

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER, 2009

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Beddows, J. (Chairman)  
Mawle, D.L. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Grice, Mrs. D.
Allen, F.W.C.	Grocott, M.R.
Ball, G.D.	Holder, M.J.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Jillings, J.
Bennett, K.L.	Meaden, R.G.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Mitchell, C.
Bernard, J.	Molineux, G.N.
Bullock, L.W.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Burnett, G.	Pearce, Mrs. L.J.
Burnett, J.	Stanley, N.K.
Davies, D.N.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Dixon, D.I.	Thomas, D.
Easton, Mrs. D.M.	Williams, A.
Easton, R.	Williams, B.
Freeman, M.P.	Williams, Mrs. P.
Green, M.	Yates, Ms. W.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. P.A. Ansell, R. Jones, J.T. Kraujalis and Mrs. D.M. Todd).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Councillor R.G. Meaden to the meeting as he continued his recovery from a period of illness.

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

No Declarations of Interests in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests were made. Nonetheless, several Members chose to declare Interests of a personal nature.

**39. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 August, 2009 be approved as a correct record.

**40. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence**

(i) Chairman's Charity Box

The Chairman advised Members that his Charity Collection Box was circulating for Members to make a donation to his chosen Charities.

He reported that at the meeting held on 26 August, 2009, a total of £62.00 was donated.

(ii) Civic Sunday

The Chairman reminded Members that his Civic Sunday was to be held on Sunday, 11 October, 2009, at 3.00 p.m. at St. James Church, Norton Canes.

(iii) Green Flag Awards

It was reported that Green Flags had been awarded to the Council at three of the Council's green spaces across the District.

The Chairman presented an award to Tom Walsh, Parks and Open Spaces Manager and, on behalf of the Council, expressed thanks to Tom and his staff for the work which had been undertaken in securing the awards.

(iv) Natasha Swan

The Chairman informed Members that Natasha Swan, Executive and Policy Manager, was absent through ill health.

He asked that the Chief Executive pass on to Natasha the best wishes of himself and the other Members, with hopes for a speedy recovery.

**41. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8**

The Chairman reported that no questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

The Chairman agreed to this matter being reported, even though it was absent from the Agenda for the meeting.

**42. Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Forums and Panels**

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 Minutes of the following Cabinet, Committees, Forums and Panels be adopted and any recommendations be approved and decisions implemented following the expiry of any call-in period:-

- (a) Cabinet – 27 August, 2009
- (b) Scrutiny Committee – 9 February, 2009
- (c) Planning Control Committee – 3 June, 29 July and 19 August, 2009
- (d) Audit and Governance Committee – 23 June, 2009
- (e) Rate Relief Committee – 10 March, 2009

Councillor G. Alcott advised that his name had been misspelt on the minutes of the meeting.

- (f) Joint Parking Committee – 27 April, 2009
- (g) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawnsley Community Forum – 23 June, 2009
- (h) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 16 June, 2009

Councillor A. Williams advised that his apologies had not been noted on the minutes of the meeting.

- (i) Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that it had again not been possible to submit to Council the Minutes of Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee held on 17 March, 2009, due to an ongoing investigation. The meeting of Members to agree the minutes had not yet taken place. It was anticipated that an update would be provided to Members within the next 7 working days and the minutes of the Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee submitted to Council as soon as practicably possible.

**43. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet held on 27 August, 2009**

The Council considered a recommendation referred from Cabinet held on 27 August, 2009, in relation to 'Provisions of Adaptations for Disabled Occupants in Council Owned and Privately Owned Housing'

- “(C) That as an interim measure Council is recommended to approve:
- (i) The continuation of a 40% level of funding to supplement the financial assistance received from the Government to provide disabled facilities grants to private sector households.
  - (ii) A £100,000 increase in the 2009-10 Disabled Facilities Works budget (which forms part of the 2009-10 HRA Capital Programme) through an additional revenue contribution to capital outlay met from HRA working balances.”

RESOLVED:

That, as an interim measure, Council approved:

- (A) The continuation of a 40% level of funding to supplement the financial assistance received from the Government to provide disabled facilities grants to private sector households.
- (B) A £100,000 increase in the 2009-10 Disabled Facilities Works budget (which forms part of the 2009-10 HRA Capital Programme), through an additional revenue contribution to capital outlay met from HRA working balances.

#### **44. Statement of Accounts 2008-09**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March, 2009, be noted.

#### **45. Annual Treasury Report**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.27 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (B) That, in order to follow proposed best practice, Treasury Management Governance arrangements and quarterly reports be delegated to the Audit and Governance Committee.

**46. Land at the Site of the Former Eaton Lodge Public House, Wolseley Road, Rugeley – Costs Awarded Against the Council Following a Local Inquiry into a Planning Appeal Against Refusal of Planning Permission for Residential Development**

On the advice of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Chairman determined that this matter, which was originally included as Enclosure 12.1 – 12.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council, be moved to Part 1 of the Agenda.

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 8A.1 – 8A.6, formerly 12.1 – 12.6, of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That a supplementary estimate of £34,670 be approved in order to cover the negotiated costs claim of £34,667.10, in respect of the award of costs made against the Council in the Eaton Lodge Planning Appeal

**47. Exclusion of the Public**

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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**AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER, 2009**

**PART 2**

**48. Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees and Panels**

RESOLVED:

That the Part 2 Minutes of the following Cabinet, Committees and Panels be adopted and any recommendations be approved and decisions implemented following the expiry of any call-in period:-

- (a) Cabinet – 27 August, 2009

**49. Recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 17 September, 2009**

Consideration was given to a recommendation received from Cabinet held on 17 September, 2009, in relation to 'Elizabeth Road Area Redevelopment Scheme':

- “(A) That Council is recommended to meet the £2,200,000 deficit in land assembly funding through:-
  - (i) The provision of £1,480,000 of previously committed resources which subject to the Homes and Communities Agency providing replacement Social Housing Grant will be released from the purchase of existing satisfactory dwellings.
  - (ii) £702,000 of Section 106 monies which are available for the provision of affordable housing.
  - (iii) £18,000 of HRA capital resources which have already been committed to the Elizabeth Road Redevelopment Scheme.
- (B) That Council is recommended to establish a budget of £2,200,000 for land assembly works in respect of the Elizabeth Road Redevelopment Scheme as part of the General Fund Capital Programme.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Council agreed that the £2,200,000 deficit in land assembly funding be

met through:-

- (i) The provision of £1,480,000 of previously committed resources which, subject to the Homes and Communities Agency providing replacement Social Housing Grant, would be released from the purchase of existing satisfactory dwellings.
  - (ii) £702,000 of Section 106 monies which were available for the provision of affordable housing.
  - (iii) £18,000 of HRA capital resources which had already been committed to the Elizabeth Road Redevelopment Scheme.
- (B) That a budget of £2,200,000 be established for land assembly works in respect of the Elizabeth Road Redevelopment Scheme as part of the General Fund Capital Programme.

The Housing Portfolio Leader commended the efforts of the Head of Housing and his team, led by the Strategic Housing Manager, in ensuring that the scheme had come to fruition.

#### **50. Contract Hire of Refuse Collection Vehicles**

Consideration was given to a Not for Publication report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the replacement Contractual Hire Vehicles for the Council's refuse collection fleet vehicles be procured through the Framework Agreement.
- (B) That the Director of Service Improvement be authorised to select a preferred Framework Agreement following the receipt of further information
- (C) That Authority be granted to the Director of Service Improvement to:-
  - (i) procure the said Contractual Hire Vehicles through a suitable Framework Arrangement subject to the Director being satisfied that the Framework Arrangement is the most advantageous to the Council; and
  - (ii) subject to (i) above, the procurement of the said service vehicles be exempted from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
  - (iii) subject to the procurement arrangements above being agreed and the term of maintenance contract agreed, the Director of Service Improvement would undertake a review of the future use of the

Council's Vehicle Workshop.

**51. Sharing Services with Stafford Borough Council**

Consideration was given to a Not for Publication report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Leader of the Council proposed the following amendment to the report recommendations, which was seconded:

"2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- (a) Notes the progress being made on the potential sharing of services with Stafford Borough Council.
- (b) Adopts the Memorandum of Understanding agreed informally between the members of both Cabinets.
- (c) Appoints Alistair Welch, Head of Legal and Administration at Stafford Borough Council, as Monitoring Officer for this Council for a period to be determined by the Chief Executive, and further grants authority to the Chief Executive to identify and appoint (on an interim basis), an alternative suitably qualified and experienced person to the role should Mr. Welch be unable to take up the appointment."

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the progress being made on the potential sharing of services with Stafford Borough Council be noted.
- (B) That the Memorandum of Understanding agreed informally between the members of both Cabinets be adopted.
- (C) That the appointment of Alistair Welch, Head of Legal and Administration at Stafford Borough Council, as Monitoring Officer for this Council for a period to be determined by the Chief Executive be approved, and authority be granted to the Chief Executive to identify and appoint (on an interim basis), an alternative suitably qualified and experienced person to the role should Mr. Welch be unable to take up the appointment.

Councillors D. Thomas and G. Alcott requested that it be noted that they had voted against the proposal.

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CHAIRMAN