

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 2018
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Witton, P.T. (Chairman)	
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z., M.B.E. (Vice-Chairman)	
Adamson, G.	Johnson, T.B.
Alcott, G.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Allen, F.W.C.	Lea, C.I.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Lyons, Miss O.
Bennett, C.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Bowater, J.L.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Buttery, M.S.	Peake, Mrs. C.L.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Pearson, A.R.
Cooper, Miss J.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Crabtree, S.K.	Snape, D.J.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Snape, P.A.
Dudson, A.	Startin, P.D.
Dudson, Miss M.J.	Sutherland, M.
Foley, D.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Tait, Ms. L.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Hewitt, P.M.	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.
Hoare, M.W.A.	Woodhead, P.E.
Johnson, J.P.	

45. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors P.A. Fisher and C.D. Smith.

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

Councillor P.A. Snape advised that his wife was a member of USDAW (Item 7(v) 'Freedom from Fear').

A number of other Members advised that they were Hednesford Town Councillors

(Item 9 Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan Adoption report).

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

47. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September, 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed.

48. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Chairman's Charity Collection

The Chairman advised that a collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support his fundraising. At the meeting held on 26 September, 2018 a total of £30.00 was received, and he thanked Members for their donations.

49. Questions Received under Council Procedure Rule 8

No Questions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 8.

50. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

None referred.

51. Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6

- (i) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor A.R. Pearson, Housing Portfolio Leader:

"This Council is opposed to the hidden Treasury statement that is set to slash £2.7 billion off the NHS budget, despite claims that they are pouring in cash.

The Tory Government pledged to cover the cost of the NHS rise next year, but only 'til 2020. And Peter Dowd, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury claimed that: "Billions of pounds are being quietly cut from our NHS, due to a poisonous cocktail of disastrous economic spiteful behaviour."

Theresa May is set to raid the health budget over a two year period to cover pension costs, because the Tories' economic programme of austerity to reduce government borrowing has been a total failure – Government borrowing has more than doubled, and all frontline services are on the verge of collapse.

The £2.7 billion of cuts is a disgrace and will further starve the NHS of desperately needed funds. This cut could have paid for 61,500 nurses, 360,000 hip replacements and around 3.3 million cataract operations during the same period.

I move that our Managing Director be instructed to write to the Secretary of State and our local Member of Parliament, calling for the spiteful £2.7 billion NHS stealth cut to be scrapped and replaced with a pragmatic plan to protect frontline services and regenerate the economy."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4)(b), a named vote was held.

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Adamson, G.	Allt, Mrs. A.	Freeman, Miss M.A.
Alcott, G.	Bowater, J.L.	
Allen, F.W.C.	Buttery, M.S.	
Bennett, C.	Hewitt, P.M.	
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Hoare, M.W.A.	
Cooper, Miss J.	Johnson, J.P.	
Crabtree, S.K.	Lea, C.I.	
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Lyons, Miss O.	
Dudson, A.	Peake, Mrs. C.L.	
Dudson, Miss M.J.	Snape, D.J.	
Foley, D.	Snape, P.A.	
Grice, Mrs. D.	Startin, P.D.	
Johnson, T.B.	Sutherland, M.	
Kraujalis, J.T.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	
Martin, Mrs. C.E.		
Mitchell, Mrs. C.		
Pearson, A.R.		
Preece, J.P.T.L.		
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.		
Tait, Ms. L.		
Todd, Mrs. D.M.		
Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.		
Witton, P.T.		
Woodhead, P.E.		
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In addition, Councillors P.A. Fisher and C.D. Smith were absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Managing Director be instructed to write to the Secretary of State and the Council's local Member of Parliament, calling for the £2.7 billion NHS stealth cut to be scrapped and replaced with a pragmatic plan to protect frontline services and regenerate the economy.

- (ii) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor G. Adamson, Leader of the Council:

“Charter Against Modern Slavery

Cannock Chase Council will:

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply’s (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency’s national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

This Council authorises a budget of up to £7,000 to cover the costs of training and implementation.”

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Charter Against Modern Day Slavery be adopted by the Council.
- (B) A budget of up to £7,000 be authorised to cover the costs of training and implementation of the Charter requirements.

- (iii) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor J.T. Kraujalis, Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader:

“This Council opposes the Chancellor’s plan to slash £1.3 billion from front line council services in 2019.

Local authorities claim that grant funding from central government will be cut 36% in 2019/20. And the Local Government Association claim that 168 councils will not get any grant money at all. The Prime Minister's statement at the Tory Party Conference that austerity has ended is a piece of deceitful electoral cosmetics that is simply not true.

This government's austerity programme is a disgrace, and it is destroying the very fabric of society. This cut is another example of the Tories intent to cut our public services to the bone and put them in danger of collapse. Could it be that this cut is to continue to hand out billions in tax breaks and corporation tax cuts to the rich, in one of the richest countries in the world. And make vicious cuts to the many, in favour of the rich privileged few?

I move that our Managing Director writes to the Secretary of State and our local M.P. calling for the £1.3 billion cut to be reversed, in line with the Prime Minister's statement that austerity is dead and gone."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4)(b), a named vote was held.

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Adamson, G.	Allt, Mrs. A.	Freeman, Miss M.A.
Alcott, G.	Bowater, J.L.	
Allen, F.W.C.	Buttery, M.S.	
Bennett, C.	Hewitt, P.M.	
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Hoare, M.W.A.	
Cooper, Miss J.	Johnson, J.P.	
Crabtree, S.K.	Lea, C.I.	
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Lyons, Miss O.	
Dudson, A.	Snape, D.J.	
Dudson, Miss M.J.	Snape, P.A.	
Foley, D.	Startin, P.D.	
Grice, Mrs. D.	Sutherland, M.	
Johnson, T.B.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	
Kraujalis, J.T.		
Martin, Mrs. C.E.		
Mitchell, Mrs. C.		
Peake, Mrs. C.L.		
Pearson, A.R.		
Preece, J.P.T.L.		
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.		

Tait, Ms. L.

Todd, Mrs. D.M.

Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.

Witton, P.T.

Woodhead, P.E.

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In addition, Councillors P.A. Fisher and C.D. Smith were absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Managing Director should write to the Secretary of State and the Council's local Member of Parliament calling for the £1.3 billion cut to be reversed, in line with the Prime Minister's statement that austerity was dead and gone.

- (iv) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor P.E. Woodhead, Green Party Group Leader:

"This Council notes:

- The Government announcement in July 2018 that Councils could set their own energy efficiency standards for new buildings beyond those set in Part L of the Building Regulations.
- The report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighting that we only have around 12 years to take serious action to reduce emissions to avoid massive damage to the global environment.

This Council believes:

- At every level of government, urgent steps need to be taken to rapidly reduce carbon emissions, whether produced directly or indirectly.
- That we must take urgent action to improve the energy efficiency standards in new buildings to reduce carbon emissions, save energy and keep money that would go to energy companies circulating in our local economy.
- That improving energy efficiency in new buildings is just one part of a strategy to reduce emissions in our area but is an important step to take that should be part of a wider strategy.

This Council resolves:

- Establish a Working Group, to run for a full year, with a remit to seek advice from experts; to consider systematically each area of the Council's activities; to make recommendations and propose challenging targets including a carbon budget to be presented each year alongside the financial budget.
- Require all report risk assessments to include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible.
- Task a Head of Service officer with responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as

possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities.

- To produce Supplementary Planning Guidance at the earliest opportunity calling for higher energy efficiency standards compliant with the internationally recognised Passivhaus Zero Carbon Standard.”

Councillor P.M. Hewitt proposed an amendment to the Motion, which was seconded and voted on. (Councillor P.E. Woodhead advised that he was supportive of the proposed amendment.)

Amended Motion:

That the energy efficiency and carbon emissions reduction matters referred to in the original Motion to Council should be referred to an appropriate Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the energy efficiency and carbon emissions reduction matters referred to in the original Motion to Council should be referred to an appropriate Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

- (v) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor J.P.T.L. Preece, Environment Portfolio Leader:

“Freedom From Fear

This Council notes:

1. That USDAW (Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers) runs an annual Respect For Shopworkers Week as part of their Freedom From Fear campaign.
2. That this is held run in the build-up to Christmas, during which events are put on to engage with the public around the theme ‘Keep Your Cool at Christmas’.
3. The campaign as a whole seeks to highlight the abuse that workers suffer whilst simply going about their jobs.
4. That as part of this campaign USDAW also surveys their 430,000 members in an annual Freedom From Fear Survey.
5. This survey shows that during 2018 6 in 10 shopworkers experienced verbal abuse, 37% were threatened by a customer and over 230 shopworkers were assaulted every day.
6. The British Retail Consortium and the Association of Convenience Stores have both also noted rising abuse, threats and violence against shopworkers.

This Council believes:

1. Violent crime, threats and abuse are very real hazards for retail workers and the harassment of staff by customers is an all too common event.
2. Abuse is not part of the job. Workers should never have to face abuse, threats or violence when doing their jobs
3. Employers have a legal and moral obligation to make the working environment

as safe as possible for employees and staff should be given appropriate training on how to deal with certain situations.

4. Failure to take the necessary steps to protect staff from harassment could result in the company being open to prosecution under health and safety laws and complaints of harassment should always be taken seriously.
5. Good trade union organisation reduces the risk of bad work practices.

This Council resolves:

1. To publicly support USDAW's campaign and shop workers in the area with a statement of support and by posting on Council social media platforms using the hashtags #RespectShopworkers and to encourage individual councillors to do the same.
2. To encourage individual councillors to engage with retail stores in their ward, talk to shopworkers and listen to their experiences.
3. To use links with local police to ensure retail crime is always treated seriously and the often severe impact on victims is appropriately acknowledged.
4. To use links with local business and retail stores to make sure proper workplace procedures are in place and that front-line staff are appropriately supported."

RESOLVED:

That the Council would:

- (A) Publicly support USDAW's campaign and shop workers in the area with a statement of support and by posting on Council social media platforms using the hashtags #RespectShopworkers, and encourage individual councillors to do the same.
- (B) Encourage individual Councillors to engage with retail stores in their ward, talk to shopworkers and listen to their experiences.
- (C) Use links with local police to ensure retail crime was always treated seriously and the often severe impact on victims was appropriately acknowledged.
- (D) Use links with local business and retail stores to make sure proper workplace procedures were in place and that front-line staff were appropriately supported."

52. Comments and Questions on Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

The following Question on Part 1 Minutes was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 by Councillor P.E. Woodhead:

Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee 23 October, 2018 – Outcome of Working Group to Review the Policy for Commercial Use of the Highway (Minute No. 13)

"Would the Cabinet Member or Committee Chair please update Members in respect to the current situation around the review in to the Commercial Use of the Highway or 'A Boards' Policy."

The following written response was provided by Councillor Mrs. C.E. Martin, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader:

“The Council approved and adopted The Policy for Commercial Use of the Highway on the 18 October, 2017 with the Policy being fully implemented from 1 April, 2018.

At the meeting of the Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 4 July, 2018 Members discussed the work programme for the coming year and determined that as part of this a review of the Policy for Commercial Use of the Highway should be carried out. Furthermore, at the meeting of the Council on 25 July, 2018 a Motion was submitted regarding the Policy and its implementation. Members approved ‘That the Motion, as presented, be referred to the Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for consideration, due to the Committee having agreed to undertake a review of the Commercial Obstructions on the Highway Policy as part of its 2018/19 work programme.’

The Working Group met on 3 occasions and members considered various options for the future of the Policy and its potential application in the District. At the meeting of the Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 23 October 2018, the findings of the Working Group were presented to the Committee and five options were considered. The Committee voted on the options and resolved that Option C – ‘The Council provides advice and guidance to businesses only’ - be recommended to Cabinet and then to Council.

This recommendation will be presented and considered at Cabinet at its meeting on 13 December 2018.”

As a supplementary Question, Councillor Woodhead said that he was disappointed that the matter had not been considered on the current cycle of meetings and brought to that day’s meeting of Council to remove the uncertainty faced by traders, particularly in the run up to Christmas. Was there any reason for this?

In response to the supplementary question, Councillor Mrs. Martin advised that the situation had been dictated by the reporting timetable, but reiterated that the matter would be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 13 December, 2018 and then referred on to Council on 23 January, 2019.

53. Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan Adoption

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 9.1 – 9.123 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The results of the Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan referendum, held on 11 October, 2018 be noted.
- (B) The Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report) be adopted under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, including approval of the publication of the Regulation 19 ‘Decision Statement’ (as included at Appendix 2 of the Report).

54. Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles 2019 to 2021

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 10.1 – 10.50 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the revised Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the Report, be approved and adopted.

55. The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals)(England) Regulations 2018

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 11.1 – 11.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The implementation of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals)(England) Regulations 2018 ('the Regulations') be noted.
- (B) The Head of Economic Prosperity be authorised and instructed to introduce the necessary arrangements to administer and enforce all aspects of the Regulations (including the determination of fees for variations and re-inspections).
- (C) The proposed initial fees as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report be approved.
- (D) The Constitution Working Group be instructed to update the Scheme of Delegations to reflect the legislative changes in England.

56. Comments and Questions on Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

No comments or questions on Part 2 Minutes had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

The meeting closed at 6:20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN