

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL, 2016
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Freeman, Miss M.A. (Chairman)
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z. (Vice Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Hardman, W.
Alcott, G.	Hoare, M.W.A.
Allen, F.W.C.	Johnson, J.P.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Johnson, T.B.
Bennett, C.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Lea, C.I.
Bowater, J.	Lovell, A.
Burnett, G.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Peake, Mrs. C.
Cooper, Miss J.	Pearson, A.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Preece, J.
Dean, A.	Snape, P.A.
Dudson, Miss M.J.	Sutherland, M.
Foley, D.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Gamble, B.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Whitehouse, Miss S.
Grocott, M.R.	Witton, P.

102. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Buttery; Miss J. Christian; A. Dudson and G.N. Molineux;

103. 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.

104. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 March, 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed.

105. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Minute's Silence

The Chairman asked Members to join in observing a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the victims of the terrorist attacks in Brussels on 22 March, 2016, where 32 people lost their lives.

(ii) Chairman's Charity Collection Box

The Chairman advised that the charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation. She reported that at the meeting held on 3 March, 2016, a total of £30.75 was collected, and she thanked Members for their donations.

(iii) HM The Queen's 90th Birthday

The Chairman advised that on 21 April, 2016, the Council was going to be participating in lighting a beacon in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. The event was going to be held at the Museum of Cannock Chase between 7pm and 8:30pm, with the beacon being lit at 7:30pm, and all Members, along with their family and friends were invited to attend.

106. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

107. 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 – 1 February, 2016

Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (Minute 77)

The Leader of the Opposition requested an update on the Council's current position in respect of this matter.

The Leader replied that the Council had not been included in the first tranche of the resettlement programme and therefore no further updates were able to be provided at the present time.

Application for Permission to Spend – Re-Provision of Damaged Equipment at the Former Stadium Site and Hayes Way Play Areas (Minute 85)

The Leader of the UKIP Group thanked the Leader and Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader for securing quick replacement of the damaged play equipment at the sites concerned.

Quarter 2 Performance Review of Wigan and Leisure Culture Trust (WLCT) 2015-16 (Minute 86)

The Leader of the Opposition asked what steps were being taken to prevent future instances of travellers illegally camping at Cannock Leisure Centre and other sites in the future.

The Leader replied that a working party had been established to review what went wrong and how to prevent future instances of this happening.

A number of Members raised specific concern about the lack of response by the Police to this matter and whether a risk plan was in place, and hoped that both these issues would be addressed as part of the discussions by the working party.

On a separate matter, a Member asked for the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader to pass thanks on to WLCT for successfully hosting the national Quidditch Championships at Rugeley Centre in March.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 17 February and 2 March, 2016
- (c) Better Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee – 9 December, 2016
- (d) Community Safety Scrutiny Committee – 3 December, 2015
- (e) Health Scrutiny Committee – 23 February, 2016

Presentation – South Staffordshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) (Minute 34)

The Leader of the Opposition noted that the Committee had resolved that “the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader provide a report to Cabinet on 24 March, 2016 expressing concern with the cuts for funding to community pharmacy.”, however no such report was included in the papers for the respective Cabinet meeting.

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader replied that a letter expressing concern about the cuts had been sent by the Health Scrutiny Committee, to which a response had been received.

- (f) Housing Scrutiny Committee – 8 December, 2015
- (g) Scrutiny Committee (Transitional) – 26 January, 2016
- (h) Licensing & Public Protection Committee – 23 September, 2015 (x2) and 25 February, 2016

108. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

Consideration was given in turn to the following recommendations to Council considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 24 March, 2016, in respect of:

(1) Priority Delivery Plans 2016/17 (Minute No. 96)

“That Council be recommended to adopt the Priority Delivery Plans for 2016/17 and approve them for publication.”

RESOLVED:

That the Priority Delivery Plans for 2016/17 be adopted and approved for publication.

(2) Civic Centre Car Park (Minute No. 97)

“That Council be recommended to allocate an additional £150,000 to the Civic Centre Car Park capital scheme.”

RESOLVED:

That an additional £150,000 be allocated to the Civic Centre Car Park capital scheme.

Councillor Mrs. Bernard requested that her name be recorded as having voted against this item.

(3) Revised Local Development Scheme and Process for Overseeing the Development of the Local Plan Part 2 (Minute No. 98)

“That Council be recommended to approve the revised Local Development Scheme (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet Report) covering the period April, 2016 – March, 2019, so that it can be brought into effect on 6 April, 2016, under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).”

RESOLVED:

That the revised Local Development Scheme (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the 24 March, 2016 Cabinet report) covering the period April, 2016 – March, 2019 be approved, so that it can be brought into effect on 6 April, 2016, under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

109. Motion(s) Received under Rule 6

Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor P. Witton, which was seconded and debated (a named vote in respect of the Motion was also requested and supported):

“This Council is appalled by the cuts in the budgets for supporting the most vulnerable people in Cannock Chase made by Staffordshire County Council.

The cuts are designed to target the poorest, most vulnerable and weakest in our community and bring disgrace on the Conservative party that has implemented

them.”

For

Adamson, G.
Alcott, G.
Allen, F.W.C.
Bennett, C.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.
Cooper, Miss J.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.
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Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Pearson, A.
Preece, J.T.
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Whitehouse, Miss S.

Against

Allt, Mrs. A.
Bowater, J.
Burnett, G.
Hoare, M.W.A.
Johnson, J.P.
Lea, C.I.
Peake, Mrs. C.L.
Snape, P.A.
Sutherland, M.
Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

Abstain

Witton, P.T.

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In addition, Councillors M. Buttery, Miss J. Christian, A. Dudson and G.N. Molineux, were absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Council was appalled by the cuts in budgets for supporting the most vulnerable people in Cannock Chase made by Staffordshire County Council.
- (B) The cuts were designed to target the poorest, most vulnerable and weakest in our community and brought disgrace on the Conservative party that had implemented them.

110. 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 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL, 2016
PART 2

111. Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees and Panels

RESOLVED:

That the Part 2 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 – 1 February, 2016

Debt Recovery (Minute 88)

The Leader of the Opposition asked what was being done to recover Housing Benefits overpayments as the Council was losing approximately £100,000 per year as a result of this happening.

The Housing Portfolio Leader replied that this matter had been discussed extensively at Cabinet, but it was proving challenging to find an ideal solution.

The Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader further replied that the level of overpayments not recovered only equated to roughly 4% of the total payments made, and that this percentage had been falling in recent years.

The meeting closed at 5:55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN