

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER, 2011

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Beddows J. (Chairman)
Ball, G.D. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Holder, M.J.
Alcott, G.	Jones, Ms. J.L.
Allen, F.W.C.	Jones, R.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Molineux, G.N.
Bernard, J.D.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Burnett, G.	Rowley, J.
Burnett, J.	Snape, P.A.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Davies, D.N.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Sutherland, M.
Dixon, D.I.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Easton, R.	Todd, R.J.
Fisher, P.A.	Toth, J.
Gilbert, P.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.
Green, M.R.	Williams, B.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Williams, Mrs. P.
Grocott, M.R.	

48. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G.C. Brown and A. Williams.

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

The following Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Trustee of West Chadsmoor Family Centre	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Parish Council	Personal

Bernard, A.F.	Member of Norton Canes Parish Council	Personal
Bernard, J.D.	Member of Norton Canes Parish Council	Personal
Gilbert, P.	Member of Norton Canes Parish Council	Personal

50. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

Photovoltaic (Solar) Panels (Minute 44(a))

The Housing Portfolio Leader was asked if he could give the Council an assurance that the Government's announcement about changes to the "Feed-in Tariff" (F.I.T.), would not affect the Council's proposed British Gas "Rent a Roof" pilot scheme in Norton Canes.

The Portfolio Leader replied that the Government had announced that it would reduce the FIT by 50% for schemes that were not implemented by 12 December, 2011. Therefore, there remained uncertainty at that time over the impact of the announcement on the Norton Canes scheme. However, Officers were seeking clarification from the Department for Energy and Climate Change as British Gas had indicated that the scheme may not be financially viable for them if the level of tariff was reduced. For information, the Leader advised that tenants from 34 out of 40 properties in the pilot area had expressed an interest.

51. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Chairman's Charity Box

The Chairman reported that the charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support his chosen charities. He advised that at the Meeting held on 28 September, 2011 a total of £47.94 was collected, and he thanked Members for their donations.

(ii) Chairman's Charity Ball

The Chairman advised Members that it was his final opportunity to remind them that his annual Charity Ball would be raising money for the National Poppy Appeal and would be held on the evening of Friday, 11 November, 2011, with a 1940's War Time Theme. He hoped to see as many Members of the Council in attendance as possible. Tickets were available from the Communications team.

52. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

53. Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees and Panels

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 Minutes of the following Cabinet, Committees and Panels be adopted and any recommendations be approved and decisions implemented following the expiry of any call-in period:-

- (a) Cabinet – 15 September, 2011

Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader's Update

Members enquired if any further information was available in respect of the ATP at Cardinal Griffin and redevelopment of the Chase Leisure Centre. The Portfolio Leader advised that she was aware that the use of floodlighting until 10.00pm on the ATP had been approved, and the monies from the Football Foundation should, therefore, be forthcoming.

Regarding the Leisure Centre, she advised that unforeseen works had resulted in a two weeks' delay, but there was provision for this within the overall programme, and it remained scheduled for completion prior to the start of the Olympics.

Application for Grant Aid for the Development of Hednesford Park (Minute 62, page 34)

Members recorded their congratulations to the newly constituted Friends of Hednesford Park, and noted their thanks to Officers who had submitted the application.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 23 August and 14 September, 2011

- (c) Audit and Governance Committee – 22 August, 2011

Shared Services (Internal Audit Quarter 1 Report – Minutes 12, page 5)

In response to a question, the Leader of the Council advised that a politically balanced Shared Services Working Group had been established and would hold its first meeting on 10 November, 2011. The Group would review the services shared to date with Stafford Borough Council, and determine if there was merit in further sharing of services.

- (d) Scrutiny Committee – 11 July, 2011

Corporate Improvement (Annual Performance Report, 2010 – 11 (Minute 4, page 2)

Ward Members spoke of their concerns about the ending of the Connecting Communities programme in the Etching Hill area. The Chief Executive advised that, with the level of savings that had been required in the last budget, unfortunately, hard decisions had had to be made in respect of funding for such programmes.

Culture and Sport (Annual Performance Report, 2010 – 11 (Minute 4, page 3)

Ward Members reiterated concerns that Parish Councils had been written to before Ward Members advising them that the Council would no longer be organising Lantern Parades. A Member advised that Rugeley Traders had subsequently stepped in to organise a Lantern Parade on 9 December, 2011. The Chief Executive apologised to the Ward Members and said it was gratifying to note the actions of the Rugeley Traders in taking over the event.

Economic Development (Annual Performance Report, 2010 – 11 (Minute 4, page 3)

A Member advised that Officers had confirmed that there had been an issue with a drain on the Tesco development which had delayed commencement on site. However, revised plans had since been submitted to the Council and work should start on site by January, 2012.

Environment (Annual Performance Report, 2010 – 11 (Minute 4, page 3)

In response to a question about recycling, the Leader of the Council advised that the Council was not in a position to make a decision about Government proposals supporting a return to weekly collections. No details were available in respect of the proposals; and the Council was unlikely to be able to afford to adopt them unless they were fully funded and the funds available on an ongoing basis.

Determination of the Membership of the Delivering Change Panel (Minute 6, page 5)

In response to a question about participation on the Panel, the Leader of the Council confirmed that the Labour Group had nominated Councillors M.J. Holder; J.T. Kraujalis; and R. Todd to sit on the Panel. For information, the Liberal Democrat nominations were confirmed as Councillors D.N. Davies and R. Jones.

(e) Health Scrutiny Committee – 19 July, 2011

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Performance Report for June, 2011

Members expressed concerns that rumours had been heard about proposals for overnight closure (between 10.00 pm and 8.00 am) of Stafford Hospital's Accident and Emergency Unit. It was understood that the proposals had come about as a result of the pressure of the Stafford Hospital enquiry and the ongoing difficulties being experienced in attracting staff meaning that the hospital was unable to provide the levels of service and care expected of it. Members agreed that a letter should be drafted to the Chairman of the Foundation Trust expressing the Council's grave concerns at the proposals.

(f) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 19 September and 29 September, 2011

(g) Joint Parking Committee – 20 July, 2011

(h) Rate Relief Committee – 6 July, 2011

(i) Cannock Community Forum – 15 June, 2011

(j) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawsley Community Forum – 7 June, 2011

Pedestrian Crossing at John Street and Cannock Road, Wimblebury

A Ward Member advised that consultation was under way, and she urged people to respond to ensure an informed decision was made.

54. Cannock Chase Local Policing Team: Six Months In

The Chairman agreed to move this item up the Agenda.

Chief Inspector Carl Ratcliffe, LPT Commander for Cannock Chase provided a briefing to Members in respect of local Policing matters. Following the briefing, Members were invited to ask questions of Chief Inspector Ratcliffe. The Chief Inspector answered questions, or promised to note and respond to Members on a number of issues including:

- Modified cars owners congregating on Linkway Retail Park.
- Actual and perceived Anti-Social Behaviour in various locations.
- Policing in town centres, including over Christmas period.
- Police base in Hednesford and Brereton and Ravenhill.

The Chief Inspector also received a letter from a Member regarding issues in the Etching Hill area.

55. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Update

The Chairman agreed to move this item up the Agenda.

Stuart Claughton, Area Commander for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Carl Mason, Assistant Area Commander, provided a briefing to Members in respect of the service's performance and Cannock Chase area community projects. Following the briefing, Members were invited to ask questions of Commander Claughton. The Commander and Assistant Commander answered questions on a number of issues including:

- Commercial fires and fire investigation.
- Carbon monoxide / carbon dioxide detectors.
- Staffing levels at the new Cannock Community station.

Members also commended the Service on its work and some of the awareness raising and safety campaigns it undertook in the community.

56. Recommendations referred from Cabinet Held on 20 October, 2011

Consideration was given to the recommendation referred from Cabinet on 20 October, 2011, in respect of the Corporate Communications Strategy, 2011 – 14:

“That the revised Communications Strategy be recommended to Council for approval.”

RESOLVED:

That the revised Communications Strategy, 2011-14, be approved and adopted.

57. Notification of Changes to Cabinet Portfolios

The Leader of the Council had excused himself from the meeting by this point, so the Deputy Leader of the Council notified Members of changes to Cabinet portfolios. (Copies of the amended Section 23 of the Constitution had been distributed to Members for information.) The Deputy Leader advised of a further amendment, which would be need to be incorporated and further amended copies would subsequently be distributed to Members.

58. Quarterly Treasury Report – Mid-Year Review Report of 2011-12

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The contents of the report be noted.
- (B) The changes to the prudential indicators be approved.

59. Request from Norton Canes Parish Council Regarding S.106 Funding

Consideration was given to the Report of the Corporate Director (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) It be confirmed to Norton Canes Parish Council that the sum of £9,375 can be identified as matched funding for any external grant bid to develop a skate park at Brownhills Road recreation area.
- (B) It be confirmed that the sum of £9,375 will be transferred to Norton Canes Parish Council if they are successful in their bid to secure grant funding for a skate park scheme at Brownhills Road recreation area.
- (C) Authority be delegated to the Corporate Director to enter into the appropriate Legal Agreements with the Norton Canes Parish Council in line with any decision made, above.

60. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 2, 3 and 4, Part 1, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.

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HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER, 2011

PART 2

61. Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and Panels

RESOLVED:

That the Part 2 Minutes of the following Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and Panels be adopted and any recommendations be approved and decisions implemented following the expiry of any call-in period:-

- (a) Cabinet – 15 September, 2011
- (b) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 19 September and 29 September, 2011

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 7.40 pm)