

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY 2010

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Beddows, J. (Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Grice, Mrs. D.
Alcott, G.	Grocott, M.R.
Allen, F.W.C.	Jones, R.
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Ball, G.D.	Meaden, R.G.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Mitchell, C.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Molineux, G.N.
Bernard, J.D.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Bullock, L.W.	Rowley, J.
Burnett, G.	Stanley, N.K.
Burnett, J.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Thomas, D.
Collis, C.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.
Dixon, D.I.	Williams, A.
Freeman, M.P.	Williams, B.
Gilbert, P.	Williams, Mrs. P.
Green, M.	Yates, Ms. W.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M.A. Davis, D.N. Davies, J. Jillings, Mrs. M. Easton, R. Easton and M. Sutherland).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman made his valedictory speech thanking all those who had supported him during his year as Chairman. He commented that it had been a rewarding year, especially seeing all of the good work carried out within the district by a variety of individuals and organisations. The Chairman referred to the Civic Sunday, his Variety Show and Black Country Evening where he had met a great many people.

He stated that the past 12 months had been a very difficult time and thanked his daughter Sue for being an excellent Consort, and to the Vice Chairman Darrell Mawle and his Consort Linda.

The Chairman commented that Thursday 6 May was a particularly interesting day in respect of both the Parliamentary and District Elections, and he took the opportunity on behalf of the Council to welcome the newly Elected Members, Councillors George Adamson, Mrs. Sheila Cartwright; Peter Gilbert; John Rowley; Mike Sutherland; and Mrs. Linda Whitehouse.

The Chairman then thanked all the former Members for their service and dedication to the residents of the Cannock Chase district and made the following presentations:

The Chairman presented certificates of service to Keith Bennett for 12 years' service; Mike Holder for 28 years' service; Darrell Mawle for 4 years' service; and Zaphne Stretton for 17 years' service. He also advised that certificates would also be available for the following, who could not be present: Diane Todd for 4 years' service; and Lisa Pearce for 4 years service.

He also asked Members to note that Councillor Mrs. Muriel Davis and Keith Bennett had both achieved 12 years long service in office.

The Chairman then advised that this year's Youth Endeavour Award was to be given to Darren Howdle who had been nominated by Chief Superintendent Nick Baker of Staffordshire Police (Chase Division) for his outstanding contribution to the community of Prospect Village.

Darren had played an active, and very important, part in assisting with running the local youth group, running errands for the elderly and those unable to leave their homes during the recent bad weather, raising funds and had organised many recreational activities which contributed to the lives of the younger members of the village and assisted the wider community. As a result of Darren's actions there had been a reduction in the number of crimes within the local community, and anti social behaviour within the area of the village had dropped significantly.

Darren had, and continued to, work tirelessly for the benefit of others and applied enthusiasm and a positive attitude to helping those who need it and was a fantastic role model.

Unfortunately, due to work commitments, Darren was unable to attend the meeting to receive his award; however, a small presentation with the rose bowl and cheque was to be arranged in the near future.

The Chairman advised Members that a group photograph would be taken following the meeting.

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

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

2. Election of Chairman of the Council

Councillor F.W.C.Allen nominated Councillor G. Alcott to be Chairman of the Council, which was seconded.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor G. Alcott be elected Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor G. Alcott thereupon declared and signed his acceptance of office and was invested with the badge of office).

Councillor G. Alcott, the newly appointed Chairman, thanked Members for electing him to office and reported that he would advise Members at the next Council meeting of the Charities he would be supporting.

(Councillor G. Alcott in the Chair)

3. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor M.R. Grocott nominated Councillor R. Jones to be Vice-Chairman of the Council, which was seconded.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor R. Jones be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor R. Jones thereupon declared and signed his acceptance of office and was invested with the badge of office).

4. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14 April, 2010 be approved as a correct record.

5. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Councillor John Jillings

The Chairman reported that Councillor John Jillings had been unwell for sometime, and on behalf of all Members wished him a speedy recovery.

(ii) Exchange of Civic Chains of Office

The Chairman reported that the Council this year had to make significant savings and as part of the Delivering Change and Budget Setting process for 2010-11 and future years, the decision had been taken to cease the Annual Council Meeting Chairman's Dinner.

Therefore, in order to facilitate the annual exchange of Civic Chains of Office, arrangements had been made for a small ceremony to take place in the Jack Holston Room, for the Retiring Chair and Consort, incoming Chair and Consort, Retiring Vice-Chairman and Consort and the incoming Vice-Chairman and Consort with their immediate families.

(iii) Armed Forces Day

The Chairman reported that the Government had announced that the British Armed Forces Day would take place on 26 June this year. The day was intended as an opportunity for the whole nation to show its appreciation for all those serving, or who had served, in Her Majesty's Armed Forces. All local authorities had been invited to join in by simultaneously flying a specially commissioned flag to be raised at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 21 June, 2010. The Chairman had agreed to organise a flag raising ceremony, which all Members were invited to, and he looked forward to seeing them there.

(iv) Chairman's Charity Collection

The Chairman reported that a charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a small donation to support his charities. A total of £54.00 had been donated at the last meeting, which would be added to the total sum raised for the retiring Chairman's charity, Cannock Hospital.

6. Form and Composition of the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N. K. Stanley, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Cabinet and of the lead Cabinet Members for each of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Service Blocks: -

The Cabinet would consist of 8 Members, with the Members listed below to serve on Cabinet and be responsible for speaking on the respective portfolios and the LAA Service Blocks:-

Councillor N. K. Stanley	Leader of the Council
Councillor A. Williams	Deputy Leader and Environment Portfolio Leader (<i>LAA Environment and Safe, Strong and Cohesive Communities Blocks</i>)
Councillor D.N. Davies	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader (<i>LAA Access to Skills, Economic Development & Enterprise Block</i>)
Councillor M.P. Freeman	Housing Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. P. Williams	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader
Councillor Ms. W. Yates	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader (<i>Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People Block and Children's Trust</i>)
Councillor M.R. Grocott	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Councillor C. Collis	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader

7. Leader of the Opposition

The Chairman called upon the Leader of the largest opposition group to confirm the acceptance of office as the Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor D. Thomas confirmed his acceptance of office as Leader of the Opposition.

8. Form and Composition of the Shadow Cabinet

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor D. Thomas, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Shadow Cabinet and of the LAA Service Block Shadow Members: -

The Shadow Cabinet would consist of 7 Members, with the Members listed below to serve on Shadow Cabinet and be responsible for speaking on the respective portfolios and the LAA Service Blocks:-

Councillor D. Thomas	Leader of the Opposition and Corporate Improvement Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor F.W.C. Allen	Deputy Leader and Housing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor D.I. Dixon	Economic Development and Planning Shadow Portfolio Leader <i>(LAA Access to Skills, Economic Development & Enterprise Block)</i>
Councillor L.W. Bullock	Environment Shadow Portfolio Leader <i>(LAA Environment and Safe, Strong & Cohesive Communities Block)</i>
Councillor G.D. Ball	Town Centre Regeneration Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis	Health and Wellbeing Shadow Portfolio Leader <i>(LAA Healthier Communities & Older People Block and Children's Trust)</i>
Councillor Mrs. C. Mitchell	Culture and Sport Shadow Portfolio Leader

9. Appointment of Members, Chairman and Vice Chairman to the Council's Committees, Sub Committees and Other Bodies

A schedule setting out the nominations provided by each of the Political Group Leaders for Members to be appointed to the Council's Committees, Sub Committees and Other Bodies, together with nominations for the appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the membership, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Council's Committees, Sub Committees and other Bodies for the 2010-11 Municipal Year as set out on the schedule circulated, be agreed.

10. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

A schedule detailing the nominations submitted by each of the Political Group Leaders was circulated at the meeting.

The Chairman reported that whilst the majority of nominations to outside bodies could be approved on block, there were a number of bodies which the Council needed to vote upon and that those bodies were highlighted within the schedule.

Members then determined the appointment of representatives to outside bodies, and following a vote on each of the nominations requiring determination, it was

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the nominations to Outside Bodies as set out on the schedule circulated at the meeting, be the Council's representatives for the forthcoming municipal year, subject to the Council's representatives on the following bodies being:-

<u>Body</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>
Cannock Bowling Green Trust	Councillors M.P. Freeman, Mrs. H. Sutton and M.R. Green
Cannock Chase Arts Council	Councillors Mrs. P.A. Ansell, C. Mitchell, G. Adamson and Mr. K. Bennett
Chase Sports Council	Councillors Mrs. D. Bennett, M.R. Grocott, Ms. W. Yates, M.R. Green, G.D. Ball and Mrs. S. Cartwright
Cannock Police Authority Community Consultation Committee	Councillor L.W. Bullock
Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall Management Committee	Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell
Cannock Youth Centre Management Committee	Councillors Mrs. S. Cartwright and C. Mitchell
Charity for the Provision of Allotments for the Labouring Poor of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley	Councillor D.N. Davies
Community Learning Partnership – Chase Valley	Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis
Community Learning Partnership – Norton Canes	Councillor J. Beddows
Community Learning Partnership – Kingsmead	Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell

Hazel Slade Youth Centre Management Committee	Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell and Mr. B. Gamble
Midland Joint Advisory Council for Environmental Protection	Councillor G. Alcott and Head of Environmental Health (or his nominee)
National Association of Councillors	Councillors Mrs. P.A. Ansell and G.D. Ball
Norton Canes Community Centre	Councillor J. Beddows
Shoal Hill Common Joint Committee	Councillors M.P. Freeman and J.T. Kraujalis

- (B) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, be authorised to make additional appointments at any Outside Bodies, as necessary, throughout the municipal year.
- (C) That, in the event of the Political Group Leaders failing to agree on a nomination(s) to an Outside Body (as referred to in (B) above) the appointment be a matter for determination by the Council.
- (D) That, subject to (B) above, the Chief Executive when appointing representatives to Outside Bodies, be authorised to determine which of the appointments should be classed as an 'approved duty' for the purposes of claiming traveling and subsistence expenses.
- (E) That the appointment of representatives to Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee be deferred until the next Council meeting on 30 June, 2010, pending clarification on which Ward Members can attend meetings of the Committee.

11. Calendar of Meetings 2010-11

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

A revised Calendar of Meetings was circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the revised Calendar of Meetings for 2010-11, be approved.
- (B) That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, the relevant Chairmen of Committees and/or Leader of the Council, be authorised, where appropriate, to convene additional meetings, postpone or cancel meetings as and when required.

CHAIRMAN

