

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2020 AT 4:00 P.M.

VIA REMOTE ACCESS

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Adamson, G.	Leader of the Council
Alcott, G.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader
Preece, J.P.T.L.	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Mitchell, Mrs. C.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Johnson, T.B.	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Newbury, J.A.A.	Environment Portfolio Leader
Martin, Mrs. C.E.	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Kraujalis, J.T.	Housing Portfolio Leader

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, the Leader advised that Councillors Newbury and Pearson had been appointed to the Cabinet as the Environment & Climate Change and Crime & Partnerships Portfolio Leaders, respectively, and welcomed Councillor Newbury to his first Cabinet meeting.

144. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor A.R. Pearson, Crime & Partnerships Portfolio Leader.

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

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

146. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Culture and Sport

Rugeley Swimming Pool

The Portfolio Leader advised that in relation to the problems with the tiling at Rugeley swimming pool, of which Members were aware, the Council and Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) had issued a joint press release last week about the problems. IHL had arranged for a pressure test of the pipework to be undertaken, followed by further investigations, after which more details would hopefully be known.

Green Lane Play Area

The Portfolio Leader advised that Rugeley Town Council was pressing ahead with the works to the play area at Green Lane.

Queen's Award

The Portfolio Leader advised that the Friends of Hednesford Park had been awarded the prestigious 'Queen's Award for Voluntary Service'.

The award was the highest that could be given to volunteer groups across the UK, with a total of 230 organisations receiving the award this year.

The award coincided with Volunteer's Week, which took place from 1 to 7 June. The award recognised the tremendous hard work and dedication put in by the volunteers who worked tirelessly to support the local community.

Particular thanks was given to Lynn Evans and the Team involved with the Friends of Hednesford Park, a sentiment which was echoed by the Leader of the Council.

New Cemetery

The Portfolio Leader advised that contractors were due to start work on-site next week for the new cemetery at Hednesford Road / Norton Road.

Economic Development and Planning

Unemployment

The Portfolio Leader advised that sadly, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were now being felt within the local economy. The unemployment data for May was published on 16 June and showed that a further 980 residents were now out of work, bringing the total to 3,980. This equated to an unemployment rate of 6.3%, which was just under the national rate of 6.5%. Since March, 2,325 residents had become unemployed, with 14,800 of the District's workers furloughed – this position was expected to increase further. The Council would be working with key partners to help those affected and to also develop an economic recovery plan that could set out how the District's economy could get back on its feet.

CCDC Discretionary Fund

The Portfolio Leader advised that the Council had launched a £1 million grant scheme to support small businesses. The first phase of the fund prioritised occupiers of shared spaces, market traders, bed and breakfast establishments who did not pay business rates, and charities who were not eligible for Small Business Rate Relief or grants – so far 30 applications had been received and small numbers of new applications were coming in each day. On 22 June, the fund would open up to more businesses – particularly focusing on small businesses with up to 50 employees and manufacturing/engineering sectors and protecting existing jobs was a key priority.

GBSLEP Pivot and Prosper Fund

The Portfolio Leader advised that the Council was working with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) to promote a number of new initiatives to support business recovery. A new £2 million 'Pivot and Prosper' fund had been launched today by GBSLEP which was available to businesses across the GBSLEP area, including Cannock Chase. The fund gave businesses the opportunity to apply for funding of up to £40,000 and was

designed to help businesses 'pivot' to new ways of working and change business models, to safeguard existing jobs as well as creating new jobs. Businesses in the District were encouraged to look at this opportunity further and contact the Council's Economic Development team or the GBSLEP Growth Hub for further information.

Housing

Hawks Green Depot Site

The Portfolio Leader advised that clearance works for the Council housing scheme at the Hawks Green Depot had completed, and re-organisation works had nearly finished.

Town Centre Regeneration

Re-opening of Town Centres

The Portfolio Leader advised that the town centres in the District had started to re-open with non-essential retailers opening their doors to shoppers from 15 June. The Council had worked with Staffordshire County Council to make the town centres as safe as possible, and installed signage to remind people of the need to maintain social distancing, as well as trying to remove any pinch-points on pavements so that shoppers had sufficient space to move around.

Officers had been out and about this week and working pro-actively with businesses and traders to ensure that their premises were safe and adhered to the COVID-19 secure guidelines and actively managed issues such as queuing of customers outside of the shops. Compliance had been very good and businesses had responded well to the challenge of adapting their premises and keeping their customers and staff safe, by putting in place one way systems, floor markers and protective screens at the tills.

Officers had visited well over 70 businesses during the last week and there was a number of photos on the Council's Facebook page. Over the next couple of weeks, Officers would be advising and supporting licensed premises, hairdressers, cafes/restaurants in anticipation of them re-opening on 4 July, subject to Government approval.

Finally, the Cannock Street market was due to re-open on 19 June, and Officers had worked with the operator, Sketts, to put in place all of the appropriate risk assessments, social distancing measures and a new layout to manage queuing safely. Initially there would be 20 traders and the location of the market was temporarily moving to Market Place to allow for adequate social distancing along Market Hall Street.

147. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May, 2020, be approved as a correct record.

148. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan of Decisions for the period June to August 2020 (Item 4.1 – 4.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council) was considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period June to August 2020 be noted.

149. Representatives on Outside Bodies 2020-21

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 5.1 – 5.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The appointment of representatives to outside bodies for 2020-21, as set out in the scheduled attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (B) Councillor A.R. Pearson be appointed as the substitute member on the Cannock Chase AONB Joint Management Committee for 2020-21.
- (C) Councillor Mrs. D.M. Todd be appointed as the substitute member on the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel for 2020-21.
- (D) Councillor J.T. Kraujalis be appointed as the substitute member on the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Management Board for 2020-21.
- (E) Councillor Mrs. D.M. Todd be appointed as the first substitute member, and Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton as the second substitute member, on the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Planning Forum for 2020-21.
- (F) The Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make appointments to any additional outside bodies, as necessary, throughout the municipal year that would otherwise be determined by Cabinet.

Reasons for Decisions

Each year Cabinet was required to appoint representatives to a number of outside bodies as detailed in the scheduled included as Appendix 1 of the report. This was normally done at the first Cabinet meeting following the Annual Council meeting.

For practical purposes, i.e. the need to report the matter to Cabinet on every occasion, Cabinet was also requested to confirm the Managing Director's authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make appointments to any additional outside bodies, as necessary, throughout the municipal year.

150. Review of Leisure Concessions to Serving Members of the Armed Forces 2020/21

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles (Item 6.1 – 6.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The contents of the report be noted.

(B) The leisure concessions scheme for serving members of the Armed Forces who were resident in the District for the 2020/21 financial year be continued, in accordance with the proposals set out in the report.

Reason for Decisions

Cabinet was recommended to continue with the offer of leisure concessions for serving members of the Armed Forces for 2020/21 in recognition of the commitment made by armed forces men and women to this country in their service throughout the world.

The meeting closed at 4:20 p.m.

LEADER