

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 4 APRIL, 2012

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

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

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

102. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.N. Davies; P. Gilbert and M.R. Grocott.

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

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

104. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

105. 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 29 February, 2012 a total of £44.28 was collected, and he thanked Members for their donations.

(ii) Youth Endeavour Award

The Chairman advised Members that the annual Youth Endeavour Award applications had been distributed to local schools, community groups and other organisations to ask if they had any young persons aged 11 to 18 and living in the District who had made an outstanding contribution to their community, school or organisation or who had battled against illness or disability.

(iii) Chairman's Year

In response to a compliment from a Member, the Chairman advised Members that he had thoroughly enjoyed his second term of office, and felt saddened that it was coming to an end.

106. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

107. 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 – 2 and 22 February, 2012

Norton Canes Photovoltaic (Solar) Panels Pilot Scheme (part Minute 133) – Members commented on the positive feedback that had been received from residents whose properties had been fitted with the photovoltaic panels. The Housing Portfolio Leader advised that a letter had been sent to the contractors, Strategic Energy Ltd., thanking them for their efforts.

General Fund Capital Programme 2011-12 and Resources 2011-12 to 2014-15 (part Minute 145) – Members referred to various matters related to this item, including the additional High Street Innovation Fund ("Portas Fund") monies that had been allocated to the District (£100,00) for revitalising the high street; and car parking charges.

(b) Planning Control Committee –1 and 22 February, 2012

Mill Green Employment Site (Minute 119) – Members noted that they were pleased to note that the site had been awarded £1.7 million of LEP's monies under the Growing Places Fund. The Leader reminded Members that this money was a loan, not a grant, which would need to be repaid within years 3-5 of the scheme. The Leader also referred Members to Item 7 on the agenda of the Council meeting.

- (c) Scrutiny Committee – 28 November, 2011
- (d) Health Scrutiny Committee – 13 September, 2011 and 23 January, 2012

Work Programme 2011-12 (Minute 23) – Members commented that all those who had visited Cannock Hospital as part of the scrutiny process had been impressed with the overall standards.

Update on Cannock Health Centre (Minute 43) - The Leader of the Council commented that it was disappointing to note that the formerly proposed would not be going ahead due to a lack of support from local GP's, and that the whole matter had been a waste of tax payers' money.

- (e) Cannock Community Forum – 22 November, 2011
- (f) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawsley Community Forum – 15 November, 2011

It was noted that the published notes were incorrect. A final version of the notes of the Forum of 15 November, 2011 would, therefore, be taken to the next appropriate Council meeting.

- (g) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 21 November, 2011

108. Recommendation(s) Referred from Cabinet meeting held on 15 March, 2012

Consideration was given to the following recommendations referred from Cabinet on 15 March, 2012, in respect of:

- (A) The following recommendation(s) referred from the Economic Development and Planning Policy Development Committee of 8 December, 2011, as endorsed by the Planning Control Committee of 22 February, 2012:

“That Council be recommended to sign up to the Charter Mark for the Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP and the Stoke & Staffordshire LEP.”

- (B) Discretionary Housing Payments Policy

“That Council be recommended to support the use of Additional DWP funding to support Benefit claimants through the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme.”

- (C) Growing Places Fund

That Council at its meeting of the 4 April 2012 be requested to include the Mill Green Infrastructure Scheme in the Capital Programme, subject to Growing Places Funding being secured; the scheme to be underwritten by interim prudential borrowing.”

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Council should sign up to the Charter Mark for the Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP and the Stoke & Staffordshire LEP.”
- (B) The use of Additional DWP funding to support Benefit claimants through the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme be supported.
- (C) The Mill Green Infrastructure Scheme be included in the Capital Programme, subject to Growing Places Funding being secured; the scheme to be underwritten by interim prudential borrowing.

109. Localism Act, 2011 – Pay Policy Statement

Consideration was given to the Report of the Leader of the Council (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Pay Policy Statement as set out in Annex 1 to the report be approved.
- (B) Publication of the Pay Policy Statement on the Council’s website be agreed.

110. Calendar of Meetings, 2012-13

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Calendar of Meetings for 2012-13 be approved.
- (B) 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.

111. Review of the Constitution

Consideration was given to the Report of the Monitoring Officer (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the revised draft Constitution be referred back to the Monitoring Officer and a Constitution Working Group for further consideration.

112. Scheme of Members' Allowances 2012

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

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of Members' Allowances for 2012 be supported and the Scheme of Members Allowances be agreed to be effective from 1 April 2012..

113. 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 1, 2 and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 4 APRIL, 2012

PART 2

114. 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 – 2 February, 2012

115. Appointment of Head of Finance

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

The appointment of Mr Robert Kean as shared Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer for Cannock Chase District Council be confirmed with effect from 11 April, 2012 as set out in the report.

(The meeting closed at 5.40 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN