

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL, 2018
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Dudson, A. (Chairman)	
Witton, P.T. (Vice-Chairman)	
Adamson, G.	Johnson, J.P.
Alcott, G.	Lea, C.I.
Allen, F.W.C.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Bennett, C.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bowater, J.L.	Pearson, A.R.
Buttery, M.S.	Peake, Mrs. C.L.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Cooper, Miss J.	Snape, P.A.
Crabtree, S.K.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z., M.B.E.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Sutherland, M.
Dean, A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Dudson, Miss M.J.	Tait, Ms. L.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Grocott, M.R.	Woodhead, P.E.
Hoare, M.W.A.	

82. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Miss M.A. Freeman; D. Foley; W.T.A. Hardman; T.B. Johnson; G.N. Molineux; C.D. Smith; D.J. Snape; and Miss S. Whitehouse.

83. 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.

84. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February, 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed.

85. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Councillor J.P.T.L. Preece

The Chairman advised the meeting that it was Councillor Preece's birthday, and wished him 'Happy Birthday' on behalf of the Council.

(ii) Chairman's Fundraising

The Chairman advised that a collection box was circulating for Members to donate to his fundraising. At the meeting held on 21 February, 2018, a total of £40 was collected, and he thanked all Members for their donations.

(iii) Former District Councillors Clive Morgan and Gwilym Roberts

The Chairman announced that former District Councillors Clive Morgan and Gwilym Roberts had sadly passed away recently.

Gwilym Roberts passed away on 15 March, 2018. He served as a Councillor from 1984 to 2002 and as the MP for Cannock Chase from 1974 to 1983.

Clive Morgan passed away over the Easter weekend. He served as a Councillor for 28 consecutive years and retired from the role in 2014.

Members from all parties spoke of their fond remembrances of both former Councillors.

The Chairman said that the Council's thoughts were with the families and friends of Clive and Gwilym, and all Members stood in a minutes silence as a mark of respect.

86. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

None received.

87. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

None received.

88. Motions Received under Rule 6

The following Motion was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor P.T. Witton, Cannock South Ward, which was seconded and debated:

"This Council is opposed to the continuing benefit freeze on thousands of claimants, and calls for the scrapping of the freeze.

The freeze includes people on sickness payment Employment and Support

Allowance, and is another example of the government's intention to cut benefits to the many, in order to give billions away to the super rich.

Inflation is at a five year high, the state pension is going up three percent, and the one percent pay rise cap in the public sector is to be scrapped. But the government has chosen to freeze the majority of benefits for the third year in a row, as part of a cynical bid to slash 3.9 billion a year by 2019/2020.

Apart from pensions, carers allowances and some disability benefits. The vast majority of benefit payments will be worth less, and cause more poverty as prices shoot up!

The benefit freeze is a disgrace, and I move that the Managing Director be instructed to write to the Secretary of State and our local Member of Parliament, calling for the arbitrary freeze to be scrapped and replaced with reasonable increases that are in line with the cost of living."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(5), a named vote was requested and supported by the required number of Members:

For

Adamson, G.

Alcott, G.

Allen, F.W.C.

Bennett, C.

Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.

Cooper, Miss J.

Crabtree, S.K.

Davis, Mrs. M.A.

Dean, A.

Dudson, A.

Dudson, Miss M.J.

Grice, D.

Grocott, M.R.

Kraujalis, J.T.

Martin, Mrs. C.E.

Mitchell, Mrs. C.

Pearson, A.R.

Preece, J.P.T.L.

Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Tait, Mrs. L.

Todd, Mrs. D.M.

Against

Allt, Mrs. A.

Bowater, J.L.

Buttery, M.S.

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.

Woodhead, P.E.

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In addition, Councillors Miss M.A. Freeman; D. Foley; W.T.A. Hardman; T.B. Johnson; G.N. Molineux; C.D. Smith; D.J. Snape; and Miss S. Whitehouse, were absent.

RESOLVED:

That:

“This Council is opposed to the continuing benefit freeze on thousands of claimants, and calls for the scrapping of the freeze.

The freeze includes people on sickness payment Employment and Support Allowance, and is another example of the government’s intention to cut benefits to the many, in order to give billions away to the super rich.

Inflation is at a five year high, the state pension is going up three percent, and the one percent pay rise cap in the public sector is to be scrapped. But the government has chosen to freeze the majority of benefits for the third year in a row, as part of a cynical bid to slash 3.9 billion a year by 2019/2020.

Apart from pensions, carers allowances and some disability benefits. The vast majority of benefit payments will be worth less, and cause more poverty as prices shoot up!

The benefit freeze is a disgrace, and the Managing Director should be instructed to write to the Secretary of State and our local Member of Parliament, calling for the arbitrary freeze to be scrapped and replaced with reasonable increases that are in line with the cost of living.”

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

None received.

90. Constitution Amendments

Consideration was given to the Report of the Monitoring Officer (Item 9.1 – 9.22 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to the Constitution as detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the Report be approved.

91. Application to Provide Additional Car Parking Spaces at 5’s Pavilion, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, in the Capital Programme

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles (Item 10.1 – 10.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The report was subject to a substantial debate before being moved to a vote, which was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The success of the facility as set out in the Report and the contribution of £5,000 from Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) towards the proposed scheme be noted, and that the £5,000 be included in the Capital Programme.
- (B) The formal request to Staffordshire County Council for a matched funding contribution of £40,000 towards the proposed scheme be noted, and subject to confirmation, that the £40,000 be included in the Capital Programme.
- (C) The scheme be approved, and £40,000 in respect of the District Council's contribution be included in the Capital Programme.
- (D) Permission to spend be granted, subject to sufficient funding, in order to deliver the proposed project.
- (E) Authority be delegated to the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles in consultation with the Culture & Sport Portfolio Leader to enter into the required arrangements with partners to secure the funding toward the proposed scheme and to take such action as may be necessary to progress the above decisions within the approved budget.

92. Comments and Questions on Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

None received.

The meeting closed at 5:05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN