

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**AT 4:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY, 2018**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Witton, P.T. (Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Johnson, T.B.
Alcott, G.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Allen, F.W.C.	Lea, C.I.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Lyons, Miss O.
Bennett, C.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Bowater, J.L.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Buttery, M.S.	Peake, Mrs. C.L.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Pearson, A.R.
Cooper, Miss J.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Crabtree, S.K.	Smith, C.D.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Snape, D.J.
Dudson, A.	Snape, P.A.
Fisher, P.A.	Startin, P.D.
Foley, D.	Sutherland, M.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Tait, Ms. L.
Hewitt, P.M.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Hoare, M.W.A.	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.
Johnson, J.P.	Woodhead, P.E.

**19. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors Miss M.J. Dudson and Mrs. P.Z. Stretton M.B.E (Vice-Chairman).

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

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

## **21. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting and Annual meeting held on 23 May, 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed.

## **22. Presentation of Certificates to Aldermen**

The Chairman reminded Members that at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 23 May, 2018, Council approved that the title of Honorary Alderman be awarded to five nominated former Councillors, and that this was the first time the title had been awarded by the Council. The title was in recognition of eminent service rendered to the Council as a past Member for at least three terms of office.

Those persons appointed as Honorary Aldermen could attend and take part in such Civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide to host, and the Chairman noted it was pleasing to see some of the Aldermen at the recent Civic Service.

An invitation was extended to each Alderman to attend today's Council meeting to collect their certificates. All invitees were in attendance other than Derek Davis, who had given his apologies due to a prior engagement, and would receive his certificate separately.

The Chairman then called upon former Members of the Council Roy Bagguley, Dennis Dixon, Michael Grocott and Michael Holder to come forward and collect their awards.

The Chairman then invited each Alderman to make a short address to Council upon receipt of their certificate.

## **23. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence**

### **(i) Chairman's Charity Collection**

The Chairman advised that a collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support his fundraising. At the meeting held on 23 May, 2018 a total of £45.00 was received, and he thanked Members for their donations.

### **(ii) Civic Service**

The Chairman thanked those Members who joined him at the Civic Service and Reception held on Sunday 15 July, 2018, commenting that all in attendance had a great afternoon and the church service was very fitting to the occasion. He also gave thanks to the Civic Officers for doing a fantastic job of arranging the day.

## **24. Changes to Membership of Committees etc. 2018/19**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Adamson, notified Council of changes to membership of Committees etc. from the Labour Group for retrospective approval by Council (Item 6.1 – 6.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the changes to Labour Group membership of Committees etc. as detailed in the schedule at Item 6.1 to 6.3 of the agenda be approved.

**25. Questions in Accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8**

No Questions had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.

**26. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.**

- (i) Consideration was given to the following recommendation to Council considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 14 June, 2018, in respect of:

Corporate Priority Delivery Plan and Peer Review Update (Minute No. 8)

“That Council, at its meeting to be held on 25 July, 2018, be recommended to approve the Corporate Priority Delivery Plan 2018/19, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the 14 June, 2018 Cabinet report.”

RESOLVED:

Corporate Priority Delivery Plan and Peer Review Update (Minute No. 8)

That the Corporate Priority Delivery Plan 2018/19 be approved.

- (ii) Consideration was given to the following recommendation to Council considered by the Planning Control Committee at its meeting held on 20 June, 2018 in respect of:

Planning Enforcement Protocol (Minute No. 19)

“That Council, at its meeting to be held on 25 July, 2018, be recommended to adopt and publish the Cannock Chase Council Planning Enforcement Protocol, as detailed on pages 6.100 to 6.114 of the 20 June, 2018 Planning Control Committee papers.”

RESOLVED:

Planning Enforcement Protocol (Minute No. 19)

That the Cannock Chase Council Planning Enforcement Protocol be adopted and published.

**27. Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6**

- (i) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor Ms. C.L. Wilkinson, Rawnsley Ward:

Goldfish

“We all enjoy a visit to the fair, the circus or one of the many other festivals or events held across our district. Whilst we enjoy it, animals should not suffer. Over the past few months a couple of issues have arisen in neighbouring Council areas where Goldfish are being offered as prizes in fairground games and I have been contacted by several residents concerned about this cruel and outdated practice.

Giving live animals as prizes is not against the law, unless they are giving them away to unaccompanied children:

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 in England and Wales makes it an offence to give away an animal as a prize if the person can reasonably be believed to be under 16 and is not accompanied by an adult (there are some exceptions in sections 11(3)-(6) of the Act). This is not the case in Scotland, where under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, it is an offence to offer or give an animal to another person as a prize (whatever their age), except where it is offered in a family context.

This is not something that has been observed in our District and we note that the District Council has existing policies regarding not allowing animals performing as part of a circus. Addressing this with a positive policy statement will reinforce the Councils' and the residents' strong commitments to the rights of animals.

Instruct the Managing Director to ask staff to draw up a suitable policy statement to prohibit the offer of live animals as prizes at any fair, circus, festival or event held on (i) land owned by the District Council (ii) supported by the District Council in any way or (iii) licensed by the District Council."

RESOLVED:

That the Motion, as presented, be referred without debate to the 23 August, 2018 Cabinet meeting, for consideration.

- (ii) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor P.E. Woodhead, Hednesford South Ward:

'A'-Boards

"The Commercial Obstructions on the Highway Policy agreed by Council in October 2017 has shown to be both unpopular and flawed in that feedback obtained from Traders shows a number of hidden costs not anticipated in the original policy design as well as a zealous approach to the conditions of compliance. This coupled with many traders simply removing advertising boards has left the three Town Centres a bleak and desolate place.

Instruct the Managing Director to halt the implementation of the Policy agreed in October 2017 whilst the scrutiny committee review is undertaken as a matter of urgency. The reviewed need, scale and scope of any replacement policy or proposals be brought back to Council for consideration."

Councillor Mrs. C.E. Martin moved the following amendment to the Motion, which was duly seconded:

"That the Motion, as presented, be referred to the Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for consideration, due to the Committee having agreed to undertake a review of the Commercial Obstructions on the Highway Policy as part of its 2018/19 work programme."

Members then took a vote on the proposed amendment, which was approved.

RESOLVED:

That the Motion, as presented, be referred to the Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for consideration, due to the Committee having agreed to undertake a review of the Commercial Obstructions on the Highway Policy as part of its 2018/19 work programme.

- (iii) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor P.E. Woodhead, Hednesford South Ward:

Lloyds Bank

“Lloyds Bank have announced that they are closing the branch in Hednesford. This is the last bank in the town and will be another devastating blow for the traders and community of Hednesford. Lloyds Bank was saved from collapse in 2008 with £220 billion of taxpayers money and have a moral obligation to serve our communities not isolate them.

Up until 2015 there was a commitment from all major high street banks to keep the “Last Bank in the Town” which was ditched in a coalition government agreement with bankers and replaced with 12 weeks notice and “community consultation”.

A petition has been circulating in the town and online which has attracted over 2250 signatures asking for Lloyds to reconsider their decision.

Instruct the Managing Director to write on behalf of all Councillors to accompany the petition to urge Lloyds Bank to reverse their decision and keep a bank in the town.”

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) It was noted that Lloyds Bank had announced that they were closing the branch in Hednesford. This was the last bank in the town and would be another devastating blow for the traders and community of Hednesford. Lloyds Bank was saved from collapse in 2008 with £220 billion of taxpayers money and had a moral obligation to serve our communities, not isolate them.
- (B) It was further noted that up until 2015 there was a commitment from all major high street banks to keep the “Last Bank in the Town” which was ditched in a coalition government agreement with bankers and replaced with 12 weeks notice and “community consultation”.
- (C) It was also further noted that a petition had been circulating in the town and online which had attracted over 2,250 signatures asking Lloyds to reconsider their decision.
- (D) The Managing Director be instructed to write on behalf of all Councillors to accompany the petition to urge Lloyds Bank to reverse their decision and keep a bank in the town.

- (iv) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor P.A. Snape, Leader of the Opposition:

Electric Vehicle Charging Schemes

“As Members will know, Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has announced a government plan to ban the sale of all petrol and diesel cars by 2040. This being the case, over the next 22 years the UK will have to ramp up the provision of charging points to provide the infrastructure to fuel electric vehicles.

New electric vehicles can only be supported if there are charging points available. Accordingly, planning permission for new build residential and business premises should include the provision of an electric charging point.

Cannock Chase District Council now has the opportunity to make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions and helping the government move towards its 2040 electric car target. Therefore, please let us now require new planning applicants, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 onwards, to include an ‘electric vehicle charging scheme’ for housing and business/commercial developments such that the planning application must include an ‘electric vehicle charging scheme’ plan.”

Following advice received from the Council’s Monitoring Officer concerning the Council’s powers when determining planning policy matters, the Motion was withdrawn by Councillor P.A. Snape.

**28. Comments and Questions on Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9**

No comments or questions on Part 1 Minutes had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

**29. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2018/19**

Consideration was given to the proposed appointments of representatives to Outside Bodies 2018/19 and amendments to appointments made at the Annual Council meeting held on 23 May, 2018 (Item 11.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Mr P. King be appointed as the Council’s representative on the Beaudesert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Charity Management Committee for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.
- (B) Councillors J.T. Kraujalis and M. Sutherland be appointed as the Council’s representatives on the National Association of Councillors for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.
- (C) Councillor F.W.C. Allen, as the Chairman of the Community Scrutiny Committee, be appointed to the Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year, in place of Councillor Miss J. Cooper.

(D) Councillor A. Dudson be appointed as the Council's voting member on the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year, in place of Councillor J.P.T.L. Preece.

**30. Scrutiny Committees' Annual Reports 2018/19**

The 2017/18 Annual Reports of the following Scrutiny Committee were received for information (Item 12.1 – 12.19 of the Official Minutes of the Council):

- Customers & Corporate Scrutiny Committee;
- Economic Development and Town Centres Scrutiny Committee;
- Health, Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee;
- Housing, Crime and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

**31. Exclusion of the Public**

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.



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**PART 2**

**32. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.**

Consideration was given to the following recommendation to Council considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 14 June, 2018, in respect of:

Cannock Town Centre (Draft Minute No. 31)

“That Council, at its meeting to be held on 25 July, 2018, be requested to approve a capital allocation in the Council’s Capital Programme 2018/19 to cover the purchase costs outlined in the Report and any related financial implications.”

RESOLVED:

That a capital allocation be included in the Council’s Capital Programme 2018/19 to cover the purchase costs outlined in the 12 July, 2018 Not for Publication Cabinet Report and any related financial implications.

**33. Comments and Questions on Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9**

No comments or questions on Part 2 Minutes had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

The meeting closed at 5:07 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN