

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**CABINET**  
**THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,**  
**KIDDERMINSTER**  
**26TH JANUARY 2006 (6PM)**

---

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: S J M Clee (Chairman), M J Hart (Vice-Chairman), J-P Campion, N J Desmond, J W Dudley, Mrs A T Hingley.

**OBSERVERS:**

Councillors: G W Ballinger, M A W Hazlewood, M B Kelly, C D Nicholls and Mrs F M Oborski

**CAB.178 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**CAB.179 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CAB.180 MINUTES**

**DECISION:**

**The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd December 2005 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CAB.181 CALL INS**

No decisions had been called in since the last Cabinet meeting.

**CAB.182 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION**

There were no items that requiring urgent attention.

---

---

**CAB.183 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**(1) Letter of Apology**

The Leader had received a letter from the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority apologising for a typing error in the consultation document that had been sent out regarding Primary Care Trusts. Reference had been made to Wychavon District Council instead of Wyre Forest District Council. The Leader had sent a letter of acknowledgement noting their comments.

**(2) Richard Eve Memorial**

Following the Cabinet meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2005, when the restoration of the Richard Eve Memorial had been discussed, (Cabinet Minute number CAB125 refers), a letter had been sent to the local Freemasons requesting financial support to restore the Richard Eve Memorial.

A letter had now been received from the Freemasons confirming their willingness to provide a small amount of financial support towards the restoration project.

**CAB.184 FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2006 - 2009 - PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs gave an oral presentation on the Financial Strategy for 2006 - 2009 for the benefit of members of the public.

At the end of the presentation he asked if there were any questions from the members of public who were in attendance. There were none.

Members of Wyre Forest District Council were afforded the opportunity to raise questions and raised the following:

---

- 
1. The view was expressed that litter picking was not something that should be confined to the summer months it should be a year-round activity.
  2. It was noted that consideration was being given to the appointment of an Access Officer and it was hoped that this would be looked on favourably as it would show the Council's commitment to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).
  3. With regard to public conveniences, it was hoped that there would be a review of the expenditure in some detail. There was concern about the state of some toilets - particularly those in Brinton Park.
  4. It was queried how much money was likely to be forthcoming from the Freemasons for the restoration of the Richard Eve Memorial. (This would be advised when the figure was known).

**DECISION:**

**The information in the oral presentation from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs be noted.**

**CAB.185 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services that asked that consideration be given to a request for assistance with the purchase of sheet music for use at charity fund raising concerts.

**DECISION:**

**The Kidderminster Valentines be granted £300 to assist with the purchase of sheet music for use at charity fund-raising concerts.**

**CAB.186 SHAMBLES AT BEWDLEY MUSEUM - EMERGENCY ROOF REPAIRS**

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that sought endorsement of the action taken in relation to emergency expenditure for repairs at Bewdley Museum.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs explained that before Christmas it was discovered that the roof of The Shambles was dangerous and urgent repair work was required if the Museum were to open as planned in the spring.

**DECISION:**

1. **The emergency expenditure of up to £30,000 that has been incurred by the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services under Financial Regulation 7.8. in order to undertake urgent repairs to the roof of The Shambles at Bewdley Museum be noted.**

- 
2. **A supplementary estimate of up to £30,000 to cover the work in the current financial year in relation to the emergency expenditure referred to in paragraph 2.1. of the report to Cabinet be granted.**
  3. **The Cabinet incorporate a supplementary estimate into its budget proposals to be considered at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006.**

**CAB.187 RANGERS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that advised of a successful application to the Children's Fund and other partners for a Rangers Development Officer for two years from April 2006 to March 2008.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services stated that the aim of the Rangers Development Officer post was to engage young people between the ages of 5 and 19 from the socially deprived areas of the District, in environmental outdoor educational activities. The postholder would work with schools and clubs to build a better understanding of the local environment.

The funding for the post would be met from external services.

**DECISION:**

1. **Approval be given to a two-year fixed-term post of Ranger Development Officer from April 2006, to be funded from the Worcestershire Children's Fund Grant, as detailed in the report to Cabinet.**
2. **The base budget be amended in the financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08 and be included in the Cabinet's proposal to Council.**

**CAB.188 REVISED CAR PARK CHARGES - OCTOBER 2006**

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that requested the Cabinet to review charges made under the Car Park Places Order.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration commented that the Council, at its meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2005 had implemented a policy of reviewing car park charges on an annual basis in order to avoid the large increase in prices that resulted from the previous system whereby they were reviewed every two years.

---

He noted the Petition from Stourport residents regarding the criteria for senior citizens' eligibility to purchase car-parking permits. He acknowledged that the scheme appeared unfair as originally women could apply for a permit at 60 and men at 65. The scheme was then changed to allow men and women to apply for these permits at age 63. As a result under the current service option it was proposed to change the scheme to allow that in the future all men and women who were 60 years of age could apply for permits.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

- 1. The increased Pay and Display and permit charges, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet, be recommended to Council for implementation from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006.**
- 2. Subject to there being no objections to the variation, which cannot be resolved, the amended criteria for the issuing of Senior Citizens' Parking Permits be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services, be authorised to amend the Car Park Places Order, as appropriate and to issue revised Terms and Conditions for the purchase of Senior Citizens' Car Parking Permits.**
- 3. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services, be authorised to advertise any amendments that may be required to the Car Park Places Order and implement them as appropriate.**

**CAB.189 THE LIST OF BUILDINGS OF LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL AND/OR HISTORIC INTEREST (THE LOCAL LIST) - STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that sought approval of the proposed List of Buildings of Local Interest (The Local List) for Stourport-on-Severn and agreement for the arrangements for public consultation on the proposals.

The Adopted District Local Plan outlined the District Council's intention to compile a Local List of Buildings and Structures in accordance with advice contained in PPG15. Objective 33 of the Local Plan was to "safeguard the particular characteristics of the District's urban and rural environments that were unique. Members noted that the original list had been amended to include two additional items, namely Stour Lane Wall, the boundary wall to the original Carpets of Worth site and the Severn Road Office building.

**DECISION:**

- 1. The buildings be included in the draft Local List of Buildings of Local Architectural and or Historic interest for public consultation, as set out in the amended Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet.**

- 
2. **The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to undertake public consultation on the initial draft proposals for Stourport-on-Severn, as set out in paragraph 5.1` of the report to Cabinet.**
  3. **Officers undertake the public consultation to gauge the opinion of all affected persons, with a report back to Members of the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel at the end of the consultation period, to indicate the level of public support for the list and its contents to enable Members to make recommendations regarding the adoption of the list.**

**CAB.190 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANELS**

The Chairman of the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel was in attendance to present the recommendations of her Panel from its meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

**1. Stourport Forward**

The Chairman of the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel was grateful for the excising work that had been undertaken with them. It was noted that they had offered the Council a grant towards skateboarding provision.

**DECISION: The recommendation, as printed in the report to Cabinet, be agreed.**

**2. The List of Local Architectural and/or Historic Interest (The Local List) - Stourport-on-Severn**

The Panel had recommended to Cabinet that a public consultation be held to gauge the opinion of all affected persons. They also recommended that a report be made back to Members of the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel at the end of the consultation period to indicate the level of public support for the List and its contents to enable Members to make recommendations regarding the adoption of the list.

This recommendation was considered in conjunction with the report at Minute CAB.189 above and was adopted by the Cabinet as recorded in Decision 3 of that minute.

**3. Telecommunications Planning (Control) Bill**

The Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel had considered a letter from the Campaign for Planning Sanity regarding the Telecommunication (Planning Control) Bill.

---

---

The Chairman of the Panel commented that some of the most contentious applications that were considered by the Planning (Development Control) Committee were those relating to applications for telecommunications masts.

If masts were not above a certain height the Mobile Phone companies did not have to apply for planning permission to install them. However David Curry, MP, had been successful in the ballot for Private Members and he would be presenting the second reading of the Telecommunications (Planning Control) Bill on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The Bill called for a more robust planning regime that would protect more sensitive locations from future development. It also called for greater capability for local planning authorities to control telecom development within their own borders as well as providing greater support for the removal of existing installations that were considered to be sited insensitively.

The Chairman of the Panel asked if the Cabinet would send a letter of support as replies were required before the date of the next Council meeting.

DECISION:

- 1. The Cabinet support David Curry's Telecommunications (Planning Control) Bill and call for telecommunication masts to be the subject of full planning controls with permitted development rights removed.**
- 2. A copy of the letter from the Campaign for Planning Sanity dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2006, together with the Cabinet's response be forwarded to Dr Richard Taylor, MP, the President of the Liberal Democrats, and all Worcestershire MPs and MEP's for their consideration with a request to support the Cabinet in its response to the Bill.**

**CAB.191 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**DECISION**

**"Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.**

**CAB.192 MINUTES**

The Exempt Minutes of the Cabinet held on 22nd December 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm.