

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, 25 MAY, 2011

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Alcott, G. (Chairman)
Jones, R. (Vice-Chairman)

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

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, and he thanked Members and Officers for their support during his term of office. The Chairman mentioned that he had attended a variety of functions across the County with his wife, Audrey, who had been of great support as his Consort.

He also extended thanks to the Vice Chairman, Councillor Ray Jones.

The Chairman referred to the recent elections and took the opportunity, on behalf of the Council, to welcome the newly Elected Members, Councillors Mrs. Anne Allt; Gordon Brown; Paul Fisher; Mike Holder; Ms. Jodie Jones; Paul Snape; Ms. Alison Spicer; Bob Todd and Janos Toth.

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 124 years, and made the following presentations:

The Chairman presented certificates of service to Mrs. Pat Ansell for 12 years' service; Les Bullock for 12 years' service; Mrs. Mary Easton for 4 years' service; and Doug Thomas for 31 years' service. He also advised that certificates would also be available for the following, who were unable to attend: Phil Freeman for 12 years' service; Bob Meaden for 23 years' service; Neil Stanley for 20 years' service; Chris Collis for 6 years' service; and Wendy Yates for 4 years' service.

He also asked Members to note that, although long service awards were no longer given to Members or Officers, it should be noted that Councillors Dennis Dixon and Brian Williams had both attained 12 years service, while Councillor Gordon Ball had attained 20 years' service.

Chairman's Charity

The Chairman advised the meeting that a total of £2,684.46 had been raised for his chosen charity, the Royal British Legion Welfare Fund. At the beginning of the Municipal year, he had announced his intention to split any monies raised between the four local branches in Cannock, Rugeley, Hednesford and Norton Canes. Unfortunately, he had been informed that the Cannock branch was in the process of closing down; therefore he had taken the decision to split the monies equally between the remaining three branches and presentations had taken place earlier in the day. Members were once again thanked for their contributions throughout the Chairman's year of office.

Youth Endeavour Award

The Chairman then advised that the year's Youth Endeavour Award was to be given to Sharnee Ray Coleman who had been nominated by Jo McGhie of Cannock Chase High School for her determination and courage in facing a daily battle having been diagnosed with Crohn's Disease. In spite of her diagnosis, and spending a great deal of time going in and out hospital, resulting in missing two years' of education, Sharnee refused to give in to the disease and was progressing well with her studies.

The Chairman then asked Sharnee forward to collect her award.

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 Mrs. H.M. Sutton.

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 M. Sutherland (seconded by Councillor J. Bernard), nominated Councillor J. Beddows to be Chairman of the Council, which was seconded.

Councillor A. Williams (seconded by Councillor D. Davies), nominated Councillor R. Jones to be Chairman of the Council, which was seconded.

Following a vote, Councillor J. Beddows was appointed Chairman for the ensuing Municipal year.

RESOLVED:

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

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

Councillor Beddows, the newly appointed Chairman, thanked Members for electing him to office and reported that he would advise Members at the next Council meeting of the Charities he would be supporting.

(Councillor Beddows in the Chair)

4. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor D. Grice (seconded by Councillor Mrs. S. Cartwright), nominated Councillor G. Ball to be Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Councillor A. Williams (seconded by Councillor D. Davies), nominated Councillor R. Jones to be Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Following a vote, Councillor G. Ball was appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor G. Ball be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing municipal year.

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

5. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 April, 2011 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 25 June. 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, 20 June, 2010. 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 £29.61 had been donated at the meeting on 6 April, 2011, which had been included in the total sum raised for the retiring Chairman's charity, the Royal British Legion Welfare Fund.

(iv) Petition – Multi-games Area, Newlands Park Estate

Councillor J. Bernard presented a petition on behalf of residents requesting that the multi-games area on the above estate be removed.

Having received the petition, the Chairman agreed that it be referred to the appropriate Portfolio Leader and Head of Service to deal with in the usual way.

7. Amendments to the Constitution

Consideration was given to the Report of the Monitoring Officer (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to the Constitution set out in the Annexes to the report be adopted with immediate effect.

8. Leader of the Council

Councillor F. Allen (seconded by Councillor Mrs. D. Grice), nominated Councillor G. Adamson to be Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor G. Adamson be appointed Leader of the Council to hold office in accordance with the Constitution.

9. 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 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 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

10. 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 M. Sutherland confirmed his acceptance of office as Leader of the Opposition.

11. Form and Composition of the Shadow Cabinet

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor M. Sutherland, 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 7 Members of Shadow Cabinet who would be responsible for speaking on the respective portfolios.

Councillor M. Sutherland	Leader of the Opposition and Corporate Improvement Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor G. Burnett	Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Economic Development and Planning Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. H.M. Sutton	Culture and Sport Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor P. Gilbert	Environment Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard	Health and Wellbeing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor J.D. Bernard	Housing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. L. Whitehouse	Town Centre Regeneration Shadow Portfolio Leader

12. Allocation of Seats to Political Groups to Committees and Other Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 12.1 - 12.5 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.

13. 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 2011-12 Municipal Year, as set out on the schedule circulated, be agreed.

14. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.5 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 whilst the majority of nominations to outside bodies could be approved on block, there were a number of bodies which the Council needed to vote upon and that 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)	Decision deferred to next meeting of Council, pending confirmation that nominees' wards are within the AONB.	
Barbara Bird Memorial Fund (1)	Ball, G.D.	
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)	Green, M.R. Kraujalis, J.T. Sutton, Mrs. M.	Mr. R. Wells, 31 Clarion Way, Cannock
Cannock Chase Arts Council (3)	Grice, Mrs. D. Mitchell, Mrs. C. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	
Chase Council for Voluntary Services (2)	Davis, Mrs. M.A. Cartwright, Mrs. S.	
Chase Sports Council (6)	Ball, G.D. Brown, G.C. Cartwright, Mrs. S. Gilbert, P. Mitchell, Mrs. C. Whitehouse, Mrs. L.	

Cannock Conduit Trust (5)	Alcott, G. Bennett, Mrs. D.J. Davis, Mrs. M.A. Morgan, C.W.J. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	
Cannock TUC Advice Centre (3)	Ball, G.D. Grice, Mrs. D. Kraujalis, J.T.	
Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall Management Committee (1)		Mrs. P.A. Ansell, 6, Uplands Close, Cannock Wood WS15 4RH
Cannock Youth Centre Management Committee (2)	Cartwright, Mrs. S. Jones, Ms. J.L.	
Community Council of Staffordshire (1)		Mrs. P.A. Ansell, 6, Uplands Close, Cannock Wood WS15 4RH
Etching Hill Village Hall Committee (1)		Mr. G. Martin, 39, West Butts Road, Etching Hill, Rugeley WS15 2LS
Family Focus (1)	Rowley, J.	
Foundation of Clara & Caroline Walhouse (1)	Kraujalis, J.T.	
Hazel Slade Youth Centre Management Committee (2)	Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Mr. B. Gamble, 547, Littleworth Road, Rawsley
Health Net (1)	Davis, Mrs. M.A.	
Hopkins & Sneyd Almshouse Charity (Combined with Hopkins & Sneyd) (1)	Grocott, M.R.	
Landor Society (2)	Brown, G.C.	Mr. G. Martin, 39, West Butts Road, Etching Hill, Rugeley WS15 2LS
Longdon (Colton) Almshouses (1)	Rowley, J.	

Midland Joint Advisory Council for Environmental Protection (2)	Alcott, G. Ball, G.D.	
National Association of Councillors (2)	Sutherland, M.	Mrs. P.A. Ansell, 6, Uplands Close, Cannock Wood WS15 4RH
Norton Canes Community Centre (1)	Holder, M.J.	
Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee (8)	Environment Portfolio Leader (Toth, J.) Chmn of Environment PDC (Bernard, J.D.) 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)		Mr. G. Martin, 39, West Butts Road, Etching Hill, Rugeley WS15 2LS
Rugeley & District Senior Citizens' Committee (2)	Williams, Mrs. P.	Mr. G. Martin, 39, West Butts Road, Etching Hill, Rugeley WS15 2LS
Shoal Hill Common Joint Committee (2)	Burnett, J. Kraujalis, J.T.	
Slitting Mill Village Hall Committee (1)	Jones, R.	
South Staffs. PCT – Cannock Health Centre Steering Group (1)	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	
St. Giles' Hospice (Whittington) – Local Government Friends Group (1)	Cartwright, Mrs. S.	

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association (2)	Culture & Sport Portfolio Leader (Mitchell, Mrs. C.) Jones, Ms. J.L.	
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 it was agreed that the Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee (Bernard, Mrs. A.F.) would attend the first meeting.	
University of Birmingham (1)	Term expires on 31/05/11, therefore decision deferred to next meeting of Council.	
Wedges Mills Welfare & Playing Fields Association (1)	Snape, P.	
West Midlands Councils Member Development Steering Group (1)	Adamson, G.	
West Midlands Reserve Forces & Cadets Association (1)	Spicer, Ms. A.	

- (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 traveling and subsistence expenses.
- (E) That the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee should attend the first meeting of the County Council’s Health Scrutiny Committee until such time as the Committee met and agreed who the Council’s representative should be.

- (F) That the appointment of representatives to the following bodies be deferred until the Council meeting on 29 June, 2011:
- (i) The Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Advisory Partnership (1 Member), pending confirmation that the nominees' Wards are within the AONB; and
 - (ii) The University of Birmingham (1 Member), following expiration of the term of appointment.

15. Recommendation Referred from the Planning Control Committee held on 31 March, 2011

Consideration was given to the following recommendation referred from the Planning Control Committee held on 31 March, 2011:

“That Council be recommended to amend the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making which forms part of the Constitution in order to extend the time limit on public speaking at the Planning Control Committee from 5 minutes to 10 minutes for a temporary 12 month trial period.”

RESOLVED:

That the amendment to the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making which forms part of the Constitution be amended in order to extend the time limit on public speaking at the Planning Control Committee from 5 minutes to 10 minutes for a temporary 12 month trial period.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 6.10 pm.)