

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 16 JULY, 2014
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Pearson, A. (Chairman)	
Freeman, Miss M.A. (Vice Chairman)	
Adamson, G.	Holder, M.J.
Allen, F.W.C.	Jones, Ms. J.L.
Ball, G.D.	Jones, R.
Bennett, C.	Lovell, A.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bernard, J.D.	Molineux, G.N.
Bottomer, B.	Preece, J.
Buttery, M.	Snape, P.A.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Dean, A.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Dixon, D.I.	Todd, R.
Fisher, P.	Toth, J.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Whitehouse, Ms. S.
Grocott, M.	Witton, P.
Hardman, W.	

16. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Alcott (representing the Leader of the Council at a meeting of an outside body); Mrs. A. Allt; C. Anslow; A. Dudson; B. Gamble; J. Johnson; J.T. Kraujalis; and Mrs. P.Z. Stretton.

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

Mrs. C. Mitchell	Member of Newlife	Personal
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No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

18. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 June, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

19. 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 to his charity fund. The Chairman reported that at the meeting held on 11 June, 2014, a total of £40.00 was collected and he thanked Members for their donations.

The Chairman also advised Members that his chosen charities for the year were to be Meningitis Now and the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust.

(ii) The Great War March

The Chairman reported that the Council was working in partnership with Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust and the Staffordshire Regimental Association to organise a Great War March on Saturday, 2 August, 2014, to remember fallen heroes and to commemorate the start of the First World War. Local cadets and ex-servicemen would be marching in Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley town centres at 10.30 a.m., 1.30 and 3.30 p.m., respectively, and the Lichfield Air Cadets Band and the Rugeley Power Station Brass Band would be providing music.

(iii) Centenary Concert

The Chairman advised that an evening of music would be performed by the Band of the West Midlands Fire Brigade on Saturday, 2 August, 2014 from 7.00 pm at the Prince of Wales Centre. Tickets priced at £10 (concessions) and £12 (standard) could be purchased from the Prince of Wales Centre.

(iv) Freedom of the District March

The Chairman referred to the Freedom of the District March held on Friday, 27 June, 2014, and read out the contents of a letter of thanks from the Secretary of the Hednesford Branch of the Staffordshire Regimental Association.

The Leader also gave particular thanks to Louise Onions and Victoria Mason for the effort they had put in to ensuring the event was a success.

20. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

21. 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 March, 2014

(Minute 140) “Lifting the Lid on Partnerships” Event – The Leader of the Opposition sought clarification as to the numbers in attendance, as he was not aware that the event had been widely publicised. The Deputy Leader and Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader advised that the event had been a ‘multi-agency’ event for staff, and was not intended for the public. Nonetheless, he would ensure that attendance figures were fed back to the Leader of the Opposition.

- (b) Scrutiny Committee – 13 February, 2014

(Minute 23) Achieving Excellence for Young People - Briefing – The Leader of the Council advised that in respect of the figure of the “£50,000 of funding was available through the District Commissioning Lead”, referred to, the Council had been advised that the figure was actually to be £47,000. This was less than some better off neighbouring authorities were going to receive.

Members expressed concern at the cuts in funding being imposed by the County Council, which would impact negatively on services, and of the ‘consultation’ process the County Council were undertaking.

- (c) Planning Control Committee – 26 March; 16 April; 7 May; and 28 May, 2014
- (d) Audit and Governance Committee – 1 April, 2014
- (e) Health Scrutiny Committee – 25 February, 2014
- (f) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 14 January; 28 January; 7 April; and 1 May, 2014
- (g) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 7 May; and 10 June, 2014
- (h) Joint Parking Committee – 28 January, 2014
- (i) Rate Relief Committee – 4 February, 2014
- (j) Cannock Community Forum – 4 March, 2014

(Note 46) Update on the Position of the Negotiations in Respect of the ASDA s.106 monies for the Artificial Turf Pitch – The Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader advised that the matter had now been resolved, and the monies were available to the Council. There followed a wide ranging discussion about the actions of the previous Administration in dealing with

the 'ASDA monies'; siting of the Artificial Turf Pitch; and the former Stadium site. The Leader of the Conservative Group requested a copy of the covenant referred to in respect of the former Stadium site. The Corporate Director agreed to forward a copy to him.

- (k) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawsley Community Forum – 24 March, 2014
- (l) Hednesford Community Forum – 3 March, 2014

(Note 8) Mid-Staffs NHS Foundation Trust Update – The Leader of the Council advised Members that he had been made aware by an employee of the Trust that there appeared to be discussion taking place between the parties as to how services were to be delivered / transferred from November, 2014, when the transfer was due to happen, or in the intervening period.

There followed a wide ranging discussion regarding the recent history and future of Cannock Hospital, with Members expressing concern about the ongoing handling of the situation; the costs incurred by the Trust Special Administration process; and the lack of clarity as to the future delivery of services locally.

- (m) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 10 March, 2014

(Note 9) Questions Submitted by a Resident of Church Street – The Environment Portfolio Leader advised that issues such as the one in question arose from new development taking place in older areas and not having sufficient regard for residents' needs, in particular parking needs.

Highways and Pedestrianised Areas: Maintenance, Repairs and Improvements - Rugeley Members were also critical of Staffordshire County Council, in particular regarding the poor state of repairs of some pedestrianised area and the length of time being taken on the "Public Realm" works in Horsefair.

Attendance Figures at Community Forums – the Leader of the Opposition made a general comment about low attendance at Community Forums, and whether or not they were an effective means of communicating and engaging with local residents.

The Chief Executive advised that this had been recognised, and a review of the Community Forums was included in the Transformation Priority Delivery Plan for 2014-15. A consultation / review exercise was scheduled to be undertaken later in the year.

22. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees and Panels

No recommendations had been referred to Council.

23. Motion(s) Received under Rule 6

No Motions had been submitted under Rule 6.

24. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Item 9.1 – 9.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Council's representatives on the following Outside Bodies, as detailed in the schedule circulated at the meeting, year should be:

<u>Outside body</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>
	<u>Councillor(s)</u>
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Joint Scrutiny Committee	B. Gamble
Slitting Mill Village Hall Committee	A. Dudson

25. Annual Governance Statement 2013-14

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance (Item 10.1 – 10.3, plus Appendix, of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2013-14 be approved.

(The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council then signed the Annual Governance Statement 2013-14.)

26. Revised Street Trading Policy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 11.1 – 11.4, plus Appendix, of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the amended Street Trading Policy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

27. 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

28. 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 March, 2014
- (b) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 14 and 28 January; 10 February (reconvened form 28 January, 2014); and 1 May, 2014
- (c) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 2 May; and 10 June, 2014

29. Settlement of Claim

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Head of Governance (Item 14.1 – 14.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The actions of the Leader of the Council and Senior Officers in agreeing to the settlement of the legal claim be endorsed.
- (B) A supplementary estimate of £18,941.45 be agreed to meet the shortfall in funding the cost of the legal claim.
- (C) Authority be delegated to the s.151 Officer, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council, to make appropriate arrangements to meet all costs arising from the claim including the final settlement sum, which may vary from the amount estimated in (B), above, interest and legal fees.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN