

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Greg Brackenridge (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed	Cllr Steve Evans	Cllr Beverley Momenabadi (V)
Cllr Qaiser Azeem	Cllr Val Evans (V)	Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre	Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE	Cllr Celia Hibbert	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Olivia Birch	Cllr Keith Inston	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Dr Paul John Birch J.P.	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal (V)	Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Ian Brookfield	Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal (V)	Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal (V)	Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Christopher Burden	Cllr Rashpal Kaur	Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Alan Butt	Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur	Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Craig Collingswood (V)	Cllr Linda Leach	Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Claire Darke	Cllr Asha Mattu (V)	Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman (V)
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar	Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN	Cllr Gillian Wildman

Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby	Cllr Andrew McNeil
Cllr Simon Bennett	Cllr Andrew Randle
Cllr Adam Collinge	Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Jonathan Crofts	Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Wendy Dalton	Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Christopher Haynes	Cllr Ellis Turrell
Cllr Stephanie Haynes	Cllr Jonathan Yardley
Cllr Sohail Khan	

Independent Member

Cllr Harman Banger

Employees

Tim Johnson	Chief Executive
Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
Ross Cook	Director of City Housing and Environment
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Laura Phillips	Deputy Director of People and Change
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bhupinder Gakhal, John Reynolds and Mak Singh.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded, and it was resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 21 July 2021, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

1. Former Councillor Gill Walton

The Mayor was saddened to announce the death of former Councillor Gill Walton who had passed away on 31 August. Gill represented Wednesfield North 1986 – 1994 and served on a number of committees before working as a Political Assistant in the Labour Leaders Office. Gill retired from the Council in June 2014.

The Mayor informed Council that the funeral would take place on Thursday 30 September at 2.15 at the West Chapel, Bushbury Crematorium.

The Mayor extended the deepest sympathies of the Council to Councillor John Reynolds and their daughter Alice.

2. Former Councillor Tom Larkin

The Mayor was saddened to announce the death of former Councillor Tom Larkin who had passed away on 13 August at the age of 90. Tom served on the Bilston Municipal Borough Council in the 1960's prior to changes to local councils, then continued as a ward councillor for Bilston East into the early 1980's and served on a number of committees. He was a well-known local historian with a breadth of knowledge about Bilston and the Black Country.

The Mayor informed Council that the funeral would take place on Friday, 17 September, at 12noon in Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Bilston.

3. Anne Guest MBE

The Mayor was saddened to announce the death of Mrs Anne Guest MBE, who passed away aged 84yrs on Friday 25 June 2021 after a short illness. Mrs Guest was well known across Wolverhampton and among public sector figures for her commitment to her community, having established the Spring Valley Tenants and Residents Association in 1987, while living on the estate on Cannock Road. She also served on numerous committees including Wolverhampton Homes' Leasehold Forum and tenant action groups and was chair of the Federation of Tenants Associations.

Her outstanding service to the community was recognised in October 2000 when she was made an MBE by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace.

The Council stood in silent tribute to the late Gill Walton, Tom Larkin and Ann Guest.

4. Olympics 2020 (2021) and Paralympics 2020 (2021)

The Mayor reported it had been a successful summer for sport this year with Team GB seeing great success in both the Olympics and Paralympic Games, with Wolverhampton having been put on the global map following the delayed Olympics and the success of Ben Whittaker in winning Silver in the boxing.

The Mayor had the pleasure of letting Ben be Honorary Mayor for the Day on Sunday, 22 August where Ben robed as Mayor and undertook engagements at the Art Gallery and The Way prior to being hosted by the Wolves Chairman to watch the Wolves v Tottenham game.

The Mayor acknowledged and payed tribute to all our local competitors in both Games.

5. Relight Festival

The Mayor reported he attended the first ever Relight Festival which took place under the Big Top in West Park. The festival was put on to give something back to the people of the city after an extremely challenging 18 months dealing with the pandemic. It had something for everyone in the family and I really enjoyed the opening night of comedy, seeing top performers such as Reginald D Hunter and Bill Bailey. It was a fantastic night I look forward to attending future Relight Festivals.

6. British Empire Medal (BEM) Investiture

The Mayor was delighted to report he had earlier this day attended Birmingham University and witnessed the investiture of Wolverhampton citizens with their British Empire Medals, awarded in the New Year's Honours List 2020 and 2021, and the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020 and 2021. These were:

- Gaynor Susan Jean Evans OBE, for services to Infection Prevention during Covid-19
- Gregory Silvester from Warstones, for services to people with learning disabilities in sport – in recognition of his hard work.
- Liz Corrigan, from Bilston, for her services to nursing during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Joanne Jackson, from Wednesfield, for voluntary service to young people in Wolverhampton through Girlguiding UK.
- Councillor Dr Paul Birch, for services to music.
- Vanessa Brown, for her volunteer work on the Windrush Reform Programme
- Kim Hatton, for services to special educational needs families during the Covid pandemic.

The Mayor congratulated all on their award behalf of the Council.

7. Visit of Jathedar Shri Akaal Takht Sahib

The Mayor reported, that last Sunday, 12 September, saw the unveiling of the statue in Wednesfield to commemorate the 21 Sikh soldiers who lost their lives at the Battle

of Saragarhi, on 12th September 1897, fighting for the British Raj in the Tirah Campaign. In attendance was Giani Harpreet Singh, the Jathedar of Akal Takht, who flew over from India for the unveiling.

The Mayor had the pleasure of hosting a Civic reception for local representatives from our Sikh community on 14 September, which would help develop and strengthen ties between our City, our Council and our Sikh community.

8. 999 Day - 9 September

The Mayor reported that he had recorded and published a video message paying tribute to our magnificent emergency services for "999 Day". The police, fire service, NHS and ambulance services had all gone above and beyond the call of duty during the pandemic and he was truly grateful for the work undertaken by emergency services, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

9. Suicide Prevention Day - 10 September

The Mayor reported that he had recorded and published a video message for Suicide Prevention Day. He had visited the local office of the Samaritans earlier this year. Wolverhampton's Suicide Prevention Stakeholder Forum also used the day to raise awareness of the help and support available for people experiencing distress or despair, and to open up a dialogue around this complex issue.

10. Covid-19 Update

The Mayor reported there had now been nearly 325,000 vaccinations administered in the City, with 154,176 people having received two doses. There were 878 positive cases reported in the City in the seven days so it was important to remember that Covid was not over.

11. Letters of Condolence

The Mayor reported he had written letters of condolence to the Lord Mayor of Plymouth following the tragic shootings in the City on the 12 August, and to the Chair of South Staffordshire Council following the death in service of their Leader Cllr Brian Edwards MBE on 13 August.

12. Council Staff Highlights

The Mayor, wished a long and happy retirement to Ann Cox-McIvor (formerly Hodson), the longest serving member of staff in the Mayor's Office, who was retiring after 33 years' service with the Council.

The Mayor congratulated Ala Sairani in Legal Services who had won the Junior Lawyer Award 2021 at the Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) Awards. Ala was recognised for her impressive achievement and development throughout the pandemic, which encapsulated the spirit and professionalism of lawyers in local government.

5 Report of Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield, provided Council with an update on asylum issues.

6 Brewers Yard (Phase 1) Culwell Street Site

Councillor Steve Evans, presented the report Brewers Yard (Phase 1) Culwell Street Site for approval. The report sought approval for appropriate capital budgets to relocate fleet services and meals on wheels to a new more energy efficient facility on the wholesale market site. In total four services would be based at this site.

Councillor Steve Evans, added the clearance of the Culwell Street site would enable the brownfield site to be redeveloped as part of the Brewers Yard masterplan. This would enable city centre housing to be developed, support the local economy by creating more jobs and contribute to the Council's priorities by creating a vibrant and thriving space.

Councillor Steve Evans, placed on record his thanks to the Programme Manager for progressing this work.

Councillor Steve Evans, proposed the recommendation and Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the recommendation.

The report was debated by Council.

Resolved:

That the creation of appropriate capital budgets funded, through grant and prudential borrowing as detailed within the exempt report be approved, subject to confirmation of successful grant bids.

7 Council Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Draft Warding Proposal

Councillor Paula Brookfield, presented the report: Council Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Draft Warding Proposal for approval. The report sets out the Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England draft warding proposal for Wolverhampton.

Councillor Paula Brookfield, thanked the boundary commission for allowing the council to submit its response after the deadline. The boundary commission would consider all submissions put forward as part of the consultation undertaken, a final report would be received from the boundary commission in November.

Councillor Paula Brookfield, proposed the recommendation and Councillor Tersaim Singh seconded the recommendation.

The report was debated by Council.

Resolved:

That the Council's response to the draft recommendations published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) be approved.

8 **Decisions Made Under Urgent Action Powers**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report: Decisions Made Under Urgent Action Powers for noting. The report detailed the decision taken under Urgent Action Powers.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendation and Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the recommendation.

Resolved:

That the decision made under the Council's Urgent Action Powers be noted.

9 **Written Questions by Councillors**

On behalf of the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield responded to questions put to the Cabinet Member by Councillor Lynne Moran on right to buy, Councillor Udey Singh on empty housing and Councillor Andrew McNeil on development plans. He also responded to supplementary questions on the same subject matter.

The Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities, Councillor Paula Brookfield responded to a question put to her by Councillor Andy Randle on public questions.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Jasbir Jaspal responded to a question put to her by Councillor Stephanie Haynes on West Midlands Police and Crime Panel. She also responded to a supplementary question on the same subject matter.

The written question submitted by Councillor Adam Collinge on ShopMobility was withdrawn.

The Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Steve Evans responded to questions put to him by Councillor Sohail Khan on electric vehicles, Councillor Chris Haynes on carbon footprint and Councillor Wendy Thompson on avoiding gridlock. He also responded to supplementary questions on the same subject matter.