

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 8 AUGUST, 2012**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Todd, R. (Chairman)  
Grice, Mrs. D. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Grocott, M.R.
Alcott, G.	Holder, M.J.
Allen, F.W.C.	Johnson, J.
Anslow, C.	Jones, Ms. J.L.
Ball, G.D.	Jones, R.
Bennett, C.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bernard, J.D.	Molineux, G.N.
Bottomer, B.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.	Pearson, A.
Davies, D.N.	Snape, P.A.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Dixon, D.I.	Stretton, Mrs. Z.
Dudson, A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Fisher, P.A.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Freeman, Miss M.	Toth, J.
Gamble, B.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.

**31. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; P. Gilbert; A. Lovell; J. Rowley; and M. Sutherland;

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

The following Interests already declared were confirmed by Members in respect of Item 7(i) on the Agenda:

Kraujalis, J.T.	Unpaid volunteer at Chase Advice Centre	Personal
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No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

### **33. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

### **34. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence**

#### **(i) Urgent Motion Under Rule 6**

The Chairman advised that he had agreed to receive an urgent Motion under Rule 6 submitted by the Leader of the Council, and that the matter would be taken as Item 8A on the Agenda.

#### **(ii) 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 4 July, 2012 a total of £28.89 was collected, and he thanked Members for their donations.

#### **(iii) Chairman's Civic Sunday**

The Chairman advised Members that they should have received an invitation to attend his Civic Sunday on Sunday, 9 September, at 4.00 p.m. at St. Peter's Church, Hednesford. He said that he looked forward to seeing all Members there, and asked that they return their reply forms as soon as possible to the Chief Executive's office.

#### **(iv) Chairman's Charity Evening**

The Chairman advised Members that his Charity Evening would be held on Friday, 30 November, 2012 at 7.30pm in the Ballroom, where he would be hosting a Tribute Party Night. Invitations would be sent to all Members in due course, but he hoped that they would make a note of the date in their diaries.

### **35. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8**

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

### **36. 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 – 21 June, 2012**

Reinvigorating the Right to Buy (Minute 22) – Members discussed the historical context of Right to Buy, and the Government's proposed amendments to the scheme. Concern was expressed that it would have little or no beneficial impact in the Cannock Chase area.

Proposals for Town Centre Developments (Minute 25) – In response to a Member's concerns in respect of (A) a Miners Memorial in Rugeley, the Leader confirmed that the Council had consulted with, and would continue to consult with, appropriate organisations in Rugeley and Brereton about a memorial.

In respect of (E) the High Street Innovation Fund, the Corporate Director advised that an outline Business Rates Discount Scheme had been drafted and consultations with town centre traders were ongoing. It was anticipated that the scheme would be implemented in September.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 11 January and 20 June, 2012
- (c) Licensing and Public Protection – 15 June, 2012
- (d) Scrutiny Committee – 27 February, 2012
- (e) Health Scrutiny Committee – 23 April, 2012
- (f) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 12 June, 2012
- (g) Audit and Governance – 27 March, 2012
- (h) Joint Parking Committee – 24 April, 2012
- (i) Rate Relief Committee – 31 January, 2011

### **37. Recommendation(s) Referred from Cabinet**

Consideration was given to the following recommendation(s) referred from Cabinet on 19 July, 2012 in respect of:

(i) Chase Advice Centre – Increased Funding for 2012-13

“The proposed increase in funding to Chase advice Centre from £7,500 to £10,000 for the 2012/13 – 2014/15 financial years be recommended to Council as a supplementary estimate for approval.”

(ii) Consultation and Engagement Strategy, 2012-15

“Council be recommended to approve the Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2012-15.”

(iii) Use of Twitter at Hednesford Community Forum

“In order for Twitter to be used as an e-communications tool at the Community Forum meetings, Council be recommended, through the Constitution Working Group, to consider appropriate changes to the Constitution.”

(iv) Freedom of the District / Freedom of Entry

- (a) "The introduction of honorary awards of the Freedom of the District and Freedom of Entry be recommended to Council, with qualifying criteria as detailed in Paragraph 3.4 of the report.
- (b) Council be recommended to determine, at Special Council meetings called for this purpose, a budget for each specific Freedom nomination based on the appropriate scope of any celebratory event as outlined in Section 4 of the report."

In moving the recommendations, the Leader advised that he anticipated that the Staffordshire Regiment would be one of the first organisations to be nominated for an award.

RESOLVED:

That:

(A) Chase Advice Centre – Increased Funding for 2012-13

The proposed increase in funding to Chase Advice Centre from £7,500 to £10,000 for the 2012/13 – 2014/15 financial years be approved as a supplementary estimate.

(B) Consultation and Engagement Strategy, 2012-15

The Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2012-15 be approved.

(C) Use of Twitter at Hednesford Community Forum

In order for Twitter to be used as an e-communications tool at the Community Forum meetings, the Constitution Working Group be recommended to consider appropriate changes to the Constitution.

(D) Freedom of the District / Freedom of Entry

- (i) The Council would introduce honorary awards of the Freedom of the District and Freedom of Entry, with qualifying criteria as detailed in Paragraph 3.4 of the report to Cabinet.
- (ii) Council would determine, at Special Council meetings called for this purpose, a budget for each specific Freedom nomination based on the appropriate scope of any celebratory event as outlined in Section 4 of the report to Cabinet.

### 38. Motion(s) Received Under Rule 6

Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor P. Snape, Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader, which was seconded:

#### Electrification of the Chase Line Rail Service

“This Council welcomes the Government’s decision to electrify the Chase Line and the opportunities that this will bring to the area. It also acknowledges the work done to achieve this over many years by CCDC Officer, John Morgan, and our local M.P., Aidan Burley, whose lobbying in Westminster, in particular through an Adjournment Debate, on 14<sup>th</sup> June, was instrumental in securing this outcome for the people of Cannock Chase. Finally, we call on Network Rail to ensure that this work is undertaken at the earliest opportunity.”

The Leader of the Council moved the following Amendment to the Motion, which was seconded and accepted by the mover of the original Motion, and the Members present without dissent:

#### Electrification of the Chase Line Rail Service

“This Council welcomes the Government’s decision to electrify the Chase Line and the opportunities that this will bring to the area.

The Council acknowledges the support of a number of organisations and individuals who have worked hard to achieve this result. In particular, the Council wishes to pay tribute to John Morgan, who is employed by this Council and whose knowledge of, and commitment to, this scheme are second to none. These organisations and individuals, working together over many years, have achieved something that no one person or group would have been able to achieve.

We look forward to working with Network Rail to ensure that the scheme is implemented as soon as possible.”

RESOLVED:

This Council welcomes the Government’s decision to electrify the Chase Line and the opportunities that this will bring to the area.

The Council acknowledges the support of a number of organisations and individuals who have worked hard to achieve this result. In particular, the Council wishes to pay tribute to John Morgan, who is employed by this Council and whose knowledge of, and commitment to, this scheme are second to none. These organisations and individuals, working together over many years, have achieved something that no one person or group would have been able to achieve.

We look forward to working with Network Rail to ensure that the scheme is implemented as soon as possible.

### **39. Urgent Motion(s) Received Under Rule 6**

Consideration was given to the following urgent Motion submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor G. Adamson, Leader of the Council, which was seconded. In moving the Motion, Councillor Adamson called for a named vote, which was supported by at least six other Members:

#### Closure of the Kitchens at Cannock Chase Hospital

“This Council is appalled by the decision of the Mid Staffs Foundation Trust to close the kitchens at Cannock Chase Hospital. We call on the Board of the Trust to reconsider this decision in the interests of the patients and staff at the hospital.

This Council further calls on the Board of the Mid Staffs Foundation Trust to confirm its commitment to keep Cannock Chase Hospital open as a fully functioning hospital and not to further downgrade our hospital.”

Councillor D.N. Davies moved the following Amendment to the Motion, which was seconded and accepted by the mover of the original Motion, and the Members present without dissent:

#### Closure of the Kitchens at Cannock Chase Hospital

“This Council is appalled by the decision of the Mid Staffs Foundation Trust to close the kitchens at Cannock Chase Hospital, and the weekend Nightingale restaurant at Stafford Hospital. We call on the Board of the Trust to reconsider this decision in the interests of the patients and staff at the hospitals.

This Council further calls on the Board of the Mid Staffs Foundation Trust to confirm its commitment to keep Cannock Chase Hospital open as a fully functioning hospital and not to further downgrade our hospital.”

RESOLVED (This was a named vote, which every Member present voted in favour of.):

This Council is appalled by the decision of the Mid Staffs Foundation Trust to close the kitchens at Cannock Chase Hospital, and the weekend Nightingale restaurant at Stafford Hospital. We call on the Board of the Trust to reconsider this decision in the interests of the patients and staff at the hospitals.

This Council further calls on the Board of the Mid Staffs Foundation Trust to confirm its commitment to keep Cannock Chase Hospital open as a fully functioning hospital and not to further downgrade our hospital.

### **40. Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee**

The Monitoring Officer advised Members that a report on the new Standards Regime had previously been considered at Council on 4 July, 2012; a resolutions of which was that Council should appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman to the Standards Committee.

The Leader of the Council nominated Councillor A. Lovell as the Chairman; and Councillor Mrs. A. Spicer as the Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A. Lovell be appointed as the Chairman of the Standards Committee; and Councillor Mrs. A. Spicer be appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee.

**41. Annual Governance Statement**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2011-12 be approved.

**42. Composition of the Constitution Working Group**

The Leader of the Council moved that the composition of the six person Constitution Working Group should be in accordance with the principles of political balance, and the membership should, therefore, currently consist of three Labour representatives; two Conservative representatives and one Liberal Democrat representative.

RESOLVED:

That the composition of the six person Constitution Working Group should be in accordance with the principles of political balance, which would currently consist of three Labour representatives; two Conservative representatives and one Liberal Democrat representative.

The Group Leaders then advised of their nominations:

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>
Holder, M.J.	Bernard, J.D.	Davies, D.N.
Kraujalis, J.T.	Rowley, J.	
Pearson, A.		

**43. 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(s) 2, 3 and 6(b) Part 1, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 8 AUGUST, 2012**

**PART 2**

**44. 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) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 15 June, 2012
- (b) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 12 June, 2012
- (c) Joint Parking Committee – 24 April, 2012

(The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.)

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CHAIRMAN