

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY, 2019

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Stretton, Mrs. P.Z., M.B.E. (Chairman)
Dudson, A. (Vice-Chairman)

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

22. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor D.J. Snape.

It was noted that Councillors Mrs. A.M. Muckley and J.A.A. Newbury would be arriving late due to transport delays.

23. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

Member	Agenda Item	Type
Layton, Mrs. A.	9(ii). Motions Received Under Council Rule 6.	Pecuniary

24. Minutes

In respect of the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting, it was noted that Councillor A. Dudson should have been recorded as being appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2019-20.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting and Annual meeting held on 29 May, 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed.

(Councillor J.A.A. Newbury arrived at the meeting at the end of this item.)

25. Presentation of Certificates to Honorary Aldermen

The Chairman reminded Members that at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 29 May, 2019, Council approved that the title of Honorary Alderman be awarded to seven nominated former Councillors, and that this was only the second time the title had been awarded by the Council. The title was in recognition of eminent service rendered to the Council as a past Member for at least three terms of office.

Those persons appointed as Honorary Aldermen could attend and take part in such Civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide to host.

An invitation was extended to each Alderman to attend today's Council meeting to collect their certificates. All invitees were in attendance other than Gordon Ball, and Ray Easton, who were both unable to attend. Mrs Marion Ball was in attendance on Gordon Ball's behalf, and Ray Easton would be presented with his certificate via Councillor P.A. Fisher.

The Chairman then called upon Mrs. Marion Ball, Mrs. Diane Bennett, Mrs. Doris Grice, Michael Sandel, Michael Stretton and Bob Todd to come forward and collect the certificates.

26. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Chairman's Charity Collection

The Chairman advised that a collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support her fundraising. At the Annual meeting held on 29 May, 2019 a total of £41.00 was received, and she thanked Members for their donations.

27. Leader's Announcements and Correspondence

The Leader advised he had no announcements to give at this time.

28. Questions Received under Council Procedure Rule 8

No Questions were submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.

29. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

- (i)** Consideration was given to the recommendation made to Council by the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 13 June 2019, in respect of the 'Hawks Green Depot Rationalisation', as detailed under item 8(i) of the Council agenda.

RESOLVED:

That £281,000 be included within the General Fund Capital Programme for the Rationalisation Plan.

- (ii) Consideration was given to the recommendation made to Council by the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 13 June 2019, in respect of the 'Redevelopment of Hawks Green Depot', as detailed under item 8(ii) of the Council agenda.

(Councillor Mrs. A.M. Muckley arrived at the meeting during the consideration of this item.)

RESOLVED:

That the Hawks Green Development site be appropriated from the Council's General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account for a transfer value of £382,000, under section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972.

30. Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6

- (i) Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6, by Councillor G. Adamson, Leader of the Council:

"Council notes that:

- Our economic system is enriching a minority while leading humanity towards climate catastrophe. Our political system is leaving many to feel powerless and excluded from the key decisions that affect them.
- In 2018, the world's leading climate scientists – the IPCC – warned that humanity has only 12 years left in which to cap temperature rises at 1.5C or face a sharply higher risk of drought, floods and heatwaves.
- The UK Parliament has approved a motion to declare an environment and climate emergency, and all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown.
- Local governments should recognise that they cannot wait for national government to provide more money and support to reduce emissions, and commit to the ambition of carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest.
- Our emissions are a small proportion of our area's CO2 emissions and that we achieve more for our environment working co-operatively than we do alone.
- Every year, our area spends significant amounts on energy. This money goes out of the local economy to the big energy companies when we believe that it could be retained through community energy – and that community energy is a fundamentally important part of the national energy transition we are undergoing right now.

In light of the above, Council therefore agrees to:

1. Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency, and commit to the vision of carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest.
2. Continue to call on Westminster to provide the necessary powers and resources to make local action on climate change easier.
3. Encourage this Council to explore the expansion of community energy to keep

the benefits of our local energy generation in our local economy.

4. Continue to work with partners anchored in the area to deliver carbon reductions and grow the local economy.
5. Establish a Citizens Assembly made up of a representative range of our citizens to establish the facts and make recommendations for our council.”

Councillor J.P. Johnson proposed the following amendment to the Motion, which was duly seconded:

“Under ‘...Council therefore agrees to:’, amend the wording of points 2 and 5 as follows:

2. “Work with Westminster to ensure that the necessary powers are in place so that this Council can take local action on climate change.”
5. “Establish a new Working Group to robustly review and scrutinise the Council’s policies and make recommendations to this Council to ensure that environmental considerations feature throughout”.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4)(a), a named vote was taken on the amendment:

For	Against	Abstain
Boucker, A.S.	Adamson, G.	
Buttery, M.S.	Alcott, G.	
Fisher, P.A.	Allen, F.W.C.	
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Bennett, C.	
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	
Hewitt, P.M.	Crabtree, S.K.	
Hughes, R.J.	Davis, Mrs. M.A.	
Johnson, J.P.	Dudson, A.	
Jones, B.	Dunnett, Ms. A.J.	
Jones, Mrs. V.	Johnson, T.B.	
Lyons, Miss O.	Kraujalis, J.T.	
Molineux, G.N.	Layton, Mrs. A.	
Smith, C.D.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.	
Startin, P.D.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.	
Sutherland, M.	Muckley, Mrs. A.M.	
Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	Newbury, J.A.A.	
Thompson, Mrs. S.L.	Pearson, A.R.	
	Preece, J.P.T.L.	
	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.	
	Todd, Mrs. D.M.	
	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.	

For	Against	Abstain
	Witton, P.T.	
	Woodhead, P.E.	
17	23	0

In addition, Councillor D.J. Snape was absent from the meeting.

The amendment was not carried, and therefore, the substantive motion as presented remained unchanged.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4)(a), a named vote was then taken on the motion:

For	Against	Abstain
Adamson, G.		Boucker, A.S.
Alcott, G.		Buttery, M.S.
Allen, F.W.C.		Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.
Bennett, C.		Hewitt, P.M.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.		Hughes, R.J.
Crabtree, S.K.		Johnson, J.P.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.		Jones, B.
Dudson, A.		Jones, Mrs. V.
Dunnett, Ms. A.J.		Lyons, Miss O.
Fisher, P.A.		Smith, C.D.
Freeman, Miss M.A.		Startin, P.D.
Johnson, T.B.		Sutherland, M.
Kraujalis, J.T.		Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Layton, Mrs. A.		Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
Martin, Mrs. C.E.		
Mitchell, Mrs. C.		
Molineux, G.N.		
Muckley, Mrs. A.M.		
Newbury, J.A.A.		
Pearson, A.R.		
Preece, J.P.T.L.		
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.		
Todd, Mrs. D.M.		
Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.		
Witton, P.T.		

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Woodhead, P.E.		
26	0	14

In addition, Councillor D.J. Snape was absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

Council noted that:

- Our economic system was enriching a minority while leading humanity towards climate catastrophe. Our political system was leaving many to feel powerless and excluded from the key decisions that affected them.
- In 2018, the world's leading climate scientists – the IPCC – warned that humanity had only 12 years left in which to cap temperature rises at 1.5C or face a sharply higher risk of drought, floods and heatwaves.
- The UK Parliament approved a motion to declare an environment and climate emergency, and all governments (national, regional and local) had a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown.
- Local governments should recognise that they could not wait for national government to provide more money and support to reduce emissions, and commit to the ambition of carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest.
- Our emissions were a small proportion of our area's CO2 emissions and that we achieved more for our environment working co-operatively than we did alone.
- Every year, our area spent significant amounts on energy. This money went out of the local economy to the big energy companies when we believed that it could be retained through community energy – and that community energy was a fundamentally important part of the national energy transition we were undergoing right now.

In light of the above, Council therefore agreed to:

- (A) Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency, and commit to the vision of carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest.
- (B) Continue to call on Westminster to provide the necessary powers and resources to make local action on climate change easier.
- (C) Encourage this Council to explore the expansion of community energy to keep the benefits of our local energy generation in our local economy.
- (D) Continue to work with partners anchored in the area to deliver carbon reductions and grow the local economy.
- (E) Establish a Citizens Assembly made up of a representative range of our citizens to establish the facts and make recommendations for our council.

(At the conclusion of this item the meeting was adjourned for a short break at 5:30pm, and reconvened at 5:40pm.)

- (ii) Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6, by Councillor P.T. Witton, Member for Cannock South Ward:

“This council is opposed to the hundreds of thousands of families that are being pushed into poverty by cuts to Universal Credit, the benefit cap, and harsh rules that penalise families with more than two kids.

The Child Poverty Action Group has recently reported that a whopping 500,000 children would be taken out of poverty if the government removes the benefit cap, and ditches its two child Universal Credit limit. In addition, Step Change Debt Charity has said the five week wait for Universal Credit cash should be scrapped, because it is pushing people into debt.

I move our Managing Director be instructed to write to the Secretary of State, and our local MP – calling for the removal of the benefit cap, and the cessation of the governments two child Universal Credit limit. Plus the scrapping of its five week wait, by making advance non-repayable money to Universal Credit recipients – or move to weekly payments.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4)(a), a named vote was taken on the motion:

For	Against	Abstain
Adamson, G.	Boucker, A.S.	
Alcott, G.	Buttery, M.S.	
Allen, F.W.C.	Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	
Bennett, C.	Hewitt, P.M.	
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Hughes, R.J.	
Crabtree, S.K.	Johnson, J.P.	
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Jones, B.	
Dudson, A.	Jones, Mrs. V.	
Dunnett, Ms. A.J.	Lyons, Miss O.	
Fisher, P.A.	Smith, C.D.	
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Startin, P.D.	
Johnson, T.B.	Sutherland, M.	
Kraujalis, J.T.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	
Martin, Mrs. C.E.	Thompson, Mrs. S.L.	
Mitchell, Mrs. C.		
Molineux, G.N.		
Muckley, Mrs. A.M.		
Newbury, J.A.A.		
Pearson, A.R.		
Preece, J.P.T.L.		

For	Against	Abstain
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.		
Todd, Mrs. D.M.		
Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.		
Witton, P.T.		
Woodhead, P.E.		
25	14	0

Councillor Mrs. A. Layton did not take part in the debate in, or vote on, this motion, having earlier declared a pecuniary interest.

In addition, Councillor D.J. Snape was absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

This council was opposed to the hundreds of thousands of families that were being pushed into poverty by cuts to Universal Credit, the benefit cap, and harsh rules that penalised families with more than two kids.

The Child Poverty Action Group had recently reported that a whopping 500,000 children would be taken out of poverty if the government removed the benefit cap, and ditched its two child Universal Credit limit. In addition, Step Change Debt Charity said the five week wait for Universal Credit cash should be scrapped, because it was pushing people into debt.

Our Managing Director be instructed to write to the Secretary of State, and our local MP – calling for the removal of the benefit cap, and the cessation of the governments two child Universal Credit limit. Plus the scrapping of its five week wait, by making advance non-repayable money to Universal Credit recipients – or move to weekly payments.

- (iii) Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6, by Councillor Mrs. A.M. Muckley, Member for Rawnsley Ward:

“Council Notes

That the bus services which service our community have been systematically reduced through a combination of both a reduction in subsidies from the County Council and a continued thirst for profit only routes by the primary provider. The latest cuts directly impact the lives of the most vulnerable in our community.

That the County Council has taken further discriminatory action and removed the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme for peak time travel for older people from 1st July.

Council Believes

That this continued approach to the dismantling of public transport is placing private sector profit over community benefit and disproportionately harms the most vulnerable, isolated and poorest in our District. This irresponsible approach by the primary private provider of services and the County Council is contributing to a deterioration in the quality of life of our community. The diminishment of public transport services will contribute to the destruction of the environment and the

climate emergency.

Council Resolves

To ask the Managing Director to write to both the County Council and the Primary Private bus service provider expressing the dismay of this council at the decisions they have made to diminish the welfare of our community and insist that they reverse the recent decisions to reduce services and isolate our communities.

RESOLVED:

Council Noted

That the bus services which serviced our community had been systematically reduced through a combination of both a reduction in subsidies from the County Council and a continued thirst for profit only routes by the primary provider. The latest cuts directly impacted the lives of the most vulnerable in our community.

That the County Council had taken further discriminatory action and removed the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme for peak time travel for older people from 1st July.

Council Believed

That this continued approach to the dismantling of public transport was placing private sector profit over community benefit and disproportionately harmed the most vulnerable, isolated and poorest in our District. This irresponsible approach by the primary private provider of services and the County Council was contributing to a deterioration in the quality of life of our community. The diminishment of public transport services would contribute to the destruction of the environment and the climate emergency.

Council Resolved

That the Managing Director write to both the County Council and the Primary Private bus service provider expressing the dismay of this council at the decisions they had made to diminish the welfare of our community and insist that they reverse the recent decisions to reduce services and isolate our communities.

31. Comments and Questions on Part 1 and Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Council Procedure Rule 9

No comments or questions on Part 1 and Part 2 Minutes had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

The meeting closed at 7:05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN