

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY, 2012

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

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

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman made his valedictory speech thanking all those who had supported him during his year as Chairman. He commented that it had been a rewarding year, especially seeing all of the good work carried out within the district by a variety of individuals and organisations,. The Chairman advised that during his term of office, he had raised a total of £1,562.21, which had been donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The Chairman mentioned that he had attended a variety of functions across the County with his daughter, Sue, and Sheila who had both been of great support as Consort. He also extended thanks to the Vice Chairman, Councillor Gordon Ball, and to Officers of the Council who had supported him during his term of office.

The Chairman referred to the recent elections and took the opportunity, on behalf of the Council,

to congratulate those Councillors that had been re-elected, and to welcome the newly Elected Members, Councillors: Chris Anslow; Carl Bennett; Brian Bottomer; Alan Dudson; Maureen Freeman; Brian Gamble; Justin Johnson; Andy Lovell; Alan Pearson; Zaphne Stretton.

Presentation of Certificates of Service to Former Councillors

The Chairman then thanked all the former Members for their service and dedication to the residents of the Cannock Chase district, with a combined service of 90 years, and made the following presentation:

The Chairman presented a certificate of service to Mark Green for 4 years' service. He also advised that certificates would also be available for the following, who were unable to attend: Diane Bennett for 12 years' service; Graham Burnett for 4 years' service; John Burnett for 20 years' service; Ray Easton for 17 years' service; Brian Williams for 13 years' service; Mrs. Pat Williams for 4 years' service; and Tony Williams for 8 years' service.

On behalf of the Council, the Chief Executive presented the Chairman with a certificate of service for 8 years' service.

Youth Endeavour Award

The Chairman then advised that the year's Youth Endeavour Award was to be given to Nikki Cole, who had been nominated by Kate Greenwood, Head of House at Kingsmead Technology College for her efforts in raising £3,387 for the "Help for Heroes" charity. Following serious injuries sustained by her cousin in Afghanistan as a serving member of the British Armed Forces, Nikki had decided to organise a number of fund raising events. All of which was done while she was studying for her AS Levels as a sixth form student at Kingsmead Technology College. The Chairman then asked Nikki forward to collect her award.

Representatives from the Hednesford Branch of the Staffordshire Regimental Association and Hednesford Town Football Club also made presentations and thanked Nikki for her efforts.

Group Photograph

The Chairman requested that Members remain in the Chamber following the meeting in order that official photographs could be taken.

1. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Sutherland.

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

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

3. Election of Chairman of the Council

Councillor G. Adamson nominated Councillor R. Todd to be Chairman of the Council, which was seconded.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor R. Todd be elected Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing Municipal year.

(Councillor Todd thereupon declared and signed his acceptance of office and was invested with the badge of office).

Councillor Todd, the newly appointed Chairman, thanked Members for electing him to office and reported that his nominated charities for the year would be Cancer Research U.K. and Mencap..

(Councillor Todd in the Chair)

4. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor G. Adamson nominated Councillor Mrs. D. Grice to be Vice-Chairman of the Council, which was seconded.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs. D. Grice be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor Mrs. Grice thereupon declared and signed her acceptance of office and was invested with the badge of office).

5. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

6. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Exchange of Chains of Office

The Chairman advised that following the official photographs, arrangements had been made for a small ceremony to take place in the Jack Holston Room for the Retiring Chair and Consort, incoming Chair and Consort, Retiring Vice-Chairman and Consort and the incoming Vice-Chairman and Consort with their immediate families.

(ii) Armed Forces Day

The Chairman reported that the Ministry of Defence had announced that the British Armed Forces Day would take place on 30 June, 2012. The day was intended as an opportunity for the whole nation to show its appreciation for all those serving, or who had served, in Her Majesty's Armed Forces. All local authorities had been invited to join in by simultaneously flying a specially commissioned flag to be raised at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 25 June, 2012. A flag raising ceremony, which all Members were invited to, had been organised and he looked forward to seeing them there.

(iii) Chairman's Charity Collection

The Chairman reported that a charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support his charities. A total of £53.27 had been donated at the meeting on 4 April, 2012, which had been included in the total sum raised for the retiring Chairman's charity, the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

7. Form and Composition of the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Adamson, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Cabinet, which included a new Crime and Partnerships Portfolio, and of the lead Cabinet Members for each of the Portfolios.

Councillor G. Adamson	Leader of the Council
Councillor J. Toth	Deputy Leader of the Council and Environment Portfolio Leader
Councillor D.I. Dixon	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Councillor M.J. Holder	Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. C. Mitchell.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Councillor G. Alcott	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Councillor F.W.C. Allen	Housing Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. D.M. Todd	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader

The Leader advised Council that the Cabinet had listened to the local population during the course of the election campaign and intended to address concerns raised by them. Consequently, there were a number of matters that the Cabinet would be looking at in the forthcoming Municipal year, including: crime and disorder (the appointment of a separate Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader was the first step in this strategy, which would also include representation on the Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel); award of the Freedom of the District; resolution of the Stadium site; accelerated improvements to housing stock; seeking a means of addressing cuts in council tax benefits; town centre improvements; community toilets initiative; continued support and possible additional funding for the Chase Advice Centre and Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

8. Leader of the Opposition

The Chairman called upon the Leader of the largest opposition group to confirm the acceptance of office as the Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor P. Snape confirmed his acceptance of office as Leader of the Opposition.

9. Form and Composition of the Shadow Cabinet

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor P. Snape, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Shadow Cabinet and of the lead Members for each of the Shadow Portfolios.

There would be 8 Members of Shadow Cabinet who would be responsible for speaking on the respective portfolios.

Councillor P. Snape	Leader of the Opposition and Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Councillor J. Bernard	Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Corporate Improvement Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. H.M. Sutton	Culture and Sport Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor M. Sutherland	Economic Development and Planning Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor C. Anslow	Environment Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard	Health and Wellbeing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor Ms. J.L. Jones	Housing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. L. Whitehouse	Town Centre Regeneration Shadow Portfolio Leader

10. Allocation of Seats to Political Groups 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 the allocation of seats to the different Political Groups to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as set out in Annex 1 be approved, in order that the appointment of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Members to Committees and Other Bodies could be subsequently considered.

11. Appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies

A schedule setting out the nominations provided by each of the Political Group Leaders for Members to be appointed to the Council's Committees, Sub Committees and Other Bodies, together with nominations for the appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the membership, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Council's Committees, Sub Committees and other Bodies for the 2012-13 Municipal Year, as set out on the schedule circulated, be agreed.

12. 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 was seconded and debated. (The Leader also requested a named vote in respect of the motion.):

"This Council requests that the Cabinet allocate the land at the stadium site for use as public open space and sport and leisure purposes. The Cabinet is requested to remove the Stadium site from the list of land available for housing development."

Councillor P. Snape, Leader of the Opposition, moved the following amended Motion, which was seconded and debated:

"This Council requests that the Cabinet allocate the land at the stadium site for mixed use, including partial development of social and affordable housing. The Cabinet is requested to actively seek a developer for the brown field portion of the site, and use the revenue generated from this development to equip the rest of the site for community open space and sport and leisure purposes, leaving an Olympic Legacy we would not otherwise have had."

The amended Motion was voted on and not carried.

The original motion was then moved to the named vote. The voting was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Adamson, G.	Bernard, J.D.	Allt, Mrs. A.
Alcott, G.	Jones, Ms. J.L.	Anslow, C.
Allen, F.W.C.	Snape, P.A.	Bernard, Mrs. A.F.
Ball, G.D.		Davies, D.N.
Bennett, C.		Fisher, P.A.
Bottomer, B. H.		Gilbert, P.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.		Grocott, M.R.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.		Johnson, J.P.
Dixon, D.I.		Jones, R.
Dudson, A.		Molineux, G.N.
Freeman, Miss M.A.		Rowley, J.
Gamble, B.		Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Grice, Mrs. D.		Whitehouse, Mrs. L.
Holder, M.J.		
Kraujalis, J.T.		
Lovell, A.		
Mitchell, Mrs. C.		
Morgan, C.W.J.		
Pearson, A.		
Spicer, Mrs. A.		
Stretton, Mrs. Z.		
Todd, Mrs. D.M.		
Todd, R.		
Toth, J.		
Total: 24	3	13

In addition, Councillor M. Sutherland was absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet be requested to allocate the land at the stadium site for use as public open space and sport and leisure purposes. The Cabinet is requested to remove the Stadium site from the list of land available for housing development.

13. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

A schedule detailing the nominations submitted by each of the Political Group Leaders was circulated at the meeting.

The Chairman reported that although some of the nominations to outside bodies could be approved on block, the majority of the bodies were over-subscribed and required the Council to vote upon the nominations. Those bodies were highlighted within the schedule.

Members agreed to suspend Rule 15 (8) of the Council Procedure Rules for voting purposes, and then determined the appointment of representatives to outside bodies. Following a vote on each of the nominations requiring determination, it was

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the nominations to Outside Bodies as set out on the schedule circulated at the meeting, be the Council's representatives for the forthcoming municipal year, subject to the Council's representatives on the following bodies being:-

Body	Representative(s)	
	Councillors	Others
Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Advisory Partnership (1)	Pearson, A.	
Beaudesert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Charity Management Committee (1)		Mrs. S. Holliday, 14, Bradwell Lane, Cannock Wood WS15 4RW
Cannock Bowling Green Trust (4)	Freeman, Miss M. Kraujalis, J.T. Snape, P.A. Toth, J.	
Cannock Chase Arts Council (3)	Adamson, G. Grice, Mrs. D. Mitchell, Mrs. C.	
Chase Council for Voluntary Services (2)	Davis, Mrs. M.A. Cartwright, Mrs. S.	
Chase Sports Council (6)	Ball, G.D. Bottomer, B. H. Cartwright, Mrs. S. Fisher, P.A. Mitchell, Mrs. C. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	

Cannock Conduit Trust (5)	Alcott, G. Davis, Mrs. M.A. Kraujalis, J.T. Morgan, C.W.J. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	
Cannock TUC Advice Centre (3)	Adamson, G. Ball, G.D. Freeman, Miss M.	
Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall Management Committee (1)	Toth, J.	
Charity for the Provision of a Recreation Ground (Rugeley) (2)	Dudson, A. Lovell, A.	
Allotments for the Ancient Parish of Rugeley (2)	Bottomer, B.H.	Mrs. N. Walker, 26, The Laurels, Rugeley, Staffs.
Chetwynd Charity (4 seats of which 2 vacant)	Dudson, A. Lovell, A.	
Community Council of Staffordshire (1)		Mr. G. Martin, 39, West Butts Road, Etching Hill, Rugeley WS15 2LS
Etching Hill Village Hall Committee (1)	Bennett, C.	
Family Focus (1)	Rowley, J.	
Hopkins & Sneyd Almshouse Charity (Combined with Hopkins & Sneyd) (1)	Grocott, M.R.	
Landor Society (2)	Lovell, A.	Mr. G. Martin, 39, West Butts Road, Etching Hill, Rugeley WS15 2LS
Midland Joint Advisory Council for Environmental Protection (3, but no Member funding; therefore, Head of Environmental Health attends.)	Head of Environmental Health (or his nominee)	
National Association of Councillors (2)	Snape, P.	

Norton Canes Community Centre (1)	Holder, M.J.	
Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee (8)	Environment Portfolio Leader (Toth, J.) Chmn of Environment PDC (Bottomer, B.H.) Bernard, Mrs. A.F. Gilbert, P. Holder, M.J. Kraujalis, J.T. Morgan, C.W.J. Sutherland, M.	
RELATE (1)	Ball, G.D.	
Rugeley Physically Handicapped Association (1)	Dudson, A.	
Rugeley & District Senior Citizens' Committee (2)	Bottomer, B.H.	Mr. G. Martin, 39, West Butts Road, Etching Hill, Rugeley WS15 2LS
Shoal Hill Common Joint Committee (2)	Freeman, Miss M. Kraujalis, J.T.	
Slitting Mill Village Hall Committee (1)	Dudson, A.	
St. Giles' Hospice (Whittington) – Local Government Friends Group (1)	Cartwright, Mrs. S.	
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association (2)	Culture & Sport Portfolio Leader (Mitchell, Mrs. C.) Pearson, A.	
Staffordshire County Council – Communities, Crime and Culture Scrutiny Committee Co-opted Member (1)	Kraujalis, J.T.	
Staffordshire County Council – Health Scrutiny Committee – Co-opted Member (1)	A member of CCDC Health Scrutiny Committee to be elected by the Committee at its first meeting. Due to the timing of SCC Health Scrutiny Committee meeting the Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee (Gamble, B.) to attend the first meeting.	

University of Birmingham (1)	Lovell, A.	
Wedges Mills Welfare & Playing Fields Association (1)	Anslow, C.	
West Midlands Councils Member Development Steering Group (1)	Adamson, G.	

- (B) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, be authorised to make additional appointments at any Outside Bodies, as necessary, throughout the Municipal year.
- (C) That, in the event of the Political Group Leaders failing to agree on a nomination(s) to an Outside Body (as referred to in (B) above) the appointment be a matter for determination by the Council.
- (D) That, subject to (B) above, the Chief Executive when appointing representatives to Outside Bodies, be authorised to determine which of the appointments should be classed as an 'approved duty' for the purposes of claiming travelling and subsistence expenses.

14. Authorisation to Advertise for Independent Member(s) under New Standards Regime

Consideration was given to the Report of the Monitoring Officer (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Monitoring Officer be authorised to advertise for two Independent Persons to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2012.
- (B) A panel of four members plus the Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee be appointed to conduct the interviews for the Independent Persons and make a recommendation to Council.

15. Appointment to Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 15.1 – 15.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Approval be given in principle to the arrangements for the Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel.
- (B) The Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader be appointed as the Council's representative to sit on the Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 6.20 pm.)