

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 6:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY, 2020

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Stretton, Mrs. P.Z., M.B.E. (Chairman)

Dudson, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G. (Leader)	Layton, Mrs. A.
Alcott, G.	Lyons, Miss O.
Allen, F.W.C.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Boucker, A.S.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Buttery, M.S.	Molineux, G.N.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Muckley, Mrs. A.
Crabtree, S.K.	Newbury, J.A.A.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Pearson, A.R.
Dunnett, Ms. M.J.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Smith, C.D.
Hewitt, P.M.	Startin, P.D.
Hughes, R.J.	Sutherland, M.
Johnson, J.P.	Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
Johnson, T.B.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Jones, B.	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.
Jones, Mrs. V.	Witton, P.T.
Kraujalis, J.T.	Woodhead, P.E.

68. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors C. Bennett; P.A. Fisher; Miss M.A. Freeman; D.J. Snape; and Mrs. H.M. Sutton

69. 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.

70. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January, 2020, be approved as a correct record and signed.

71. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Chairman's Fundraising

The Chairman advised that a collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support her fundraising. At the meeting held on 8 January, 2020 a total of £52.00 was received, and she thanked Members for their donations.

(ii) Chairman's Charity Evening

The Chairman reminded Members that she would be hosting a Black Country Night on Friday, 28 February 2020, in the Civic Ballroom, in aid of her chosen charity, Birmingham Children's Hospital. Tickets cost £20 per person to include a hot roast buffet and entertainment from comedy act 'Dandy Comedy'.

The Chairman thanked those Members who had already purchased tickets and reminded others that tickets were still available to purchase until Friday, 14 February.

(iii) Leader's Budget Speeches

The Chairman reminded Members that, as previously advised, the Leader of the Council has requested that copies of his budget speeches be provided electronically to Members at the appropriate time when he delivers them. Therefore, at the beginning of Items 6 (HRA Budget) and 8 (General Fund Budget) Members would receive an email attaching each speech.

The speeches would also be displayed on the projector screens around the room.

72. Leader's Announcements and Correspondence

None.

73. Housing Revenue Account Budgets and Capital Programmes 2019/20 to 2022/23: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Adamson, introduced and moved the Housing Revenue Account Budgets and Capital Programmes 2019-20 to 2022-23, which were duly seconded. Consideration was then given to the recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 30 January 2020, in respect of:

(i) Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2019/20 to 2022/23.

(ii) Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2019/20 to 2022/23.

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

(A) Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2019/20 to 2022/23

- (i) A minimum level of working balances of £1.796 million for 2020-21, and indicative working balances of £1.817 million and £1.859 million for 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively, be determined.
- (ii) The Housing Revenue Account Budgets for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, as summarised in Appendix 1 of the 30 January, 2020 Cabinet report, be approved, and the estimated outturn for 2019-20, as summarised in the same Appendix, be noted.

(B) Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2019/20 to 2022/23

The Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for the period 2019-20 to 2022-23, as set out in Appendix 2 of the 30 January, 2020 Cabinet report, be approved.

74. 2020/21 to 2022/23 Budget Process Procedural Rules

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Council Solicitor (Item 7.1 – 7.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The timetable for the setting of the budget for 2020-21 be noted.
- (B) The overall level of Council Tax be set at Council's meeting on 26 February, 2020, following determination of Cannock Chase Council's Council Tax requirement in accordance with the procedural rules as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

75. Budget 2019/20 to 2022/23: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader introduced and moved the Budget for 2019/20 to 2020/23, which was duly seconded.

Consideration was then given to Alternative Budget proposals submitted by the Conservative Group.

Conservative Group Alternative Budget Proposals

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Miss O. Lyons, introduced the Group's Alternative Budget proposals for 2019/20 to 2022/23, copies of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Leader of the Conservative Group then moved the Alternative Budget proposals as a referral back to Cabinet, which was seconded.

Members then debated the Conservative Group's Alternative Budget proposals, which were moved to a vote and not carried.

Cabinet's Budget Recommendations

Consideration was then given to the recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 30 January 2020, in respect of:

- (i) General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2022/23.
- (ii) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21.
- (iii) Local Council Tax Reduction.

A vote was then taken on the Cabinet's Budget recommendations:

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

(A) General Fund Budget and Capital Programme 2019-20 to 2022-23

- (i) The level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2020-21 be set at £13.476 million, with indicative net spending for 2021-22 and 2022-23 of £13.709 million and £13.584 million, respectively.
- (ii) The detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 of the 30 January, 2020 Cabinet report be approved.
- (iii) The forecast outturn net budget of £13.295 million be approved.
- (iv) The use of Government Grants in 2020-21 of £1.575 million be approved.
- (v) It be noted that although indicative figures existed for the use of Government Grants in 2021-22 and 2022-23, they could not be accurately determined at this stage with each element of Government funding being subject to review.
- (vi) The working balances be set at £1.0 million; £1.007 million; and £1.257 million for 2020-21 to 2022-23, respectively.
- (vii) A Council Tax of £221.32 for 2020-21 be approved, with indicative increases of 1.95% to the level of Council Tax for 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- (viii) The Council's Tax Base be set at 29,242.54.
- (ix) The revised Capital Programme, including new schemes and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Allocations, as set out in Appendices 3, 4, and 5 of the 30 January, 2020 Cabinet report, be approved.

(B) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21

The following be approved.

- (i) The Prudential and Treasury Indicators.
- (ii) The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement.
- (iii) The Treasury Management Policy; and
- (iv) The Annual Investment Strategy for 2020/21.

(C) Local Council Tax Reduction

The 'Banded Reduction Scheme', available in full on the Council website and summarised in the 30 January, 2020 Cabinet report, be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN