

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CABINET**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 13 APRIL 2017 AT 4:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Adamson, G.	Leader of the Council
Alcott, G.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Kraujalis, J.T.	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Bennett, C.	Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Mitchell, Mrs. C.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Preece, J.P.T.L.	Environment Portfolio Leader
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Allen, F.W.C.	Housing Portfolio Leader
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader

**110. Apologies**

None.

**111. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Type</b>
Preece, J.P.T.L.	Agenda Item 9: Land at Corner of Norton Green Lane/Butts Lane, Norton Canes – <i>Chairman of Norton Canes Parish Council</i>	Personal and Pecuniary

No other Declarations of Interest were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

**112. Updates from Portfolio Leaders**

**Crime and Partnerships**

Appointment of New Chief Constable

The Portfolio Leader reported that the appointment of the new Chief Constable for Staffordshire Police was expected to be confirmed at the next meeting of the

Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel, scheduled for Wednesday 26 March, 2017.

## **Culture and Sport**

### Cannock Stadium Site

The Portfolio Leader reported that work at the Stadium site was due to commence week beginning 24 April, 2017, and the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles had copies of the final design plans should Members wish to view them.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

### Reduction in Opening Hours and Hednesford and Rugeley Area Offices

The Portfolio Leader reported that residents had seemed to cope ok so far with the change in opening hours which had come into effect at the start of April, and it was anticipated that the new arrangements should work well long term. Additionally, Officers based in the area offices were now able to log in to the main system at the Civic Centre and work remotely.

## **Town Centre Regeneration**

### Cannock Indoor Market

The Portfolio Leader reported that one of the outcomes of the Council's budget which was approved on 8 February, 2017, was that Cannock Indoor Market would move to four trading days per week, effective from 1 April 2017. Thursdays were selected as the additional trading day, alongside the existing days of Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Stall fees also increased by 3% from the same date.

Existing Stall Agreements only permitted traders to trade three days per week, therefore new agreements had to be completed with those traders who wished to continue operating in the Market Hall from 1 April. The Council's Standard Stall Agreement had not been updated for a number of years, so the opportunity was taken to review and modernise the terms on which the traders occupied their stalls. Under the new arrangements traders were required to pay rent weekly, in advance.

Traders that did not wish to trade in Cannock on four days per week ceased trading on 31 March, 2017. 24% of existing traders left the Market Hall which resulted in a 29% drop in the number of open stalls. 34 out of a maximum of 61 stalls were currently open. It was worth noting however that a number of stallholders were senior in years and some of those that left on or before 31 March were already contemplating retirement prior to the Council's decision.

Marketing and promotion of the Market Hall was ongoing and the attraction of new traders was a priority. Work had commenced on creating an improved market entrance, using the vacant shop unit at 1 Market Hall Precinct, and signage to raise the profile of the Market Hall within the town centre. A Market Hall relaunch event was scheduled to take place on 19 May, and Officers were encouraging remaining traders to work with the Council using their own stalls to generate a positive and vibrant atmosphere within the Market Hall.

Officers would monitor the effect of the increase in trading days alongside the increase in stallholders' rents initially for a period of three months from 1 April. Following the initial three months period, the success or otherwise of the four

day trading pattern would be reviewed. If the Market Hall was not attracting new traders (or suffering the loss of further traders) and footfall had not increased then the Council would consider what support it could offer to traders.

**113. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting of 16 March, 2017**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March, 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed.

**114. Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan of Decisions for the period April to June, 2017 (Item 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council) was considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period April to June, 2017 be noted.

**115. Recommendations of Scrutiny Committees**

None received.

**116. Priority Delivery Plans 2017-18**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance and Corporate Services (Item 7.1 – 7.21 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That Council, at its meeting to be held on 24 May, 2017, adopt the Priority Delivery Plans (PDPs) for 2017-18 and approve them for publication.

Reasons for Decision

The Corporate Plan 2015-18, approved by Cabinet in July 2015, superseded the Council's previous Corporate Plan 2011-14 and set out the revised mission, priorities and strategic objectives of Cannock Chase District Council for the following three years.

The supporting PDPs were the annual documents that set out how the Council would achieve progress against its strategic objectives; these plans established the actions, performance measures and timetables for delivery that were the basis of the Council's quarterly and annual performance reporting framework.

**117. Local Government Association Peer Challenge**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance and Corporate Services (Item 8.1 – 8.38 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the progress of the Council's response to the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge and the project structure to be adopted to develop and implement a work programme with regards to the Peer Challenge's recommendations be noted.

### Reasons for Decision

The LGA Peer Challenge, published in October 2016, provided an external review of the Council's Corporate, Financial and Organisation condition, based on the assessment of a team of Members and Officers from other local authorities. The review was completed through a combination of background material, on-site discussions and interviews with a range of stakeholders.

The Peer Challenge report set out seven recommendations from the review team for the Council to assess and address. These recommendations formed the basis for the overall project structure as the Council developed its responses to each of the areas of focus. This report set out the progress thus far in developing those responses.

#### **118. Land at Corner of Norton Green Lane / Butts Lane, Norton Canes**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Development (Item 9.1 – 9.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the request for a lease on favourable terms to Norton Canes Parish Council to enable the Parish Council to maintain the land at the corner of Norton Green Lane / Butts Lane, Norton Canes, as a garden area be approved.

### Reasons for Decision

The land shown hatched black on plan no. 4270 occupied a prominent position on the corner of Norton Green Lane and Butts Lane, Norton Canes. The land currently comprised an area of grass, part of which was surrounded by a hedge, containing a number of mature trees. There was a bus stop positioned on the site at the back of the pavement of Norton Green Lane. The land was subject to a covenant restricting its use to that of a public open space.

Norton Canes Parish Council wished to take over responsibility for maintenance of the land and create a garden area to possibly include an information board and a BT phone box. It was proposed that the land would contribute towards the Parish Council's entry in best kept village competitions.

The proposal had the support of the Council's Landscape Section which currently had responsibility for maintaining the land.

The Council had previously granted leases to the Parish Council for a similar purpose: in 2002 land at the corner of Burntwood Road/Walsall Road (now known as Jubilee Gardens) and in 2012 land at Burntwood Road/Brownhills Road (now known as Millennium Gardens). Both existing leases were for a term of 10 years at a peppercorn rental with the Parish Council being responsible for the maintenance of the land and payment of the District Council's reasonable legal costs. In light of the improvements that the Parish Council intended to make to the aesthetic value of this open space to the local community, it was proposed that the land at the corner of Norton Green Lane/Butts Lane, be leased on similar terms.

**119. Former Football Pitch at the Junction of Ironstone Road and Sevens Road, Rawnsley**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles (Item 10.1 – 10.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) That a non-assignable lease of sufficient length and on favourable terms be granted to FC Newlands Football Club to use the former football pitch at the junction of Ironstone Road and Sevens Road, Rawnsley.
- (B) That authority be delegated to the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles in consultation with the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader to agree terms and conditions and all other actions required to implement the preferred option.

Reasons for Decisions

The Council owned land at the junction of Ironstone Road and Sevens Road, Rawnsley. The land was in Green Belt and was formerly used and maintained by the Council as a football pitch until it was removed from use in 2011.

A written request had been made by the Chairperson of FC Newlands to lease the land for a period of 25 years for the purpose of sports tuition (coaching) and participation.

The Club proposed to lease the land at little or no cost and take over responsibility for bringing the football pitch back into use and for maintaining it thereafter. The Club also intended to include a car park to minimise any traffic impact on neighbouring properties and to erect temporary buildings to enable them to hold meetings and safely secure sports equipment.

The Club was seeking a lease of sufficient duration to allow it to secure potential funding to support the development of the Club and its proposals.

The granting of the lease term would need to be on favourable terms (little or no cost) in order for the newly formed Club to establish and develop.

This option would bring a junior football pitch back into use and support the Council's current Playing Pitch Strategy 2010. The Council's Planning Service had no objections to the request and land could be disposed of or let at an undervalue where such arrangements would contribute to the promotion or improvement of economic, social or environmental well-being of the area and its residents.

The meeting closed at 4:20 p.m.

---

LEADER