

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL, 2017
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Stretton, Mrs. P.Z., M.B.E. (Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Lea, C.I.
Allen, F.W.C.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Bennett, C.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bowater, J.L.	Molineux, G.N.
Buttery, M.S.	Peake, Mrs. C.L.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Pearson, A.R.
Cooper, Miss J.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Smith, C.D.
Dean, A.	Snape, D.J.
Dudson, Miss M.J.	Snape, P.A.
Foley, D.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Whitehouse, Miss S.
Grocott, M.R.	Witton, P.T.
Hoare, M.W.A.	Woodhead, P.E.
Johnson, T.B.	

102. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors G. Alcott; Mrs. A. Allt; G. Burnett; Miss J. Christian; A. Dudson (Vice-Chairman); W.T.A. Hardman; J.P. Johnson; J.T. Kraujalis; and M. Sutherland.

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

No other 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 22 February, 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed.

105. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Terror Attack in Westminster

The Chairman invited all Members to join her in a minutes silence to pay respects and give thoughts to the victims and grieving families and friends involved in and affected by the terrorist attack in the vicinity of the Palace of Westminster on 22 March, 2017.

(ii) Presentation from Chadsmoor Tapestry Group

The Chairman reported that in 2011, the Chadsmoor Tapestry Group (founded in 1992), had received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Group of volunteers had been highly praised for their involvement in endless community projects and commended for the positive contribution they had made to the quality of life, health and social networks in the community. In particular, the Group had produced the remarkable tapestry which was on display on the wall outside the Council Chamber.

The Council had agreed to put the award on display in the Civic Centre, and the Chairman invited Brenda Marshall and Nita Baker from the Group to present the award, and asked all Members to congratulate the Group on being given the prestigious and well deserved award.

(iii) Chairman's Charity Collection Box

The Chairman advised that a collection box was circulating for Members to donate to her fundraising. At the meeting held on 22 February, 2017, a total of £38.11 was collected, and she thanked all Members for their donations.

106. Question(s) 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 received for information:-

(a) Cabinet – 19 January, 2017

Updates from Portfolio Leaders – Culture and Sport (Part Minute 87)

The Leader of the Opposition thanked the Portfolio Leader and Officers for completion of the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) on Bradbury Lane,

Hednesford, and looked forward to the development of a further AGP planned for Rugeley.

The Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader thanked the Member for his comments, and noted that the official opening had been a success, and usage of the facility had been going well so far.

(b) Planning Control Committee – 25 January and 15 February, 2017

(c) Better Jobs & Skills Scrutiny Committee – 8 December, 2016

Update on the Chase Line Electrification (Minute 19)

The Leader of the Opposition requested if an update could be provided on progress with the Mill Green Designer Outlet Village (DOV) development.

The Managing Director replied that there was no physical works taking place on site at present as bore-holing works had recently completed. Architects for the developers were currently working on designs for Phase 1 of the project. As part of the on-site exploratory works, it had been noted that a badger-sett would have to be relocated, so the Council's ecologist was working with the developer's ecologist and Natural England to ensure this was done correctly.

(d) Customers & Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 5 December, 2016

(e) Housing Scrutiny Committee – 30 November, 2016

A Member queried how much involvement the Council had with the housing development which was being built on the site of the former Red Lion public house on Market Street, Rugeley.

The Housing Portfolio Leader responded that he would look into this and report back directly to the Member within 7 days.

(f) Audit & Governance Committee – 29 November, 2016

(g) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 6 January, 2017

108. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

None received.

109. Motion(s) Received under Rule 6

(i) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor G. Adamson, Leader of the Council, which was seconded and debated:

“I propose that Cannock Chase Council begins the process to confer the honour of Freedom of Entry to Cannock Chase District to the Royal Air Force Association (Cannock Branch) to mark the centenary of the Royal Air Force in April, 2018; the detail of which will be contained in a report to Council in due course.”

RESOLVED:

That the process for conferring the honour of Freedom of Entry to Cannock Chase District to the Royal Air Force Association (Cannock Branch) to mark the centenary of the Royal Air Force in April, 2018, be commenced; the detail of which will be contained within a report to be submitted to Council in due course.

- (ii) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor T.B. Johnson, Cannock East Ward, which was seconded and debated:

“That Cannock Chase District Council views with great concern the gross injustice whereby the Treasury receives 50% of the surpluses from the Mineworkers Pension Scheme, accumulating over £3 billion to date.

This money has been and continues to be taken from people and communities in former coal mining areas such as our own that can least afford it. The money removed from the pension scheme is vastly out of proportion to the risk covered by the Treasury.

This Council requests that the Public Accounts Committee conduct an independent scrutiny of this extremely unfair arrangement, and calls on the MP for Cannock Chase to take up the case for further action in Parliament.”

A named vote was then requested, and supported by the required number of Members:

For

Adamson, G.
Allen, F.W.C.
Bennett, C.
Buttery, M.S.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.
Cooper, Miss J.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.
Dean, A.
Dudson, Miss M.J.
Foley, D.
Freeman, Miss M.A.
Grice, Mrs. D.
Grocott, M.R.
Johnson, T.B.
Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Molineux, G.N.

Against

Abstain

Bowater, J.L.
Hoare, M.W.A.
Lea, C.I.
Peake, Mrs. C.L.
Smith, C.D.
Snape, D.J.
Snape, P.A.
Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

Pearson, A.R.
Preece, J.P.T.L.
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Whitehouse, Miss S.
Witton, P.T.
Woodhead, P.E.

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In addition, Councillors G. Alcott; Mrs. A. Allt; G. Burnett; Miss J. Christian; A. Dudson (Vice-Chairman); W.T.A. Hardman; J.P. Johnson; J.T. Kraujalis; and M. Sutherland were absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Cannock Chase District Council viewed with great concern the gross injustice whereby the Treasury received 50% of the surpluses from the Mineworkers Pension Scheme, accumulating over £3 billion to date.
- (B) This money had been and continued to be taken from people and communities in former coal mining areas such as our own that could least afford it. The money removed from the pension scheme was vastly out of proportion to the risk covered by the Treasury.
- (C) This Council requested that the Public Accounts Committee conduct an independent scrutiny of this extremely unfair arrangement, and called on the MP for Cannock Chase to take up the case for further action in Parliament.

110. Constitution Amendments

Consideration was given to the Report of the Monitoring Officer (Item 9.1 – 9.74 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That

- (A) The proposed amendments to the Constitution as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
- (B) The Constitution Working Group be requested to look at in further detail the potential options for audio recording of all Council meetings.

111. 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 Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A, of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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PART 2

112. Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees and Panels

RESOLVED:

That the Part 2 Minutes of the following Cabinet, Committees and Panels be received for information:-

- (a) Cabinet – 19 January, 2017

Debt Recovery (Minute 97)

A Member thanked Officers for their hard work in reducing the amount of National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) write-offs to only 0.1% of the total amount of NNDR charged during the year.

A further Member commented that an amount below 0.1% would be preferable, but that it was a much improved figure compared to the amount of write-offs considered in the past by the former Rate Relief Committee, so Officers were to be thanked for what they'd achieved this year.

- (b) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 6 January, 2017

The meeting closed at 5:20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN