

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 11 JANUARY, 2017
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

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

Adamson, G.	Hoare, M.W.A.
Alcott, G.	Johnson, J.P.
Allen, F.W.C.	Johnson, T.B.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bennett, C.	Lea, C.I.
Bowater, J.L.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Burnett, G.	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, D.J.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Snape, P.A.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Sutherland, M.
Grocott, M.R.	Witton, P.T.
Hardman, W.T.A.	Woodhead, P.E.

67. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors Miss J. Cooper; D. Foley; Mrs. H.M. Sutton; Mrs. D.M. Todd; and Miss S. Whitehouse.

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

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Nature</u>
Miss J. Christian	Agenda Item 5 - Question in Accordance with Rule 8: Employee of Amazon	Personal
Mrs. C. Mitchell	Minutes of Health Scrutiny Committee – 18 October, 2016: Daughter worked as a therapist for Chase Emotional Wellbeing Service	Personal

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

69. Minutes

It was noted that Councillor J.L. Bowater was recorded as being in attendance and having apologised. In fact, Councillor Bowater had not been present at the meeting and had submitted apologies.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to amendment as above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November, 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed.

70. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Former Cannock Chase Councillors

The Chairman advised that two former Members of the Council had passed away since the last Meeting.

Former Liberal Democrat Councillor, Sue Poole, passed away on 24 November, 2016. She had served as a Councillor for Cannock Chase from 1982 to 1990.

Former Labour Councillor, Brian Bottomer, passed away on 6 December, 2016. He had served as a Councillor for Cannock Chase from 2012 to 2015.

The Council's thoughts were with both of their families and friends, and the Chairman asked for Members to stand and join her in a minute's silence.

(ii) 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 16 November, 2016 a total of £45.00 was received, and she thanked all Members for their donations.

71. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

The following Question had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8 by Councillor Mrs. C.E. Martin, Hagley Ward:

“Could the Environment Cabinet Member please tell the Council if Amazon have ever been asked to provide overnight facilities for drivers, e.g. toilets, showers, canteen?

Also, can this Council make representation to the County Council regarding some sort of parking restrictions to stop the overnight parking by drivers on nearby roads collecting from Amazon?”

Response to the Question

The Environment Portfolio Leader provided the following response, which had also been provided to Councillor Mrs. Martin and all other Members present for information:

‘Environmental Protection initially received complaints in relation to Amazon in November & December 2014. These were from a Town Councillor in regards to litter and fouling issues and a resident of Leathermill Lane regarding HGV parking. The issues were raised with Amazon who offered some cooperation in cleansing the areas affected outside the entrance to their site and also blocking access to the hammerheads outside to prevent HGVs parking there. Amazon advised that they have regular liaison with their suppliers to ensure drivers are aware of the procedures on arrival. The issues were flagged with the Local Policing Team and also raised with Economic Development.

Just prior to this planning permission had been given for development at Amazon which included “alterations to site access including new gatehouse & facilities for lorry drivers & new on site lorry parking”. This permission, CH/14/0183 was approved and drivers’ facilities included new washing and toilet facilities and a rest room to eat meals.

The Transport Assessment undertaken in support of the application proposed an additional 40 HGV spaces in unsecure parking areas that was supposed to remove the need to park off site.

The busy Christmas period covers September to January and drivers are allotted designated delivery time slots and not permitted on site otherwise. Foreign drivers in particular had been arriving several days early and were waiting on the highway locally to unload. Highways were notified of the issues to consider implementation of parking restrictions and improved signage and residents advised to contact the Police if obstructions occurred.

More recently a complaint was received from Ultra Electronics on November 28th and a site visit was undertaken on the following day. Further referrals have been made to Highways and also Street Cleansing and advice given to the complainant. There are no parking restrictions on the highway adjacent Ultra Electronics and recent site observations have confirmed HGVs parked there legally. There is clear photographic evidence of littering.

In relation to the problems with parking the General Manager of Amazon has confirmed that they have approached truck drivers due to concerns about problems caused by parking on the access road and found that many of them are not Amazon employees and some are delivering elsewhere in the area. There are a number of businesses located within the vicinity that are adding to the parking congestion in and around the area (NHS staff double parking etc.).

The General Manager at Amazon has very recently stated:-

“We have looked into this and worked with neighbours regarding trucks parking in the local area. Our studies have shown that we do see some drivers’ park up for varying periods, in the majority legally, and some are for us and some not. We have had our transport management company brief all companies attending Amazon on the correct procedure to show appropriate respect for our neighbours. Additionally if we identify any issues we do raise with their companies and have the driver no longer attend our premises.

Overnight parking is not the best solution on our premises for numerous reasons. There are a number of professional overnight parking locations in the area (A5 x 2 Truck Stops) and one thought is that Amazon could promote those parking facilities more to companies attending site.”

ACTIONS TAKEN

- 1) The Council’s Managing Director has undertaken an onsite visit with a representative from Staffordshire County Council’s Highways Section (Mark Keeling) and the Council’s Senior Environmental Health Officer (John Ness), in January 2017.
- 2) The County Highways Section is in the process of implementing a 7.5tonne weight restriction on Leather Mill Lane / Love Lane, the process is well underway and is on track to be completed this financial year. County Councillor Alan Dudson is fully supporting the action being taken by County Highways. In addition the County Council is investigating the potential for further parking restrictions, these will be subject to formal consultation and the process could take approximately 6 months.
- 3) The District Council’s Street Cleansing Section is looking to install new litter bins on the estate – they are in the process of identifying the hotspot areas in conjunction with the County Highways Section.
- 4) Staffordshire County Council Highways will be monitoring the issue and gathering evidence of inconsiderate parking. .
- 5) Amazon’s General Manager has agreed to take a look at the SCC evidence and take action against companies whose HGV Drivers are not complying with procedures on arrival. Further to this consideration would be given for Amazon to no longer trade with companies if their HGV Drivers were found to be in breach of the arrival procedures.
- 6) This issue will be difficult to resolve and requires a collaborative response from this Council, the County Council and the local Policing Team working together with local businesses in Rugeley to tackle inconsiderate parking and to improve the environment for local people.’

72. 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 – 20 October and 17 November, 2016.

Public Spaces Protection Order (Gating) Consultation (Minute 61)

In response to a question regarding the consultation, the Leader advised that the consultation period had only recently closed and no feedback was available at that time.

Bradbury Lane ATP (Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader's Update – Minute 65)

The Culture and sport Portfolio Leader advised that works were nearing completion and the facility was due to be handed over to the Council within weeks, with an intended opening in March. Talks were also under way with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles with regard to management of the facility.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Management Board (Environment Portfolio Leader's Update - Minute 61)

In response to a question, the Leader of the Council stated that Cannock Chase Council had no intention of charging for the disposal of garden waste. In his capacity as Leader of the Council he had advised SCC Councillor Gill Heath, Cabinet Member for Communities and the Environment, of his concerns that implementing charges to residents would lead to an increase in fly tipping at a cost to the Council, which would consider seeking recompense from the County.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 2 and 23 November, 2016.

Application CH/16/256, Cannock Sports Stadium (Minute 59)

The Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader advised that tenders were being evaluated and it was hoped to start work on site in the Spring.

- (c) Better Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee – 7 September, 2016.

Town Centre Traders' Issues (Rugeley) (Minute 11)

Members referred to concerns raised about lorries parking on the street and causing obstructions to traffic while making deliveries, with links being drawn to the earlier Question Under Rule 8 in respect of lorries delivering to Amazon. Members confirmed that the problem was not one caused directly by the town centre businesses or Amazon, but by the companies employing the delivery drivers who appeared to give no heed to traffic regulations; delivery times etc.

West Midlands Combined Authority (Minute 14)

In response to a question concerning consultation with the WMCA membership, the Managing Director confirmed that, as a non-constituent

member, the Council was not required to be directly consulted. In response to a follow up question as to whether or not the Council had any intentions to become a full member should the opportunity arise, the Leader advised that the legislation did not permit it at present and it was, therefore, not something that had been considered.

(d) Community Safety Scrutiny Committee – 5 September, 2016.

(e) Customers & Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 13 October, 2016.

Financial Recovery Plan Consultation - Reduce operational costs of Parks & Open Spaces services (Minute 11)

In response to Members' concerns about the potential loss of Green Flag awards, the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader advised that alternative ways of delivering the service were being considered which would drive out improvements and should not impact negatively in such areas. The failure to achieve a Green Flag award for Hednesford Park was purely down to the timing of the Assessor's visit at which stage the works had not been completed.

(f) Environment Scrutiny Committee – 30 August and 29 September, 2016.

(g) Health Scrutiny Committee – 3 and 18 October, 2016.

Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – Update (Minute 28)

The Leader advised that he and the Health Scrutiny Chair had earlier that afternoon attended the County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee that had included a discussion of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

Concerns were expressed that the plan was a substantial document (125 pages) and included a number of proposals that would have a negative impact on healthcare provision in the district. For example, the plan recommended closure of Cannock Minor Injuries Unit, whereas the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust saw it as beneficial in the wider scheme of healthcare delivery and wanted it kept open. Concerns were also expressed that there appeared to be a bias towards the north of the County in respect of the use of transitional funding.

(h) Housing Scrutiny Committee – 12 September, 2016.

(i) Audit & Governance Committee – 27 September, 2016.

(j) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 14 and 19 December, 2016.

73. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

None received.

74. Motion(s) Received under Rule 6

No Motions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 6.

75. 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 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A, of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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PART 2

76. 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) Environment Scrutiny Committee – 29 September, 2016.
- (b) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 14 and 19 December, 2016.

The meeting closed at 5.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN