINET – 21 JANUARY 2025

Council considered the report of Cabinet dated 21 January 2025. A request was made from a Member for a vote to be taken separately on each item. The following items were, therefore, considered and voted on separately.

(1) Air Quality Action Plan

It was moved by Councillor C Edwards, seconded by Councillor Livesey and

RESOLVED THAT - the Annual Status Report 2024 and the Air Quality Action Plan 2024-2028 be adopted.

(2) Establishment of Rugby Landlord Forum

It was moved by Councillor C Edwards, seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the establishment of a new Rugby Landlord Forum be supported; and

(2) the Chief Officer for Regulation and Safety be given delegated authority to establish the Forum and its structure.

(3) Climate Change Adaptation Plan

It was moved by Councillor Livesey, seconded by Councillor Harrington and

RESOLVED THAT – the Climate Change Adaptation Plan be adopted.

66. REPORT OF CABINET – 3 FEBRUARY 2025

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

67. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(a) Localism Act 2011 – Pay Policy Statement

Council considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Part 1 – agenda item 7(a)) concerning the Council's pay policy statement.

RESOLVED THAT – the new Pay Policy Statement, as at Appendix 1, be adopted with immediate effect.

68. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, there were no motion on notice to be considered.

69. 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 item on the

grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

70. PRIVATE REPORT OF CABINET – 21 JANUARY 2025

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

MAYOR