

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY, 2014

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Grice, Mrs. D. (Chairman)
Pearson, A. (Vice Chairman)

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

Prior to commencement of the meeting, the Chairman made the following announcement:

“In accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act, 2014, I rule that Paragraph 23 of the Council Procedure Rules, concerning the use of recording equipment or means of providing commentary, be waived, subject to their use not causing a nuisance or interference in the proceedings.”

72. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.D. Bernard; P.A. Fisher; P. Gilbert; Ms. J.L. Jones; Mrs. A. Spicer; and M. Sutherland.

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

The following Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

74. Minutes

RESOLVED:

The Deputy Leader of the Council moved that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 January, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to an amendment to Minute 61(i) to include the full tribute paid to the late Mrs. Andre Adamson, which was seconded and agreed. The tribute read as follows:

“Before I begin my usual announcements on behalf of all Members I would like to pass on our condolences to the Leader whose wife, Andre, sadly passed away on Boxing Day after fighting with cancer. Councillor Adamson, our thoughts are with you at this very sad and difficult time. It was incredible to see the number of people who turned up to Andre’s funeral on Monday, which just goes to show what a lovely and well respected lady she was. Andre will be sadly missed.”

The Minutes were otherwise agreed as a correct record.

75. The Chairman’s Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Charity Box

The Chairman advised that the charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation. The Chairman reported that at the meeting held on 15 January, 2014, a total of £40.00 was collected which had been given to Chadsmoor Methodist Church in memory of the Leader’s wife, Mrs. Andre Adamson. She thanked Members for their donations.

(ii) Commonwealth Flag

The Chairman advised Members that on Monday, 10 March, 2014, local authorities throughout the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man would be marking Commonwealth Day by flying the Commonwealth flag from 10.00 a.m. until midnight. A short ceremony was to be held at the front of the Civic Building and all Members were invited to attend. Following the ceremony, light refreshments would be provided in the Jack Holsten Room, and she looked forward to seeing Members to the occasion.

76. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

77. Rent Restructuring

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Housing & Waste Management and the Head of Finance (Item 6.1 – 6.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Government's prescribed increase in 2014-15 formula rents and the resultant £3.22 average increase in Council dwelling rents be noted.
- (B) The rent increase be implemented with effect from 7 April, 2014.

78. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2013-14 to 2016-17: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader introduced the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget, and consideration was given to the recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 30 January, 2014, in respect of:

- (i) HRA Budgets 2013-14 to 2016-17
- (ii) HRA Capital Programmes 2014-15 to 2016-17

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

- (A) Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2013-14 to 2016-17:
 - (i) A minimum level of working balances of £1,531,100 for 2014-15 and indicative working balances of £1,555,040 and £1,578,730 for 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively, be determined.
 - (ii) The Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 be approved, (and the estimated outturn for 2013-14 be noted), as summarised in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet.
- (B) Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2014-15 to 2016-17:
 - (i) The Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme enhancements be agreed, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report to Cabinet.
 - (ii) The Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for the period 2014-15 to 2016-17 be approved, as summarised in Appendix 4 of the report to Cabinet.

Members of all Parties wished to record their thanks to Officers of the Council for their unstinting work on housing projects. Particular thanks were given to the Head of Housing and Waste Management and the Head of Finance.

79. Budget Timetable – Procedural Issues

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Council Solicitor (Item 8.1 – 8.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the timetable and procedure be noted, and that the overall level of Council Tax would be set at Council's meeting on the 26 February, 2014 following determination of Cannock Chases Council Tax requirement in accordance with the procedural rules, attached as Appendix A to the report.

80. Budget 2014-15 to 2016-17: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader introduced the Budget 2014-15 to 2016-17, and consideration was given to the recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 30 January, 2014, in respect of: (A named vote was also called for and supported.)

- (i) General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2014-15 to 2016-17.
- (ii) Treasury Management Strategy Statement

For

Adamson, G.
Alcott, G.
Allen, F.W.C.
Ball, G.D.
Bennett, C.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.
Bottomer, B. H.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.
Davies, D.N.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.
Dixon, D.I.
Dudson, A.
Freeman, Miss M.A.
Gamble, B.

Against

Abstain

Allt, Mrs. A.
Anslow, C.
Johnson, J.P.
Rowley, J.
Snape, P.A.
Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Grice, Mrs. D.		
Grocott, M.R.		
Holder, M.J.		
Jones, R.		
Kraujalis, J.T.		
Lovell, A.		
Mitchell, Mrs. C.		
Molineux, G.N.		
Morgan, C.W.J.		
Pearson, A.		
Stretton, Mrs. Z.		
Todd, Mrs. D.M.		
Todd, R.		
Toth, J.		
Whitehouse, Mrs. L.		
Total:	29	0
		6

In addition, Councillors J.D. Bernard; P.A. Fisher; P. Gilbert; Ms. J.L. Jones; Mrs. A. Spicer; and M. Sutherland were absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

(A) General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2014-15 to 2016-17

- (i) The level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2014-15 be set at £12.987 million; with indicative net spending for 2015-16 and 2016-17 of £12.350 million and £12.584 million respectively;
- (ii) The detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet , be approved;
- (iii) The forecast outturn net budget of £14.234 million including a Reserve Contribution to Capital Outlay of £1.5 million, funded from reserves be approved;
- (iv) The use of Government Grants in 2014-15 of £1.428 million be approved with indicative figures of £1.519 million and £1.669 million for 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively;

- (v) The working balances be set at £0.716 million; £0.679 million and £0.692 million for 2014-15 to 2016-17 respectively;
- (vi) A Council Tax freeze for 2014-15 be approved; with indicative increases of 2% to the level of Council Tax for 2015-16 and 2016-17;
- (vii) The Council's Tax Base be set at 26,409.89.
- (viii) The revised capital programme, including new schemes, be approved as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 of the report to Cabinet.

(B) Treasury Management Strategy Statement

- (i) The Prudential and Treasury Indicators be approved;
- (ii) The Minimum Revenue Position (MRP) Policy Statement be approved;
- (iii) The Treasury Management Policy be approved;
- (iv) The Annual Investment Strategy for 2014-15 be approved.

Members of all Parties again wished to record their thanks to Officers of the Council for their ongoing efforts to maintain services in the face of funding adversity. Particular thanks were given to the Head of Finance.

(The meeting closed at 5.25 pm.)

CHAIRMAN