

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY, 2015
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Freeman, Miss M.A. (Chairman)

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

14. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Mrs. A.F. Bernard; G. Burnett; Miss J. Christian; B. Gamble; A. Lovell; Mrs. C. Peake; and Mrs. P.Z. Stretton.

15. 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.

16. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 27 May, 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed.

17. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Minute's Silence

The Chairman asked Members to observe a minute's silence to pay respects to the victims of the shootings in Tunisia on Friday, 26 June, 2015, and to those who lost their lives in the London bombings on 7 July, 2005, marking the 10 year anniversary.

(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 27 May, 2015, a total of £41.93 was collected, and she thanked Members for their donations.

(iii) Civic Service

The Chairman thanked all those Members who had joined her at her Civic Service and Reception held on Sunday, 5 July, 2015. She had enjoyed a wonderful day and was pleased to see so many colleagues there.

18. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

19. Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Panels and Forums

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 Minutes and Notes of the following Cabinet, Committees, Panels and Forums be adopted and any recommendations be approved and decisions implemented following the expiry of any call-in period:-

- (a) Cabinet – 12 March, 2015 and 23 April, 2015

(Minute 123 and 134) Sport England Improvement Fund Bid (Floodlit AGP's at Bradbury Lane, Hednesford) – In response to a question from a Member concerning specifications to enable national competitions to take place at the venue, the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader advised that they had previously been noted and fed back to the Head of Commissioning for inclusion in the tender specification. The Portfolio Leader also advised that the land at the site had now been purchased by the Council.

In response to a separate request from a Member, the Portfolio Leader advised that the summer “Chase It” scheme was always over subscribed,

but, nonetheless, she would ensure that it was advertised on the Council's website.

(Minute 141) Supporting Cannock Hospital Car Parking Requirements – In response to an update request, the Leader of the Council advised that discussions were ongoing with the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust and the County Highways department.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 1 April, 2015, 22 April, 2015 and 13 May, 2015
- (c) Health Scrutiny Committee – 25 March, 2015
- (d) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 31 March, 2015
- (e) Audit and Governance Committee – 31 March, 2015
- (f) Cannock Community Forum – 3 March, 2015
- (g) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawsley Community Forum – 10 March, 2015
- (h) Hednesford Community Forum – 16 March, 2015

(Minute 6) Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Update – The Leader of the Council expressed concern at the ongoing and worsening financial situation of the CCG, whose deficit had grown in the past 12 months. Concern was also expressed at CCG proposals to deliver savings through changes to clinical practice / patient care, and statements to the effect that there were ‘no sacred cows’ and if the changes didn't deliver, then this might ultimately lead to other, unspecified, ‘cuts’. Members considered that this could only mean reductions in services and a worsening situation for Cannock Chase residents / patients.

Members collectively expressed concern at the CCG's apparent mismanagement of healthcare in the district, and it was suggested that the CCG Board be called before the Council's Health Scrutiny Committee to answer questions from Members.

Specific matters such as the ability of patients to get to appointments were also raised, particularly with regard to the provision of a shuttle bus between Cannock and Royal Wolverhampton hospitals, which was of little benefit to patients in Rugeley who may need to attend Cannock; Wolverhampton; or Stafford hospitals.

The Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader advised that a special meeting of the Economic Development and Planning PDC had been called for 14 July, 2015, specifically to discuss and ask questions of Arriva and the County Council in respect of future bus service provision.

(i) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 9 March, 2015

In response to a Member's question about how items of concern – particularly those that had been 'standing items' on the agendas of the forums – would be dealt with in future, the Leader reminded Council that there was a process whereby a group of 10 or more members of the public could petition the Council to hold a public meeting to discuss the matter. Indeed, he was aware that a request had been received in respect of the former Aelfgar School site, and Officers were liaising with the individual leading the request.

A question was also raised about the number of Members in attendance at the meeting; specifically, whether or not Cllr. Bennett had been present, as he was not recorded as being present or as having given apologies. (NB It was subsequently confirmed that Cllr. Bennett had submitted apologies, though they were not recorded on the notes.)

20. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

None.

21. Motion(s) Received under Rule 6

No Motions had been submitted under Rule 6.

22. Amendments to the Memberships of Committees and Other Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 9.1 – 9.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the memberships of the Council's Appointments Panel and Planning Control Committee as previously agreed at the Annual Council Meeting on 27 May, 2015, be amended as detailed in paragraph 5.4 of the report.

23. Annual Governance Statement 2014-15

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance (Item 10.1 – 10.15 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Governance Statement 2014-15 be approved.

A minor typographical error was spotted in the document, which was subsequently corrected, and a copy of the Annual Governance Statement was later signed by the Leader of the Council and the Managing Director.

24. Annual Treasury Management Report 2014-15

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Finance (Item 11.1 – 11.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The actual 2014-15 prudential and treasury indicators as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.
- (B) The annual treasury management report 2014-15 be noted.

25. 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) 1; 2; and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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PART 2

26. 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 – 12 March, 2015 and 23 April, 2015

(Minute 132) Debt Recovery – Whilst recognising the hard work of Officers in ensuring that the Council's collection rate was amongst the best, Members voiced concerns about the amount of money that had to be written off as a result of businesses deliberately going into administration to avoid paying their creditors. In many cases, the public never realised this was happening as the individuals behind the companies subsequently reopened under a similar name, in the same premises. The Leader advised that it was, of course, a matter of concern for the Cabinet, and every reasonable step was taken to ensure recovery, but, unfortunately, legislation in this area remained open to abuse by those who were prepared to exploit it to their own advantage.

(b) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 31 March, 2015

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN