

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., TUESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY, 2016
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

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

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

82. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors J. Bowater; M. Buttery; G. Burnett; M.J. Grocott; J.P. Johnson; G.N. Molineux; Mrs. H.M. Sutton; 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 13 January, 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed.

85. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Keith Bennett

The Chairman advised that former Councillor Keith Bennett had passed away on 26 January, 2016. He had served as a Councillor for 12 years, and had been elected Chairman of the Council in 2006. The Chairman extended sympathies on behalf of the Council to former Councillor Bennett's wife, Diane, and family.

The Chairman advised that former Councillor Bennett's funeral would take place at 12.45 p.m. on Thursday, 18 February, 2016, at St. Luke's Church, Cannock, followed by burial at Stile Cop Cemetery.

Members were then asked to stand and join in observing a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Bennett.

(ii) Chairman's Charity Collection Box

The Chairman advised that the charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to her Charity Fund.

The Chairman reported that at the meeting held on 13 January, 2016, a total of £60.00 was collected, which had been donated to the Chemotherapy Unit at Cannock Hospital, and she thanked Members for their donations.

86. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

87. Motion(s) Received under Rule 6

No Motions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 6.

88. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2016-17 to 2018-19: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader introduced the Housing Revenue Account Budget and consideration was given to recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 1 February, 2016, in respect of:

(i) HRA Budgets 2016-17 to 2018-19

(ii) HRA Capital Programmes 2015-16 to 2018-19

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

(A) HRA Budgets 2016-17 to 2018-19

- (i) A minimum level of working balances of £1,546,310 for 2016-17 and indicative working balances of £1,710,770 and £1,767,810 for 2017-18 and 2018-19, respectively, be determined;
- (ii) The 1% reduction in rents for 2016-17, in accordance with the Government's Social Rent Policy, be noted;
- (iii) The HRA Revenue Budgets for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (and note the estimated outturn for 2015-16) as summarised in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet of 1 February, 2016, be approved.

(B) HRA Capital Programmes 2015-16 to 2018-19

- (i) The three year Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for the period 2016-17 to 2018-19 (as set out in Appendix 2 to the report of 1 February, 2016), be approved.

89. Budget Timetable – Procedural Issues

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Council Solicitor (Item 8.1 – 8.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council). The Council Solicitor advised that there some legal ambiguity as to the absolute requirement for a named vote in setting the Budget. In accordance with the 2014 Regulations, a named voted was a strict requirement only in the context of setting the Council Tax, rather than the budget itself; however, it was accepted that this was the intention. Therefore, it was recommended that a named vote be called for when considering the budget.

RESOLVED:

That the timetable and procedure be noted, and that the overall level of Council Tax would be set at Council's meeting on the 3 March, 2016, following determination of Cannock Chase's Council Tax requirement in accordance with the procedural rules, attached as Appendix A to the report.

90. Budget 2016-17 to 2018-19: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader introduced the Budget 2016-17 to 2018-19, and consideration was given to recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 1 February, 2016, as amended by the report of the Head of Finance: "2016-17 to 2018-19 Budget Update – Rugeley Power Station and Local Government Settlement" (Item 9A.1 – 9A.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council) in respect of:

- (i) General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2016-17 to 2018-19
- (ii) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy 2016-17

(A named vote was held.)

For**Against****Abstain**

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.

Dean, A.

Dudson, A.

Dudson, Miss M.J.

Foley, D.

Freeman, Miss M.A.

Gamble, B.

Grice, Mrs. D.

Hardman, W.

Johnson, T.B.

Kraujalis, J.T.

Lovell, A.

Mitchell, Mrs. C.

Pearson, A.

Preece, J.T.

Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Todd, Mrs. D.M.

Witton, P.

25**0****7**

In addition, Councillors J. Bowater; M. Buttery; G. Burnett; M.J. Grocott; J.P. Johnson; G.N. Molineux; Mrs. H.M. Sutton; and Miss S. Whitehouse were absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

- (A) General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2016-17 to 2018-19
- (i) The changes to the General Fund Revenue Budget and Business Rates Retained Income as contained in the update report be noted.
 - (ii) No changes are made to the Council Tax requirement as reflected in the recommendations of Cabinet ((iv) – (xi), below).
 - (iii) Any shortfall in business rates income to the Council be offset by a transfer from working balances in 2016-17.
 - (iv) The level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2016-17 be set at £12.383 million; with indicative net spending for 2017-18 and 2018-19 of £11.996 million and £12.771 million respectively.
 - (v) The detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet of 1 February, 2016, be approved.
 - (vi) The forecast outturn net budget of £12.717 million including a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay of £0.252 million be approved.
 - (vii) The use of Government Grants in 2016-17 of £1.443 million with indicative figures of £1.457 million and £1.148 million for 2017-18 and 2018-19, respectively, be noted.
 - (viii) The working balances be set at £0.681 million; £1.032 million and £1.010 million for 2016-17 to 2018-19 respectively.
 - (ix) A Council Tax of £204.87 be approved for 2016-17; with indicative increases of 1.95% to the level of Council Tax for 2017-18 and 2018-19.
 - (x) The Council's Tax Base be set at 27,148.87.
 - (xi) The revised Capital Programme, including new schemes, as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 of the report to Cabinet of 1 February, 2016, be approved.

(B) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investments Strategy, 2016-17

- (i) The Prudential and Treasury Indicators be approved;
- (ii) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement be approved;
- (iii) The Treasury Management Policy be approved;
- (iv) The Annual Investment Strategy for 2016/17 be approved.

The Leader and Members of all Parties again wished to record their thanks to Officers of the Council for their ongoing efforts to maintain services in the face of increased funding adversity. Particular thanks were given to the Head of Finance.

The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN