

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY, 2015**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Pearson, A. (Chairman)	
Freeman, Miss M.A. (Vice Chairman)	
Adamson, G.	Hardman, W.
Alcott, G.	Hoare, M.
Allen, F.W.C.	Johnson, J.P.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Johnson, T.
Anslow, C.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bennett, C.	Lea, C.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Lovell, A.
Bowater, J.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Burnett, G.	Molineux, G.N.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Peake, Mrs. C.
Christian, Miss J.	Preece, J.
Cooper, Miss J.	Snape, P.A.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Dean, A.	Sutherland, M.
Dudson, A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Dudson, Miss M.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Foley, D.	Whitehouse, Miss S.
Gamble, B.	Witton, P.
Grice, Mrs. D.	

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed the newly elected Councillors to the Chamber - Councillors Jim Bowater; Graham Burnett; Joanne Christian; Jessica Cooper; Michelle Dudson; Darren Foley; Mike Hoare; Tony Johnson; Colin Lea; Claire Peake; and Mike Sutherland – some of whom had served previously on the Council.

The Chairman gave a valedictory speech thanking all those who had supported him during his term as Chairman. The Chairman advised that he had attended a variety of functions supported by his wife, Shirley, as Consort, and they had met

many interesting people and made many new friends as a result. He wished the incoming Chairman every success in the role.

### Former Councillors

The Chairman offered his thanks and gratitude to former Members of the Council for their service, totalling 143 years between them. Former Councillors Brian Bottomer (3 years' service); Paul Fisher (4 years' service); and Bob Todd (15 years), who were present were asked forward to receive certificates recognising their service. In addition, certificates would also be sent to former Councillors Gordon Ball (24 years); John Bernard (7 years); Jodie Burley (4 years); Dennis Dixon (16 years); Michael Holder (32 years), Ray Jones (14 years); Alison Spicer (4 years); Bob Todd (15 years); and Janos Toth (20 years), who were unable to attend.

### Chairman's Charities

The Chairman referred to the Charities he had supported during his term, which were Meningitis Now and the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust. In total, £2,235.19 had been raised, which was to be split equally between the two organisations. Andy Keelings from Meningitis Now, and Brian Kingshot, Chairman of the Canals Trust, came forward to receive cheques on behalf of the organisations.

### Youth Endeavour Award

The Chairman then advised that the Youth Endeavour Award was to be presented to Lewis Powell, who had been nominated by Declan Farrell of Kingsmead School, Hednesford, in recognition of his extensive fundraising for Breatheasy (British Lung Foundation), and his efforts to raise the profile of the organisation, through presentations to school and community groups. Lewis was also a keen golfer and Mr. Farrell had commented that he hadn't met a more selfless, considerate and grounded young man. The Chairman then asked Lewis forward to collect his award.

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## **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been submitted by Councillors M. Buttery and M.R. Grocott.

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

Kraujalis, J.T.	Volunteer at Chase Advice Centre (Item 12)	Personal
Lovell, A.	Employed by an Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) manufacturer (Item 13)	Pecuniary

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

**3. Election of Chairman of the Council**

Councillor J.T. Kraujalis nominated Councillor Miss M.A. Freeman to be the Chairman of the Council, which was seconded.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Miss M.A. Freeman be elected Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing Municipal year.

(Councillor Miss Freeman thereupon declared and signed the Acceptance of Office and was invested with the badge of office.)

Councillor Miss Freeman, the newly appointed Chairman, thanked Members for electing her to office and took the Chair.

*(Councillor Miss Freeman in the Chair)*

**4. Election of Vice Chairman of the Council**

Councillor J. Preece nominated Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton to be Vice Chairman of the Council, which was seconded.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing Municipal year.

(Councillor Mrs. Stretton thereupon declared and signed the Acceptance of Office and was invested with the badge of office.)

**5. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April, 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed.

**6. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence**

(i) Chairman's Charity Collection

The Chairman advised that a charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support her chosen charities, which would be the Teenage Cancer Trust and the 5<sup>th</sup> Cannock St. Lukes Brownies.

(ii) Armed Forces Day

The Chairman advised that the Council would be hosting a flag raising ceremony on Monday, 22 June at 10.00 a.m. at the front of the Civic Building, followed by light refreshments, and she looked forward to seeing Members there.

(iii) Civic Service

The Chairman advised that she would be hosting a Civic Service on Sunday, 5 July at 2.00 p.m. at St. Lukes Church, Cannock, followed by a reception in the Civic Centre Ballroom. Invitations would be sent to all Members in due course.

(iv) Group Photo(s)

The Chairman requested that all Members stayed behind in the Chamber at the conclusion of the meeting in order that photographs could be taken.

**7. Form and Composition of the Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Adamson, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Cabinet.

Cllr. G. Adamson	Leader of the Council
Cllr. G. Alcott	Deputy Leader of the Council and Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Cllr. A. Lovell	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Cllr. C. Bennett	Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. C. Mitchell.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Cllr. A. Dudson	Environment Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. M.A. Davis	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Cllr. F.W.C. Allen	Housing Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. D.M. Todd	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader

**8. 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 P. Snape (Conservative) confirmed his acceptance of office as Leader of the Opposition.

**9. Form and Composition of the Shadow Cabinet**

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor P. Snape, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Shadow Cabinet and of the lead Members for each of the Shadow Portfolios.

Cllr. P. Snape	Leader of the Opposition and Crime and Partnerships Shadow Portfolio Leader
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Cllr. C. Anslow	Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Town Centre Regeneration Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Miss J. Christian	Corporate Improvement Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. J. Johnson	Culture and Sport Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. M. Sutherland	Economic Development and Planning Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. C. Lea.	Environment Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. H. Sutton	Health and Wellbeing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. G. Burnett	Housing Shadow Portfolio Leader

**10. Allocation of Seats to Political Groups to Committees and Other Bodies**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 10.1 – 10.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the allocation of seats to the different Political Groups to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be confirmed, in order that the appointment of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Members to Committees and Other Bodies could be considered subsequently on the agenda of the meeting.

**11. Appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen 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. As there was more than one nomination for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, and for a number of other Vice Chairs, Members were elected to the positions.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The membership of the Council's Committees, Sub Committees and other Bodies for the 2015-16 Municipal Year, as set out on the schedule circulated, be agreed.
- (B) Councillor J. Kraujalis be elected to the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, with Councillor A. Pearson as Vice Chairman.

- (C) The Members detailed below be elected to serve as Vice Chairmen on the following Committees:

Health Scrutiny Committee	Miss M.A. Freeman
Culture and Sport PDC	Miss M.J. Dudson
Economic Development and Planning PDC	T. Johnson
Environment PDC	Miss M.J. Dudson
Health and Wellbeing PDC	B. Gamble
Housing PDC	Miss J. Cooper
Town Centre Regeneration PDC	Mrs. S.M. Cartwright
Audit and Governance Committee	J. Preece
Planning Control Committee	J. Preece
Licensing and Public Protection	T. Johnson

## 12. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 12.1 – 12.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

A schedule of outside bodies, together with the nominations received by each of the Political Groups, was circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed to suspend Rule 15 (8) of the Council Procedure Rules for voting purposes, and then determined the appointment of representatives to outside bodies. Following a vote on each of the nominations requiring determination, it was

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Council's representatives on the following Outside Bodies, as detailed in the schedule circulated at the meeting, for 2015-16, or as indicated, should be:

<u>Outside body</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>	
	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Other</u>
Barbara Bird Memorial Fund (1)	B. Gamble	

Beaudesert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Charity Management Committee (1)		Mrs. S. Holliday, 14 Bradwell Lane, Cannock Wood WS15 4RW
Cannock Advice Centre (3)	Adamson, G. Allen, F.W.C. Freeman, Miss M.	
Cannock Bowling Green Trust (4)	Miss. M. Freeman T. Johnson J. Kraujalis Mrs. H. Sutton	
Cannock Chase Arts Council (3)	G. Adamson Miss J. Christian Mrs. C. Mitchell	
Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Advisory Partnership (1)	A.Pearson	
Cannock Conduit Trust (Longest serving Members for Cannock East, Cannock West, Cannock North, Cannock South and the second longest serving Member from the Ward that has the largest number of voters, currently Cannock South) (5)	G. Alcott Mrs. M. Davis Miss M. Freeman J. Kraujalis Mrs. H. Sutton	
Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall Management Committee (1)	Mrs. C. Peake	
Charity for the Provision of Allotments for the Labouring Poor of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley (3)	C. Bennett D. Foley Mrs. D. Grice	
Charity for the Provision of a Recreation Ground for Inhabitants of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley (3)	A Dudson A Lovell Mrs. D. Grice	
Chase Sports Council (6)	Miss J. Cooper J. Johnson T. Johnson Mrs. C. Mitchell J. Preece Ms. S. Whitehouse	
Chetwynd Charity (4)	C. Bennett A Dudson A Lovell	Mr. T. Anderson 54 Hagley Road, Rugeley
Community Council of Staffordshire (Councillor or Officer) (1)	Miss J. Christian	
Etching Hill Village Hall Committee (1)	J. Johnson	

Foundation of Clara and Caroline Walhouse (1)	Mrs. H. Sutton	
Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee (1)	B. Gamble	
John Wood and Walhouse Church of England School Foundation (1)		Mrs. V. Bagguley
Landor Society (2)	J. Johnson A.Lovell	
Longdon (Colton) Almshouses (2)	J. Bowater Miss M. Dudson	
National Association of Councillors (2)	A.Lovell M. Sutherland	
Norton Canes Community Centre (1)	J. Preece	
Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee (7)	Chair of Environment PDC (A. Pearson) M. Buttery Miss M. Freeman M. Hoare J. Kraujalis Mrs. Z. Stretton M. Sutherland	
Rugeley Physically Handicapped Association (1)	J. Johnson	
Rugeley and District Senior Citizens' Committee (2)	C. Bennett Miss M. Dudson	
Shoal Hill Common Joint Committee (Must be Councillors) (2)	Miss M. Freeman J. Kraujalis	
Slitting Mill Village Hall Committee (1)	A Dudson	
St. Giles Hospice (Whittington) – 'Local Government Friends Group' (1)	Mrs. S. Cartwright	
Staffordshire County Council – Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – Co-opted Member (1)	B. Gamble	
Staffordshire County Council – Corporate Parenting Panel (1)	A Pearson	
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association (2)	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader (Mrs. C. Mitchell) J. Johnson	
West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	P. Snape	



- (B) The Managing Director, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, be authorised to make additional appointments at any Outside Bodies, as necessary, throughout the Municipal year.
- (C) 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) Subject to (B) above, the Managing Director 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 travelling and subsistence expenses.

### **13. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet**

Consideration was given in turn to the following recommendations to Council considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 23 April, 2015, in respect of:

#### **(1) Review of Community Forums (Minute no. 139)**

“That:

- (A) The Community Forums cease to be held on a quarterly basis from the start of the 2015-16 Municipal Year.
- (B) In future, public forums will be held where:
  - (i) There is a specific issue that the Council wants to engage with the community on, or;
  - (ii) The community requests that a public meeting be held (it is suggested that a minimum of 10 members of the public would need to support the request for a public meeting).
- (C) As a result of decision (A), the Constitution and Calendar of Meetings 2015-16 be amended accordingly.
- (D) A review be undertaken of the ways in which the Council engages with its community, with the findings being reported to Council in 2016.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Community Forums cease to be held on a quarterly basis from the start of the 2015-16 Municipal Year.
- (B) In future, public forums will be held where:
  - (i) There is a specific issue that the Council wants to engage with the community on, or;
  - (ii) The community requests that a public meeting be held (it is suggested that a minimum of 10 members of the public would need to support the request for a public meeting).

- (C) As a result of decision (A), the Constitution and Calendar of Meetings 2015-16 be amended accordingly.
- (D) A review be undertaken of the ways in which the Council engages with its community, with the findings being reported to Council in 2016.

It was also noted that Members' expressed a desire for Member involvement in the review to be on a cross party basis.

(2) Supporting Cannock Hospital Car Parking Requirements (Minute no. 141)

- (E) A capital scheme be included in the General Fund Capital Programme of £300,000 to convert and extend the Civic Centre staff car park by approximately a further 80 spaces.
- (F) The existing charge for all elected Members for the Members car park be rescinded from 1 April, 2015, for the reasons stated in the report.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (E) A capital scheme be included in the General Fund Capital Programme of £300,000 to convert and extend the Civic Centre staff car park by approximately a further 80 spaces.
- (F) The existing charge for all elected Members for the car park be rescinded from 1 April 2015, for the reasons stated in the report to Cabinet.

(3) Cannock Chase Right to Buy Social Mobility Fund (Minute no. 144)

- (G) "Council be requested to include £200,000 of Right to Buy Social Mobility Scheme Funding as an additional resource within the 2015/16 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme."

RESOLVED:

- (G) That £200,000 of Right to Buy Social Mobility Scheme Funding be included as an additional resource within the 2015/16 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme, as detailed in the report to Cabinet.

(4) Application for Permission to Spend – Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) Project, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford (Minute no. 147)

- (H) "Council be requested to include into the Capital Programme the conditional award funding of £390,039 from Sport England towards the proposed scheme.

RESOLVED:

- (H) That conditional award funding of £390,039 from Sport England towards the proposed scheme be included in the included in the Capital Programme, as detailed in the report to Cabinet.

(The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.)

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CHAIRMAN