

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER, 2017

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

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

51. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W.T.A. Hardman, M. Sutherland and Miss S. Whitehouse.

52. 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.

53. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes Council meeting held on 18 October, 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed.

54. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Chairman's Fundraising

The Chairman advised that a collection box was circulating for Members to donate to his fundraising. At the meeting held on 18 October, 2017, a total of £46.50 was collected, and he thanked all Members for their donations.

(ii) Councillor Zaphne Stretton MBE

The Chairman advised that on Sunday, 19 November, Councillor Zaphne Stretton MBE was awarded with the Etienne Bach Prize by the Evangelical Church in Datteln. The Chairman, the Leader and the Managing Director had attended a service in Datteln where Councillor Stretton was awarded with her prize, which was displayed on the table at the front of the Chamber.

This was the first time that the prize had been awarded and it was given to Councillor Stretton in honour of her commitment to reconciliation and peace between the British and the German people, for many years.

The Etienne Bach Prize honoured women and men or initiatives, who worked for more understanding and exchange between people of different culture, religion or nationality. Lieutenant Etienne Bach was a French Officer after WWI, in charge of the Datteln administration during the occupation of the Ruhr in 1923-25

Bach, a confessing Protestant Christian and bilingual, took part in the evangelical service on Good Friday 30th March 1923 in Lutherhaus. This alone was quite unusual; when it came to Holy Communion he and his German counterpart of the Datteln administration Mr. Karl Wille both received bread and wine and afterwards shook hands as a sign not of friendship, but of accepting each other as Christians. After this incident, which became known as Dattelner Abendmahl (or Dattelner's Supper), Bach and Wille worked together for the good of the population of Datteln.

Later Bach left the French army and became the founder and a professional worker for his peace movement 'Knights of the Prince of Peace' (later Christian Peace Service).

The Chairman said he felt sure that all Members would agree that Councillor Stretton was thoroughly deserving of this award.

(iii) Christmas Carol Service

The Chairman reminded Members that he would be hosting a carol service at St. Michael's Church, Brereton, on Thursday 14 December, starting at 7pm.

55. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

None received.

56. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

None received.

57. Motions Received under Rule 6

- (i) 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 roll out of Universal Credit, and calls on the government to pause its implementation.

In areas where Universal Credit has been piloted there has been massive hardship and a huge increase in rent arrears. The number of people attending food banks has also massively increased as a result of this ill thought out benefit.

I move that the Managing Director be instructed to write to the Secretary of State and to our local Member of Parliament, calling on the implementation of Universal Credit to be paused until it can be implemented in a fair and reasonable manner.”

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

For

Against

Abstain

Adamson, G.

Hoare, M.W.A.

Alcott, G.

Allen, F.W.C.

Allt, Mrs. A.

Bennett, C.

Bowater, J.L.

Buttery, M.S.

Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.

Cooper, Miss J.

Crabtree, S.K.

Davis, Mrs. M.A.
Dean, A.
Dudson, A.
Dudson, Miss M.J.
Foley, D.
Freeman, Miss M.A.
Grice, D.
Grocott, M.R.
Johnson, J.P.
Johnson, T.B.
Kraujalis, J.T.
Lea, C.I.
Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Molineux, G.N.
Peake, Mrs. C.L.
Pearson, A.R.
Preece, J.P.T.L.
Smith, C.D.
Snape, D.J.
Snape, P.A.
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Tait, Ms. L.
Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Witton, P.T.
Woodhead, P.E.

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In addition, Councillors W. Hardman; M. Sutherland; and Miss S. Whitehouse were absent.

RESOLVED:

That:

“This Council is opposed to the roll out of Universal Credit, and calls on the government to pause its implementation.

In areas where Universal Credit has been piloted there has been massive hardship and a huge increase in rent arrears. The number of people attending food banks has also massively increased as a result of this ill thought out benefit.

The Managing Director be instructed to write to the Secretary of State and to our local Member of Parliament, calling on the implementation of Universal Credit to be paused until it can be implemented in a fair and reasonable manner.”

- (ii) The following Motion was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor P.E. Woodhead, Hednesford South Ward, which was seconded. Although the subject matter came within the province of the Cabinet and should stand referred without discussion to the next Cabinet meeting, the Chairman exercised his discretion to allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting. The Motion was, therefore, opened up to debate.

“Reducing single-use plastic (SUP) use in Cannock Chase

According to recent research, eight million metric tonnes of plastic waste ends up in the world’s oceans each year [1], endangering marine life. There is also a growing understanding of the risks posed to human health by toxic chemicals present in plastics [2]. In Ellen MacArthur Foundation [3] estimates that by 2050 the weight of plastic in the oceans will exceed that of fish

Six months after the introduction of the 5p bag charge, use of single-use plastic bags had already dropped by 85% [4], 300 million tons of plastic are produced around the globe each year. Of this, 50% is for disposable applications such as packaging. It is time for Cannock Chase to take a lead on this issue.

Council resolves to ask Cabinet to:

- develop a robust strategy to make Cannock Chase District Council a ‘single-use-plastic-free’ authority by the end of 2018 including an end to the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the CCDC supply chain;
- end the sale and provision of SUP products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in council buildings;
- investigate the possibility of requiring pop-up food and drink vendors at council events to avoid SUPs as a condition of their contract;
- work with tenants and operators in commercial properties owned by Cannock Chase District Council to encourage the phasing out of SUP cups, bottles, cutlery and straws;
- encourage the District’s businesses, organisations and residents to go ‘single-use-plastic-free’ working with best practice partners to explore the creation of a ‘plastic free network,’ that could provide business support,

practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives.”

[1] <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/768>

[2] <http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/364/1526/2153.short#sec-5>

[3] <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/>

[4] <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/30/england-plastic-bag>

The Environment Portfolio Leader proposed an amendment to the Motion which recognised that the Government had already begun consultations in respect of single use plastics. The amendment affected the first part of the proposed recommendation as follows:

Council resolves to ask Cabinet, following completion of the Government’s consultation and reported recommendations arising from it, to:

- Develop a robust strategy to make Cannock Chase District Council a ‘single-use-plastic-free’ authority, including an end to the purchase and procurement of SUP’s through the CCDC supply chain.

RESOLVED:

That:

Council resolves to ask Cabinet, following completion of the Government’s consultation and reported recommendations arising from it, to:

- Develop a robust strategy to make Cannock Chase District Council a ‘single-use-plastic-free’ authority, including an end to the purchase and procurement of SUP’s through the CCDC supply chain;
- end the sale and provision of SUP products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in council buildings;
- investigate the possibility of requiring pop-up food and drink vendors at council events to avoid SUPs as a condition of their contract;
- work with tenants and operators in commercial properties owned by Cannock Chase District Council to encourage the phasing out of SUP cups, bottles, cutlery and straws;
- encourage the District’s businesses, organisations and residents to go ‘single-use-plastic-free’ working with best practice partners to explore the creation of a ‘plastic free network,’ that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives.”

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

No Comments or Questions on Part 1 Minutes had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.

59. Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen

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

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The criteria and process for appointing Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report be approved.
- (B) The use of an existing budget for the one-off purchase of a new honours board be approved.

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

No Comments or Questions on Part 2 Minutes had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.

The meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.

CHAIRMAN