

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL, 2013

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

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

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

98. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; Ms. J.L. Jones; G. Molineux; A. Pearson; M. Sutherland; and Mrs. H. Sutton

99. 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.

100. Minutes

Members discussed End of Life Care strategies, linked to an ELC Profiles document, as referred to in the Minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February, 2013 be approved as a correct record.

101. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Charity Box

The Chairman reported that the charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support his chosen charities. The Chairman advised that at the Meeting held on 27 February, 2013 a total of £23.00 was collected, and he thanked Members for their donations.

102. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

103. 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 – 31 January and 20 February, 2013

Draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2012-13 to 2016-17 (Minute 133) – Members discussed the level of Parish precept increase requested by Rugeley Town Council.

(b) Planning Control Committee – 30 January; 20 February; and 6 March, 2013

(c) Audit and Governance Committee – 6 December, 2012

(d) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 10 January, 2013

(e) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 22 and 25 February, 2013

(f) Cannock Community Forum – 27 November, 2012

(g) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawnsley Community Forum – 11 December, 2012

(h) Hednesford Community Forum – 19 November, 2012

(i) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 26 November, 2012

104. Recommendation(s) Referred from Planning Control Committee

Consideration was given to the following recommendation to Council considered by Planning Control Committee at its meeting on 20 February, 2013, in respect of:

Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making (Minute 268(C))

“(C) That the Committee recommend to Council that paragraph 6.19(b) of the Scheme of Delegations contained in Part 3 of the Constitution and also paragraph 7.4 of the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making contained in Part 5 Section 49 of the Constitution, be amended to state that when a Parish Council objects to an application which Officers are not intending to refuse using delegated powers, the application be determined by Committee rather than by Officers.”

RESOLVED:

That paragraph 6.19(b) of the Scheme of Delegations contained in Part 3 of the Constitution and also paragraph 7.4 of the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making contained in Part 5 Section 49 of the Constitution, be amended to state that when a Parish Council objects to an application which Officers are not intending to refuse using delegated powers, the application be determined by Committee rather than by Officers.

105. Recommendation(s) Referred from Environment Policy Development Committee

Consideration was given to the following recommendation to Council considered by the Economic Development PDC at its meeting on 12 March, 2013, in respect of:

Appeals and Complaints Terms of Reference (Minute 17(B))

“(B) That Council be requested to amend the Terms of Reference of the Appeals and Complaints Panel to include:-

“1.1(f) dealing with requests for review of decisions made by officers in the Urban Forestry Section in response to requests to carry out work to Council owned trees”.

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference of the Appeals and Complaints Panel be amended to include:-

“1.1(f) dealing with requests for review of decisions made by officers in the Urban Forestry Section in response to requests to carry out work to Council owned trees.”

106. Motion(s) Received Under Rule 6

Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor G. Adamson, Leader of the Council, which was seconded and debated. (The Leader also requested a named vote in respect of the Motion.):

“This Council notes:

That the Conservative / Liberal Democrat government’s ‘Bedrom Tax’ will withdraw support for some of the most vulnerable residents of this district.

That thousands of working households on the lowest incomes will lose out nationally under these new rules.

That disabled people will be hit disproportionately by the changes, and

That this decision comes at a time when the government is giving millionaires a tax cut of £100,000.

This Council believes:

That it is unacceptable for the government to target the poor and vulnerable at the same time as they offer a tax cut to the richest in society.

That this policy will have negative consequences for Cannock Chase at a time when the Council has seen its budget slashed by the Conservative / Liberal Democrat government.

That this policy will put further strains upon the Council at a time of austerity.

This Council resolves:

To call on the government to scrap this unworkable and ill-conceived policy, that attacks the most vulnerable residents of Cannock Chase.”

For

Adamson, G.
Alcott, G.
Allen, F.W.C.
Ball, G.D.
Bennett, C.
Bottomer, B. H.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.
Davies, D.N.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.
Dixon, D.I.
Dudson, A.
Fisher, P.A.
Freeman, Miss M.A.
Gamble, B.
Grice, Mrs. D.
Grocott, M.R.
Holder, M.J.
Jones, R.
Kraujalis, J.T.
Lovell, A.
Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Morgan, C.W.J.
Spicer, Mrs. A.
Stretton, Mrs. Z.
Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Todd, R.
Toth, J.

Total: 27

Against

0

Abstain

Anslow, C.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.
Bernard, J.D.
Gilbert, P.
Johnson, J.P.
Rowley, J.
Snape, P.A.
Whitehouse, Mrs. L.

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In addition, Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; Ms. J.L. Jones; G. Molineux; A. Pearson; M. Sutherland; and Mrs. H. Sutton were absent from the meeting

RESOLVED:

That the Council should call on the government to scrap the unworkable and ill-conceived ('Bedroom Tax') policy that attacks the most vulnerable residents of Cannock Chase.

107. 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) 1; 2 and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.

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PART 2

108. 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 – 20 February, 2013
- (b) Licensing and Public Protection – 10 January, 2013
- (c) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 22 and 25 February, 2013

109. Proposal to Change Senior Management Structure of the Council

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Chief Executive (Item 11.1 – 11.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The deletion of the Head of Environmental Services post from the Management structure of the Council be approved.
- (B) A budget variation for the net cost to the General Fund in 2013/14, as set out in the Financial Implications of the report, be approved.
- (C) The revised management structure of the Council be approved, as contained in Appendix 2 to the report.

(The meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN