

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 23 JANUARY, 2013

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Todd, R. (Chairman)
Grice, Mrs. D. (Vice Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Gilbert, P.
Alcott, G.	Grocott, M.R.
Allen, F.W.C.	Holder, M.J.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Johnson, J.
Anslow, C.	Jones, Ms. J.L.
Ball, G.D.	Jones, R.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bernard, J.D.	Lovell, A.
Bottomer, B.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.	Pearson, A.
Davies, D.N.	Rowley, J.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Snape, P.A.
Dixon, D.I.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Dudson, A.	Sutherland, M.
Fisher, P.A.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Freeman, Miss M.	Toth, J.
Gamble, B.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.

65. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Bennett; Mrs. C. Mitchell; G.N. Molineux; Mrs. Z. Stretton; and Mrs. H. Sutton.

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

Kraujalis, J.T Corporate Member of Chase Leisure Personal Centre

Snape, P.A. Corporate Member of Chase Leisure Personal Centre

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

67. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

68. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) 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 7 November, 2012 a total of £28.50 was collected, and he thanked Members for their donations.

(ii) Chairman's Scottish Evening

The Chairman advised Members that he would be hosting a Scottish themed Charity Evening on Friday 15 March, 2013 and he asked that Members make a note in their diaries. If anyone wished to donate a prize to the evening's raffle, it would be gratefully received.

(iii) Conduct of Members in Meetings

The Chairman reminded Members that, regardless of their individual political persuasion, they were all elected to office and due decorum should be observed and demonstrated when referring or responding to colleagues in meetings.

69. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

70. 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 - 3 September; 18 October; and 15 November, 2012

In response to a Member's question, the Leader provided an update with regard to progress on the Chase Leisure Centre swimming pool.

The Leader commented that the matter was a concern and a frustration to all Members that the final phase of construction at Chase Leisure Centre involving the swimming pools had not yet completed.

Progress was being made in completing the outstanding works. All works on the pool expansion joints had been completed and the cement screed had been laid around the pool beach surrounds before Christmas. Tiling of the areas was now underway and the three pools had been filled with water. The water was being gently heated and over the coming weeks tests would be conducted to determine if the remedial works had been successful. Only once the tests were completed and proven successful to the Council's complete satisfaction would it be possible to give consideration to a handover to the Council and a date for their opening to the public. Other snagging and checking was also in progress to ensure that the remainder of the facility was fit for purpose when handed over.

The Leader said he realised that there had been criticism for not opening the pool earlier, but the works had to be completed properly according to the Council specification. Where that was not the case, the Council had insisted that works be re-done to an acceptable standard even when it had meant that it lengthened the timetable.

Members of the Culture and Sport PDC had received a detailed presentation from the Head of Commissioning taking them through what had happened on a month by month basis from July 2012. There had been a full and frank questioning of officers about all aspects of the scheme and he appreciated how thorough Members of the Committee had been in this.

The Leader reminded Members that the Council faced some difficult contractual and legal issues over the delay that could end up in a legal dispute and he was, therefore, restricted in what he could say about the matters.

The Leader advised that he didn't wish to minimise the problems caused by a lack of pool facilities on the Cannock side of the District; however, the wider picture was that the partnership with WLCT was going well; there had been a record 50% increase in fitness suite memberships at Chase Leisure Centre since April 2012 and a 20% increase in same at Rugeley Leisure Centre. The ATP at Rugeley had been re-carpeted and the contractor was on site to start works to extend the fitness suite building at Rugeley Leisure Centre.

The Leader remained in contact with Officers on a daily basis about the Chase Leisure Centre swimming pools and subject to the outcome of the tests referred to, he hoped to be able to make an announcement about dates for handover and opening in the near future.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 24 October; 14 November; 5 and 19 December, 2012

Application CH/12/0227, Residential development – demolition of existing motor components building, erection of 3 townhouses and 7 flats within three linked buildings of two and three storeys and associated parking (Outline including access, appearance, layout and scale), Land fronting Sheep Fair and the Old Mill, Rugeley (Minute 215) – A Member requested that the local Ward Members be kept apprised with regard to the use of the S.106 monies associated with the application.

- (c) Audit and Governance Committee– 25 September, 2012
- (d) Scrutiny Committee – 10 September, 2012
- (e) Health Scrutiny Committee – 1 October, 2012
- (f) Standards Committee – 12 June, 2012
- (g) Licensing and Public Protection – 28 August; 11 October; 6 November; and 7 December, 2012
- (h) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 18 October reconvened on 5 November and 3 December, 2012; 9 and 23 November, 2012
- (i) Cannock Community Forum – 18 September, 2012

Cannock Park Update (Note 16) – a Member asked if signage in the park could be improved following further damage to the park gates on the occasion that a vehicle got locked in overnight. The Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader advised that there was no evidence to indicate that the trapped vehicle had anything to do with the damage to the gates, and there was already signage in the area including a contact telephone number to call in the event that anybody got locked in.

- (j) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawnsley Community Forum – 4 September, 2012
- (k) Hednesford Community Forum – 10 September, 2012

Update on Hednesford Park (Note 13) – Members wished to record their thanks to everybody involved in securing the Heritage Lottery Fund monies for the redevelopment of Hednesford Park. The Leader of the Council added that thanks should also be given to the Friends of Hednesford Park for their help supporting the bid.

- (l) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 11 September, 2012

71. Recommendation(s) Referred from Cabinet

To consider the following recommendations referred from Cabinet at its meeting held on 20 December, 2012, in respect of:

(i) Update on Town Centre Issues and Improvements (Minute 104.)

“(C) Council be recommended to include the £100,000 allocation from English Heritage for 2012/13 in the Council’s Capital Programme, matched with £50,000 Town Centre Improvement capital resources and £50,000 Staffordshire County Council contribution, making a total budget of £200,000.

(D) Subject to Council approving (C), above, that Cabinet grant Permission to Spend this allocation from English Heritage in the Rugeley Conservation Areas Partnership Scheme.”

(ii) Local Authority Mortgage Scheme

“Council on 23 January, 2013, be recommended to:

- (i) Approve the participation of Cannock Chase Council in the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme in partnership with Lloyds TSB Bank Plc.
- (ii) Agree the following eligibility criteria for the operation of the scheme within the Cannock Chase area:-
- A total indemnity value of £2 million.
 - A maximum loan of £135,000.
 - Qualifying properties comprise all dwellings which have a postcode within the Cannock Chase District Council area.
- (iii) Approve additional Council borrowing of £2 million to provide the required indemnities in respect of the scheme.
- (iv) Indemnify the Monitoring Officer in respect of any personal liability which may occur as a result of providing the required Opinion Letter to the Lloyds TSB Bank plc.”

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) In respect of Town Centre Issues and Improvements:
- (i) The £100,000 allocation from English Heritage for 2012/13 be included in the Council's Capital Programme, matched with £50,000 Town Centre Improvement capital resources and £50,000 Staffordshire County Council contribution, making a total budget of £200,000.
 - (ii) Cabinet grant Permission to Spend this allocation from English Heritage in the Rugeley Conservation Areas Partnership Scheme.
- (B) In respect of Local Authority Mortgage Scheme:
- (i) The participation of Cannock Chase Council in the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme in partnership with Lloyds TSB Bank Plc be approved.
 - (ii) The following eligibility criteria be agreed for the operation of the scheme within the Cannock Chase area:-
 - A total indemnity value of £2 million.
 - A maximum loan of £135,000.
 - Qualifying properties comprise all dwellings which have a postcode within the Cannock Chase District Council area.
 - (iii) Additional Council borrowing of £2 million to provide the required indemnities in respect of the scheme be approved.
 - (iv) The Monitoring Officer be indemnified in respect of any personal liability which may occur as a result of providing the required Opinion Letter to the Lloyds TSB Bank plc.

72. Determination of Council Tax Base and Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme – Year Commencing 1 April 2013

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Finance (Item 8.1 – 8.50 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme reported to Cabinet on 17 January 2013 (as shown in Appendix 2 to the report) be formally adopted as part of Council's Determination of the Council Tax Base for 2013-14.
- (B) The changes to the Council Tax Base arising from the Technical Reforms to Discounts for Empty Properties and Second Homes be noted.
- (C) The report and the associated calculation (as determined from Annex 1) of the Council's tax base for the year commencing 1 April, 2013 be approved.
- (D) 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, 2013 shall be the total equivalent Band D properties, and that for the various parts of the District, the amounts so calculated shall be as stated.
- (E) Subject to the calculation of the Council Tax Base being determined within existing policies, the calculation of the Council Tax base which is of a technical basis within government regulations be delegated to the Head of Finance.

73. Cannock Chase Local Plan – Local Plan Part 1 Proposed Submission

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration (Item 9.1 – 9.20 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Local Plan Part 1 Proposed Submission and accompanying documents under regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 be published including a six week period of public consultation inviting representations on the soundness of the plan.
- (B) The Head of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader be authorised to make any non-substantive changes considered necessary to the plan prior to publication.
- (C) The Head of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader be authorised to submit the plan and accompanying documents for examination by a Government appointed inspector on completion of the consultation and to deal with matters arising during the examination process.

- (D) The Head of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader be authorised to make arrangements for using the Esperance Room and available nearby rooms in the Council suite for the examination, inspector and programme officer.

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(s) 2 and 3, 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, 23 JANUARY, 2013

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) Cabinet – 15 November, 2012
- (b) Licensing and Public Protection – 28 August; 11 October; 6 November; and 7 December, 2012
- (c) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 18 October reconvened on 5 November and 3 December, 2012; 9 and 23 November, 2012

(The meeting closed at 5.05 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN