

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY, 2016
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

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

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

14. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been submitted by Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; J. Bowater; G. Burnett; Miss J. Cooper; W.T.A. Hardman; M.W.A. Hoare; D.J. Snape; and Miss S. Whitehouse.

15. 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.

16. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May, 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed. (It was noted that Councillors Miss J. Christian and Mrs. C. Martin were shown as being present, when they were absent and apologies had been submitted and recorded to this effect.)

17. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Minute's Silence

The Chairman asked all Members to stand and join her in a minute's silence to pay respects to Labour MP Jo Cox who tragically died on 16 June after being attacked in her constituency; to the victims of the terrorist attack on Turkey's Istanbul's airport on 28 June where 44 people died; and to the 28 people who were killed on 1 July following an attack on the Dhaka Café in Bangladesh.

(ii) Chairman's Charity Collection Box

The Chairman advised that the charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation. She reported that at the meeting held on 25 May, 2016, a total of £27.52 was collected, and she thanked Members for their donations.

(iii) Civic Service

The Chairman reminded Members that they should have received an invitation to her Civic Service on Sunday 17 July at St. James the Great Church, Norton Canes followed by a reception in Norton Canes Community Centre. Members were asked to reply to the invitation by Friday, 8 July, and the Chairman said she hoped they were all able to attend.

18. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

19. 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 – 24 March and 21 April, 2016

Civic Centre Car Park (Minute 97)

In response to an enquiry, the Leader of the Opposition was advised that at the Planning Control Committee would be considering an application on 20

July, 2016.

Department for Transport / West Midlands Rail Consultation – West Midlands Rail Franchise, December 2015 and Chase Line ‘Gateway’ Stations Upgrade (Minute 100)

Members expressed their disappointment that, while electrification of the Chase Line would be completed by the end of 2017, replacement rolling stock would not be available for a further 12 months. Concern was expressed and it was suggested that Council should write to London Midland; Network Rail; Centro / West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (WMITA); the Department for Transport and other suitable bodies, highlighting the upcoming Mill Green development and the need for (i) suitable rolling stock; and (ii) upgraded stations, particularly at Cannock, capable of handling the increased passenger numbers.

Members were also critical of the franchise operator for not being more pro-active in preventing fare dodging.

Establishment of a Property Partnership (Minute 113)

The Leader of the Opposition asked what progress had been in establishing a property partnership. The Chairman advised that the mechanics were being examined.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 23 March, 13 April, 4 and 18 May, 2016
- (c) Better Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee – 8 March, 2016
- (d) Community Safety Scrutiny Committee – 9 March, 2016
- (e) Customers and Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 22 February, 2016
- (f) Environment Scrutiny Committee – 24 February, 2016

Waste Containers Left on Streets (Minute 20)

Members asked for a level of understanding in respect of a small number of households, particularly in Cannock Road, Chadsmoor, where a number of terraced properties and residents did not have direct / easy access to the rear of their properties, which would require them taking bins through the house in order to get them off the street. To this end, Officers were consulting with affected residents with a view to finding an alternative solution, such as smaller bins, or the use of bags or boxes instead. Other Members expressed concern at the general nuisance caused to others, particularly the elderly or mothers with pushchairs, where bins were left on the street.

- (g) Health Scrutiny Committee – 14 March, 2016

Healthwatch Staffordshire – Update (Minute 46)

The Leader of the Council expressed concern that Healthwatch Staffordshire appeared to focus its resources on the North of the county, and the district was suffering detriment as a result.

- (h) Housing Scrutiny Committee – 7 March, 2016
- (i) Scrutiny Committee (Transitional) – 15 March, 2016
- (j) Licensing & Public Protection Committee – 10 March, 2016
- (k) Audit & Governance Committee – 31 March, 2016

20. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

Consideration was given to the following recommendations to Council considered by:

- (i) Cabinet at its meeting on 16 June, 2016, in respect of:

Community Infrastructure Levy – Updated Regulation 123 List (Minute No.12)

“That the updated Regulation 123 List, as attached to Appendix A of the Cabinet report, be adopted and approved for publication on the Council’s website, replacing the previous version attached at Appendix B to the same report, subject to final agreement on the S106 Agreement for the Mill Green Outlet Village.”

RESOLVED:

That the updated Regulation 123 List, as attached to Appendix A of the 16 June, 2016 Cabinet report, be adopted and approved for publication on the Council’s website, replacing the previous version attached at Appendix B to the same report, subject to final agreement on the S106 Agreement for the Mill Green Outlet Village.

- (ii) Scrutiny Committee (Transitional) at its meeting on 15 March, 2016, in respect of:

Review of Scrutiny Toolkit (Minute No.13)

“That Council be asked to approve that a written annual report detailing the objectives achieved by the Scrutiny Committees during the preceding 12 months be submitted to Council each year for consideration (the first such report to be submitted to a Council meeting to be held in Spring/Summer 2017.”

RESOLVED:

That a written annual report detailing the objectives achieved by the Scrutiny Committees during the preceding 12 months be submitted to Council each year for consideration (the first such report to be submitted to a Council meeting to be held in Spring/Summer 2017).

21. Motion(s) Received under Rule 6

Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor P. Woodhead, which was seconded and debated:

“In the interests of transparency and to improve engagement with our communities. That members suspend the constitution rules which preclude the recording of proceedings during any council meeting by members (Part 4, Section 27, Paragraph 23 – the words “Other than a member of the council”) as a

standing order of business (under Part 4, Section 27, paragraph 24) then further to investigate and implement a permanent, cost effective solution to record and broadcast all public meetings.”

The Leader of the Council advised that Officers had previously made enquiries in respect of equipping the Chamber with audio visual facilities including recording / broadcasting of debates, voting etc. Unfortunately, the overall cost would be too prohibitive in light of the Council’s current financial situation.

The Leader then proposed an alternative Motion, which was seconded and debated, that:

“This Council fully supports transparency in its dealings. However, due to the financial constraints that the Council is operating under, particularly following the closure of Rugeley Power Station, that no further action is taken in respect of broadcasting and recording of public meetings.

The Council further agrees that the Constitutional Working Party be requested to re-examine the Constitution with regard to the broadcasting and recording of proceedings by Members.”

The Amended Motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

That this Council fully supports transparency in its dealings. However, due to the financial constraints that the Council is operating under, particularly following the closure of Rugeley Power Station, that no further action is taken in respect of broadcasting and recording of public meetings.

The Council further agrees that the Constitutional Working Party be requested to re-examine the Constitution with regard to the broadcasting and recording of proceedings by Members.”

22. Amendments to the Membership of Committees and Other Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 9.1 to 9.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the membership of the Council’s Planning Control Committee, as previously agreed, be amended to remove Councillor Mrs. C. Martin, to be replaced by Councillor Mrs. D. Grice.

23. Representatives on Outside Bodies 2016-17

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 10.1 to 10.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Councillor Ms. M.A Freeman be appointed as the Council's representative on the West Midlands Combined Authority's Audit Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal year.
- (B) Councillor M. Sutherland be appointed as the Council's substitute representative on the West Midlands Combined Authority's Audit Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal year.

24. Annual Treasury Management Report 2015-16

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Finance (Item 11.1 to 11.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Annual Treasury Management report for 2015/16 be noted.
- (B) The actual 2015/16 prudential and treasury indicators as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

25. Review of Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 12.1 to 12.70 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver, Vehicle & Operator Licensing Policy, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (B) The Head of Environmental Health be authorised to determine the mechanisms for implementation of all driver training requirements within the Policy.
- (C) The Head of Environmental Health be authorised to make any amendments to the Policy required due to changes in legislation or government guidance and minor variations to the Policy in the interests of service improvement.

26. Heritage Trail Bridge Rebuild, Rising Brook, Rugeley – Request to Allocate Capital Funding

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Development (Item 13.1 to 13.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Corporate Improvement moved an amendment to the recommendation, which was seconded.

RESOLVED:

That capital expenditure of up to £100,000 be allocated towards the reinstatement of the Cannock Heritage Trail Bridge over the Rising Brook, Rugeley, subject to agreement in advance by the Head of Economic Development and the Head of Finance in consultation with the Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader.

27. 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 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY, 2016
PART 2

28. Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees and Panels

RESOLVED:

That the Part 2 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 – 24 March, 2016
- (b) Better Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee – 8 March, 2016

The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN