

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 15 JANUARY, 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, Ms. J.L.
Anslow, C.	Jones, R.
Ball, G.D.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bennett, C.	Lovell, A.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bernard, J.D.	Molineux, G.N.
Bottomer, B.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.	Rowley, J.
Davies, D.N.	Snape, P.A.
Dixon, D.I.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Dudson, A.	Stretton, Mrs. Z.
Fisher, P.	Sutherland, M.
Freeman, Miss M.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Gamble, B.	Todd, R.
Gilbert, P.	Toth, J.
Grocott, M.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.

58. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. A. Allt; Mrs. M. Davis; and Mrs. H. Sutton.

59. 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.

60. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 November, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed.

61. 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 which would be given to Chadsmoor Methodist Church in memory of the Leader's wife, Mrs. Andre Adamson.

The Chairman reported that at the meeting held on 6 November, 2013, a total of £21.11 was collected and she thanked Members for their donations.

(ii) Chairman's Charity Evening

The Chairman advised that her Charity Evening would be held on Friday, 11 April, 2014 at the Rose Community Hall and Theatre, Rugeley. Further information would be made available in due course, and she looked forward to welcoming Members on the night.

62. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

63. 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 – 17 October and 21 November, 2013

(Minute 82(1)) Reinvigorating the Right to Buy – The Leader of the Opposition sought clarification from the Leader of the Council as to where the revised Right to Buy Scheme was to be advertised, if not in "Hometalk", and reminded him that the tenants' magazine should not be used for political purposes, e.g. by not advertising the scheme to tenants.

The Leader of the Council and the Housing Portfolio Leader advised that the changes to the scheme had already been publicised in "Hometalk" in accordance with Government instruction.

The Administration was not against right to buy as such; however, they could see no sense in having to sell twenty five Council properties in order to generate sufficient income to build one new one.

They also found the suggestion that “Hometalk” was in any way politically biased to be offensive. The publication was prepared by Housing Officers to keep tenants apprised of matters of interest, and was very popular amongst tenants.

(Minute 91) Land at Hardie Avenue – A Member expressed concern that, in his opinion, the underlying issue of foul drainage had not been addressed and would not be until it was too late. The Member was advised that the land exchange and development would be under licence and the freehold interest in the land would only be transferred to the developer once it was completed to the Council’s full satisfaction.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 23 October; 13 November; and 4 December, 2013

Opening of meeting of 4 December, 2013 – Members reiterated their concerns about the way the local press reported on matters that were due to be considered as if they had already been determined.

It was moved and seconded that the Chair of the Planning Committee should write to the Editor of the Express and Star newspapers to remind them that their newspapers had a responsibility to report matters factually and truthfully, and that their reporters should check the accuracy of their information before publishing.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Planning Committee should write to the Editor of the Express and Star newspapers to remind them that their newspapers had a responsibility to report matters factually and truthfully, and that their reporters should check the accuracy of their information before publishing.

- (c) Audit and Governance Committee – 24 September, 2013
- (d) Scrutiny Committee – 9 November, 2013
- (e) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 5 September and 12 November July, 2013
- (f) Health Scrutiny Committee – 3 September, 2013
- (g) Cannock Community Forum – 17 September, 2013
- (h) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawnsley Community Forum – 12 September, 2013
- (i) Hednesford Community Forum – 9 September, 2013

- (j) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 10 September, 2013

64. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet

Consideration was given to the following recommendations, considered by Cabinet at its meetings held on 21 November and 19 December, 2013, in respect of:

- (i) Replacement of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Service Vehicles

“That Council on 15 January, 2014 be requested to establish a budget of £272,500 for the replacement of 17 grounds maintenance and street cleansing vehicles as part of the 2013-14 General Fund Capital Programme, funded from the virement of agreed resources through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay.”

- (ii) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

“That Council be requested to formally adopt the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, given at Appendix B to the report to Cabinet, with effect from 1 April, 2014.”

- (iii) Replacement of Specialist Grounds Maintenance Machinery

“That Council on 15 January, 2014 be requested to establish a budget of £330,000 for the replacement of 17 items of specialist grounds maintenance machinery as part of the 2013-14 General Fund Capital Programme, funded from the virement of agreed resources through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay.

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

- (A) Replacement of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Service Vehicles

A budget of £272,500 be established for the replacement of 17 grounds maintenance and street cleansing vehicles as part of the 2013-14 General Fund Capital Programme, funded from the virement of agreed resources through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay.

- (B) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, given at Appendix B to the report to Cabinet, be adopted with effect from 1 April, 2014.

(C) Replacement of Specialist Grounds Maintenance Machinery

A budget of £330,000 be established for the replacement of 17 items of specialist grounds maintenance machinery as part of the 2013-14 General Fund Capital Programme, funded from the virement of agreed resources through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay.

66. Motion(s) Received under Rule 6

No Motions had been submitted in under Rule 6.

67. Calendar of Meetings, 2014-15

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Item 9.1 – 9.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Calendar of Meetings 2014-15, included as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (B) The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, the relevant Chairmen of Committees and / or Leader of the Council, as appropriate, be authorised to amend the Calendar of Meetings, through convening additional meetings, or the postponement or cancellation of meetings, if required.

68. Review of Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Consideration was given to a Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 10.1 – 10.43 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee had proposed late changes to the Policy which were moved by the Environment Portfolio Leader. However, Members considered that they had been given insufficient time to consider the changes and it was moved and seconded that consideration of the amended Policy be deferred to a future meeting of Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be deferred for further consideration at the meeting of the Council on 26 February, 2014.

69. Revised Street Trading Policy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 11.1 – 11.18 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the amended Street Trading Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report, be approved.

70. 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 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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PART 2

71. 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 – 17 October, 2013
- (b) Licensing and Public Protection – 5 September and 12 November, 2013

(The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.)

CHAIRMAN