

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER, 2011

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Beddows J. (Chairman)
Ball, G.D. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Holder, M.J.
Alcott, G.	Jones, Ms. J.L.
Allen, F.W.C.	Jones, R.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Molineux, G.N.
Bernard, J.D.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Burnett, G.	Rowley, J.
Burnett, J.	Snape, P.A.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Davies, D.N.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Dixon, D.I.	Todd, R.J.
Easton, R.	Toth, J.
Fisher, P.A.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.
Green, M.R.	Williams, A.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Williams, B.
Grocott, M.R.	Williams, Mrs. P.

62. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; G.C. Brown; P. Gilbert; Mrs. C. Mitchell; and M. Sutherland.

63. 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:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Davies, D.N.	Re. Minutes of Appeals and Complaints Panel – 24 November, 2011: Member knew appellant.	Personal
Bernard, J.D.	Re. Private Sector Housing Strategy: Member is a private landlord.	Personal

Davies, D.N.	Re. Private Sector Housing Strategy: Member is a private landlord.	Personal	
Easton, R.	Re. Private Sector Housing Strategy: Member is a private landlord.	Personal	
Grocott, M.R.	Re. Minutes of Appeals and Complaints Panel – 24 November, 2011: Member knew appellant.	Personal	
Jones, R.	Re. Minutes of Planning Control Committee – 16 November, 2011, Application CH/11/0296: Member was applicant	Personal and Prejudicial	
Rowley, J.	Re. Private Sector Housing Strategy: Member is a private landlord.	Personal	
Whitehouse, Mrs. L.	Re. Private Sector Housing Strategy: Member is a private landlord.	Personal	
Williams, Mrs. P.	Re. Minutes of Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 27 October, 2011: Member knew applicant.	Personal and Prejudicial	
Various	Re. Minutes of Cabinet – 20 October, 2011 (Min. 82: Local Government Pension Scheme) – Member of Unison and / or Contributor to / Recipient from LGPS.	Personal	

The Council Solicitor reminded Members that it was not necessary to declare interests when they had already done so in the Register of Members' Interests. Neither was it necessary to declare interests in respect of discussions of Minutes where matters had already been determined; interests only needed to be declared where Members were being asked to make a determination in a matter.

64. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

65. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) 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 2 November, 2011 a total of £43.69 was collected, and he thanked Members for their donations.

(ii) Chairman's Christmas Drinks

The Chairman invited all Members and Officers to join himself and the Leader of the Council for Christmas drinks in the Chairman's Room between 2.00 and 4.00 pm on Monday, 19 December, 2011. He also took the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

(iii) Chairman's Charity Bash

The Chairman reported that his Charity Bash on Friday, 11 November, 2011, with a 1940's War Time Theme, had been a great success. He expressed his thanks to all the Officers and other supporters involved who had helped to ensure a successful and enjoyable evening. The Chairman noted that it was disappointing that only a small number of Members had attended. While a final figure had yet to be determined, it was estimated that at least £1,300 had been raised for the National Poppy Appeal.

66. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

67. 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 – 20 October, 2011

Leader of the Council's Update

Adjustment to Cabinet Portfolios – the Deputy Leader of the Opposition enquired as to the Corporate Improvement Portfolio Holder's responsibilities and asked the Leader of the Council if it would not make sense for the Leader to incorporate these duties within his remit, as there was no Committee on which the Corporate Improvement Portfolio Holder served or was accountable to.

The Leader advised that the Corporate Improvement Portfolio Holder's remit was very varied and included key areas such as Human Resources and Communications amongst others, which kept him very busy. He did not agree with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's suggestion; the Corporate Improvement Portfolio Holder did an excellent job and was fully occupied.

Recommendation from Scrutiny Committee (Shared Services Working Group) (Minutes 75, page 40)

Further to the above, a Member enquired why the Corporate Improvement Portfolio Holder was not a member of the Shared Services Working Group.

The Leader advised that his Group had a broad church approach to such matters and sought to include both Cabinet and, where appropriate, non-Cabinet Members on working groups.

Local Government Pension Scheme (Minute 82, page 43)

Opposition Members commented that they did not consider it appropriate that the request from Unison in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme had been considered at Cabinet and could, therefore, be interpreted as being the views of the Council.

The Leader of the Council advised that Members had had an opportunity to call-in the decision when the Minutes were circulated during the call-in period following Cabinet, but no one had bothered to do so.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 5 October; 26 October; and 16 November, 2011

Application CH/11/0249, Variation of condition 30 of planning permission CH/10/0451, to allow the permanent use of facility and illumination of floodlights between the hours of 8:00 and 22:00 on any day, Cardinal Griffin Catholic High School, Cardinal Way, Cannock (Minute 57, page 21)

A Member asked if it was known if Sport England had definitely approved the grant for the proposed ATP at the site.

The Leader advised that it had so far as he was aware; however, he would ask Officers to confirm that this was the case.

- (c) Audit and Governance Committee – 27 September, 2011

Statement of Accounts 2010-11 (Minute 21, page 10)

A Member said he wished to draw Members attention to a substantial refund of audit fees due to the Council and he hoped this would be reflected in future fee structures as well.

- (d) Scrutiny Committee – 26 September, 2011

- (e) Licensing and Public Protection – 9 September; 11 October; 27 October; and 8 November, 2011

- (f) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 19 September; 29 September; and 24 November, 2011

- (g) Cannock Community Forum – 20 September, 2011

- (h) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawsley Community Forum – 19 September, 2011

- (i) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 6 September, 2011

68. Recommendations Referred from Planning Control Committee held on 26 October, 2011

Consideration was given to the following recommendation referred from Planning Control Committee on 26 October, 2011, in respect of the Protocols for Public Speaking, which was moved by the Chair of the Planning Control Committee:

“That Council be recommended to amend the rules for public speaking as set out in Annex A of the Protocols for Public Speaking at Planning Control Committee.”

RESOLVED:

That the rules for public speaking be amended as set out in Annex A of the Protocols for Public Speaking at Planning Control Committee.

69. Recommendation Referred from Cabinet meeting held on 17 November, 2011

Consideration was given to the following recommendation referred from Cabinet on 17 November, 2011, which was moved by the Leader of the Council:

“That Council be recommended to approve the proposed Private Sector Housing Strategy attached at Annex 1 to the report.”

(Councillors J. Bernard; D.N. Davies; R. Easton; J. Rowley; and Mrs. L. Whitehouse had declared personal interests in this matter.)

RESOLVED:

That the proposed Private Sector Housing Strategy be approved.

70. 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 he amended from the published one to reflect a change in the composition of the Council:

“This Council wishes to express its concerns at the overnight closure of the Accident & Emergency Department at Stafford Hospital and believes that the closure will put lives at risk. We call on the Secretary of State for Health to intervene to ensure that the closure is for the shortest period possible.

This Council authorises that a delegation of the four Group Leaders (or their nominees) be sent to the Secretary of State to express the views and concerns of our residents.”

The Chairman said he was aware that there would be strong feelings on the matter and, with Members’ indulgence, said that he would invite only the Group Leaders, plus the Chair of Health Scrutiny and the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader to speak.

RESOLVED:

That:

A delegation of the four Group Leaders (or their nominees) be sent to the Secretary of State for Health to express the views and concerns of the Council’s residents.

71. Notification of Changes to Cabinet Portfolios

The Leader of the Council notified Members of further minor changes to Cabinet portfolios. (Copies of the amended Section 23 of the Constitution had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting for information.)

72. Allocation of Seats to Committees and Other Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The allocation of seats to the different Political Groups to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as set out in Annex 1 to the report be approved.
- (B) The allocation of seats approved at (A), above, take effect forthwith.
- (C) The affected Political Group Leaders would notify the Chief Executive within five working days of the names of those Members to be appointed / removed from the Council's Committees and Other Bodies.

73. Determination of Council Tax Base – Year Commencing 1 April, 2012

Consideration was given to the Report of the head of Financial Management (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) In respect of Second Homes, a discount of 10% should apply from April, 2012.
- (B) Subject to the above, the report and the associated calculation (as determined from Annex 1 to the Report – Discount Options), of the Council's Tax Base for the year commencing 1 April, 2012, be approved.
- (C) Pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by the Cannock Chase District Council as its tax base for the year commencing 1 April 2012 shall be the total equivalent Band D properties of the relevant option, and that for the various parts of the District, the amounts so calculated shall be as stated.

Tax Base based upon 10% Second Homes Discounts		
	Gross	Net
Brereton & Ravenhill	2,049.77	2,029.27
Bridgtown	460.06	455.46
Brindley Heath	256.39	253.83
Cannock Wood	415.94	411.78
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	4,357.20	4,313.63
Hednesford	5,269.58	5,216.88
Norton Canes	2,340.69	2,317.28
Rugeley	5,712.41	5,655.29
Balance of the Area	10,036.83	9,936.46
Total	30,898.87	30,589.88

74. 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 2, 3 and 4, Part 1, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.

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HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER, 2011

PART 2

75. 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 – 9 September; 11 October; 27 October; and 8 November, 2011
- (b) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 19 September; 29 September; and 24 November, 2011

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.)