

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE, 2006

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, K.L. (Chairman)
Easton, R. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Holder, M.J.
Allen, F.W.C.	Jones, Mrs. A.E.
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Jones, R.
Ball, G.D.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Beddows, J.	Martin, G.R.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Mawle, D.L.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Meaden, R.G.
Burnett, J.	Mitchell, C.
Butler, R.D.	Molineux, G.N.
Carr, I.R.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Collis, C.	Pearce, Mrs. L.J.
Davies, D.N.	Stanley, N.K.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Dixon, D.I.	Thomas, D.
Faulkner, B.J.Freeman, M.P.	Todd, Mrs. D.M. Turville, R.C.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Whitehouse, Mrs. G.M.
Grocott, M.R.	Williams, A.
Hewitt, S.M.	Williams, B.

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor J. Toth).

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Alcott, G.	Culture and Sport Select Committee, Minute 31 – Governor of Blake School	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Member of the Destination Management Partnership	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Relative employed by the Council's Street Cleaning Contractor	Personal

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Member of Instaffs Board	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Governor of Cannock Chase College	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Member of Cannock Wood Parish Council	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Partnership	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Association	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Health Centre Steering Group	Personal
Davies, D.N.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Dixon, D.I.	Council Tenant	Personal
Dixon, D.I.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Easton, R.	Member of Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Easton, R.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Grocott, M.R.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Jones, R.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Kraujalis, J.T.	Employee of Accord Housing Association	Personal
Kraujalis, J.T.	Member of Bridgtown Parish Council	Personal
Martin, G.R.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Meaden, R.G.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Molineux, G.N.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Molineux, G.N.	Member of Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Morgan, C.W.J.	Council Tenant	Personal
Stanley, N.K.	Cabinet, 20 April, 2006 (Minute 132) – Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal

Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Member of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Whitehouse, Mrs. G.M.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Williams, A.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Williams, B.	Member of Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Williams, B.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal

2. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 24 May, 2006 be approved as a correct record.

3. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

Civic Sunday

The Chairman reported that his Civic Sunday would be taking place on Sunday, 23 July, 2006 at St. John's Church, Heath Hayes at 2.00 p.m. It was anticipated that invitations would be despatched week commencing 3 July.

Civic Reception for Cannock Hockey Club

The Chairman stated that Cannock Hockey Club had won the English League Title and would therefore qualify for the European Cup Winners Cup. A reception in honour of the Team's achievements would be held after the Council Meeting in September 2006.

Collection for Chairman's Charity

The Chairman advised that the Charity Collection Box would be circulated at the Meeting for Members to make a small donation to support his charities.

A total of £33.00 was donated at the last Council Meeting.

Good Practice Scheme – Potential Partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Portmore Municipal Council

The Chairman reported that Bob Phillips and Debbie Harris went on a planning mission to Portmore in Jamaica in May as part of the Commonwealth Offices' Good Practice Scheme. Portmore Municipal Council have presented to the Council a goodwill gift (a clock) in anticipation of future partnership working.

He advised that a proposal had been submitted to the Commonwealth Office on an

exchange of experience between the Council and Portmore Municipal Council.

Approval from the Commonwealth Office was expected for a small delegation from Portmore to visit the District Council on 15 to 23 July and the participation of as many members as possible would be welcomed.

All funding for the Good Practice Scheme was met by the Commonwealth Office.

4. Questions in accordance with Rule 8

- (i) The following question was submitted by Councillor F.W.C. Allen in accordance with Rule 8:

“Would the portfolio for Health care to enlighten me on two issues. Firstly, for some considerable time now I have been concerned about the lack of grave spaces at Cannock cemetery. May I ask what, if any, progress has been made in order to redress this very emotive problem? Secondly, monies were made available in the budget in order to upgrade the sexton’s house located within the cemetery grounds. Could I have an indication of when the work is likely to commence, and an approximate date for the reoccupation of the premises, as the building itself has become a target for vandals, thus creating considerable nuisance to nearby residents?”

The Health leader provided the following response:-

“May I thank Councillor Allen for raising these matters and would like to respond accordingly.

I can quite understand your concern about burial space within Cannock Cemetery. On 24 June 1999 the Policy and Resources Committee under 2.4 of a New Cemetery Site report within Cannock stated:

The urgency of the situation has increased given that there is limited capacity available at the existing cemetery in Cannock. Members expressed concern at the Performance Review Sub Committee on 8 February 1999 that the target of identifying an additional cemetery site in Cannock has not been met and request that a report be brought to the Amenities Committee at the earliest opportunity to outline the current position.

Unfortunately search as we might we are unable to trace any report being brought to any Amenities Committee. As your party was the leading party of the time if you could assist us finding this report it would be appreciated.

Within this same report it states under 2.1 that a new Cannock cemetery was discussed on 19 January 1995 and on 15 July 1993.

Obviously under your administration no solution could be found regarding a new cemetery.

Through the Chair may I ask if the Chief Executive could pass on my thanks to our officers who have worked for Cannock residents. It is by their management that a cemetery which, according to this report, should have been closed within 2-3 years, 2002 at the latest, has managed to find extra burial space until 2006.

Under the present administration a team of officers have been reviewing the availability of land in Cannock which matches the strict criteria required for a new cemetery, that report does not just look at burial space but will try to cater for all Cannock resident wishes, i.e. burial, crematorium, memorial gardens, green burials. The officers concerned will be reporting back to Cabinet later this year with their findings so that Cabinet can consider the options available to progress this matter.

I am pleased to inform Council that the refurbishment work on the lodge in Cannock Cemetery commenced on Monday, 26 June 2006 and it is anticipated it will take 6-8 weeks to complete. A selection process is in place to ensure the lodge is occupied on completion”.

- (ii) The following question was submitted by Councillor Mrs. D.M. Todd in accordance with Rule 8:

“Given that a resolution to change the date of the Cannock Forum meeting from 8 May, 2007 to 30 April, 2007 was made at the AGM of the Council and rejected on the basis that it was not possible to change dates, then why was the date of the Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawnsley Forum changed only a matter of two or three days after the AGM when other suitable venues e.g. Wimblebury community Centre were readily available?”

The Chairman provided the following response:-

“I would first of all like to respond to Councillor Mrs. Todd’s question by stating that the reason that the Council rejected the motion to move the Cannock Community Forum from 8 May 2007 to 30 April 2007 was because had the meeting moved to 30 April 2007 this would have meant it being held prior to the 2007 elections. There was some uncertainty therefore as to the availability of Councillors to attend the Forum immediately before an election.

With regard to the date of the Heath Hayes and Rawnsley Community Forum moving from 14 August to 15 August, this was agreed by me as Chairman of the Forum. The reason for moving the date was due to the fact that the proposed venue for the meeting was not available on 14 August. In addition, I considered that, given the excellent facilities offered by the venue, together with the fact that the venue is free of charge, it was reasonable to move the date of the meeting.

In addition, I understand that until recently, Wimblebury Community Centre had regular bookings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, which prevented the Council from being able to hold the Forum at the Community Centre.

Subject to the availability of suitable venues, the Council will continue its custom

and practice of rotating the Forum throughout Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawnsley in order that local residents have every opportunity to attend meetings. I have, therefore, arranged for the meeting of the Forum scheduled for 13 November 2006 to be held at Norton Canes High School and the meeting scheduled for 5 February 2007 to be held at Wimblebury Community Centre."

- (iii) The following question was submitted by Councillor M.J. Holder in accordance with Rule 8:

"For approximately 20 years Cannock Chase District Council has made an annual presentation called the Cannock Chase Youth Endeavour Award. This was always traditionally undertaken at the annual Meeting of the Council and was one of the very last civic duties undertaken by the out going Chairman. The recipient and family were the guests of the Council on that day and joined the Council at the post meeting occasion.

The aim of the award was to give recognition to the youth of the day and was focussed on service before self, and sought to reward those who had given considerable service to the community, in this way a roll of honour was being established.

Can you join with me Mr. Chairman in expressing our deep regret and disappointment that once more this joint Administration forgot to make the award?

Could you Mr. Chairman

- (a) Explain why the Cannock Chase Youth Endeavour Award was not presented this year, again.
- (b) Give me and the Council an unequivocal assurance that this award will not be forgotten in the future?"

The Chairman provided the following response:-

"I would like to respond to Councillor Holder's question by apologising that the Youth Endeavour Award has not been presented for the past 2 years. However, I would like to give Councillor Holder an assurance that I now have a new Secretary in post and the Youth Endeavour Award will this year be presented at the Council Meeting held on 27 September 2006.

The recipient, together with their family, will be invited to the Council Meeting to receive the Award.

I would also assure Councillor Holder that the Award will be presented at the Annual Council Meeting in subsequent years as in the past.

As a point of information, the first Local Heroes Award was held in February this year. This will, hopefully, be an annual event, which is co-ordinated by the Local Strategic Partnership and supported by the Council.

Two of the awards were specifically for young people. The young achievers

award of which there were two age categories 5-11 and 11-18. This award was for young people who had made a difference through volunteering in the community, environment, sport or the arts, or who had been successful either academically or vocationally. The young person of the year award was for those aged between 16 and 21. This was for a young person who had made a positive contribution within their community or for a charitable organisation.

All of the categories received many nominations, however, the awards mentioned received the most".

5. Reports of Cabinet, Committees and Other Bodies

RESOLVED:

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

- (a) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 20 February 2006 and 6 March 2006
- (b) Scrutiny Committee – 27 February 2006
- (c) Standards Committee – 13 March 2006

(The recommendations contained within Minute 19 relating to "Terms of Reference of the Parish Council's Standards Sub Committee" and Minutes 20 relating to "Training Provision for Members" were approved by Council on 26 April 2006.)

- (d) Cabinet – 16 March 2006 and 20 April 2006
- (e) Planning Control Committee – 29 March 2006, 19 April 2006, 10 May 2006

(It was noted that Minute 314 of the Planning Control Committee held on 19 April 2006 should include the word "also" after "...two objectors..." on the second paragraph.)

- (f) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 14 February 2006 and 18 May 2006
- (g) Culture and Sport Select Committee – 15 March 2006, 24 March 2006 and 25 April 2006

(It was noted that Minute 33 of the Culture and Sport Select Committee held on 24 March 2006 should state "Chairman" and not "Chief Executive" in the fourth paragraph.)

- (h) Health Select Committee – 20 March 2006
- (i) Access to Skills and Economic Development Select Committee – 27 March 2006

- (j) Environment Select Committee – 4 April, 2006
- (k) Social Inclusion and Housing Select Committee – 5 April 2006 and 24 April 2006
- (l) Housing Transfer Committee – 29 November 2005 and 22 February 2006

(The recommendations contained within Minute 27 relating to “Outcome of Formal Consultation and Ballot Proposals” were approved by Council on 22 February 2006.)

6. Recommendations from the Cabinet held on 15 June 2006

- (a) Corporate and Performance Plan

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Cabinet held on 15 June 2006 in relation to “Corporate and Performance Plan”.

RESOLVED:

That the publication of the Corporate and Performance Plan for 2006-09 be approved and delegated powers be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any necessary additions or alterations prior to printing the document.

- (b) New Rugeley Swimming Pool – Establishment of Steering Group

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Cabinet held on 15 June 2006 in relation to “New Rugeley Swimming Pool – Establishment of Steering Group”.

RESOLVED:

That the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Sport be appointed to lead the New Rugeley Swimming Pool Steering Group.

7. Approval of Statement of Accounts

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2005-06 be approved.
- (B) That the Statement on Internal Control for the financial year 2005-06 be approved.

(There was a brief pause whilst the Chairman signed the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006.)

(It was requested that a list of reserves be included within the report next year.)

8. Annual Treasury Report 2005-06

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Report be noted.

9. General Fund Capital Programme Outturn 2005-06

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the scheme outturn on the Capital Programme be noted.
- (B) That scheme variations and the reasons therefore be noted and approved.
- (C) That approval be given to spend additional resources as outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the Report.
- (D) That approval be given to slippage of schemes from 2005-06 to 2006-07 General Fund Capital Programme as outlined in Annex 3 on the Report.
- (E) That the revised uncommitted resources available be noted and an updated report be received on the 2006-07 to 2008-09 Capital Programme as part of the first quarter's monitoring report.

10. Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2005-06 and 2006-07 to 2008-09

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.24 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the position with regard to actual expenditure in respect of the 2005-06 HRA Capital Programme be noted and approval be given to incur £33,608 of additional expenditure on the following schemes:-
 - (a) Estate Security £43
 - (b) Replacement of Partial Central Heating Systems £13,729
(2004-05 Programme)
 - (c) Upgrading of Electrical Systems (2004-05 Programme) £19,836

(B) That the expenditure transferred from the agreed 2005-06 HRA Revenue Budget to the 2005-06 HRA Capital Programme budget be noted and approval be given to the transfer of £280,860 of expenditure in respect of the following schemes:-

(a)	Disabled Facilities Grants	£20,000
(b)	Kitchen and Bathroom Replacement	£15,000
(c)	Replacement of Central Heating	£9,000
(d)	Void Properties (Decent Homes)	£212,860
(e)	External Envelope Works	£24,000

(C) That the slippage of expenditure from the 2005-06 HRA Capital Programme to the 2006-07 HRA Capital Programme be noted and approval be given to the transfer of £250,000 of expenditure in respect of the following schemes:-

(a)	PRC Redevelopment (Bevan Lee Estate)	£157,970
(b)	Disabled Facilities Works (Council Dwellings)	£8,480
(c)	Replacement of Partial Central Heating Systems	£83,550

(D) That the expenditure brought forward from the 2006-07 HRA Capital Programme to the 2005-06 HRA Capital Programme be noted and approval be given to the transfer of £14,730 of expenditure to the 2005-06 HRA Capital Programme in respect of the following schemes:-

(a)	Replacement of Kitchens and Bathrooms	£5,410
(b)	External Envelope Works	£9,320

(E) That the availability and use of resources in financing the 2005-06 HRA Capital Programme be noted and approval be given to increase the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay by £319,234 in 2005-06.

(F) That the position with regard to estimated expenditure in respect of the 2006-07 HRA Capital Programme be noted and approval be given to incur £350,000 of additional expenditure on the following schemes:-

(a)	Home Loss and Disturbance Payments (Cherry Tree House and Cornwall House)	£200,000
(b)	Void Properties (Decent Homes)	£150,000

- (G) That the absence of any 2006-07 grant allocation from the Regional Housing Pot to part fund structural reinstatement schemes in respect of certain PRC properties be noted and:-
- (a) Approval be given to undertake design and consultation work as part of the 2006-07 HRA Capital Programme with a budget of £48,000 being established for this purpose.
 - (b) £253,249 of 2006-07 uncommitted resources be carried forward to 2007-08 to part fund these schemes.
 - (c) Consideration be given to the implementation of these schemes as part of a future review of the 2007-08 HRA Capital Programme.
- (H) That the estimated availability of resources to finance the 2006-07 HRA Capital Programme be noted and
- (a) Approval be given to increase the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay by £360,000 in 2006-07.
 - (b) The estimated availability of capital resources in 2007-08 be subject to a comprehensive review as part of the mid-year review of HRA revenue and capital resources and expenditure.
- (I) That the current position with regard to estimated resources and expenditure in respect of the HRA Capital Programmes for 2007-08 and 2008-09 be noted.

11. Appointment of Representatives to Various Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the following representatives be appointed to the following outside bodies until the Annual Meeting in 2007:

- (a) Cannock Chase Arts Council – Mrs. P.Z. Stretton
- (b) Cannock Chase Sports Council – G. Ball
- (c) Midland Joint Advisory Council for Environmental Protection – J. Toth
- (d) Rugeley and District Physically Handicapped Association – Mrs. A. Bernard
- (e) Hopkins and Sneyd Almshouse Charity – No representative was appointed

12. Recommendations from the Standards Committee held on 20 June 2006

The Chairman reported that the Standards Committee on 20 June 2006 agreed that further consideration be given to the Code of Conduct for Employees at its next meeting. Therefore, this item was withdrawn.

13. 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, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 12, Part I, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 and paragraph 3, Part I, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE, 2006

PART 2

14. Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and Panels

RESOLVED:

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

- (a) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 20 February 2006 and 6 March 2006
- (b) Cabinet – 16 March 2006 and 20 April 2006
- (c) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 14 February 2006 and 18 May 2006

15. Recommendations from the Cabinet held on 15 June 2006

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Cabinet held on 15 June 2006 in relation to "New Rugeley Swimming Pool Feasibility Study – Consideration of Design Options".

RESOLVED:

- (A) That a supplementary capital estimate for the additional cost of the preferred option (Option 2) to be funded by prudential borrowing be approved.
- (B) That additional prudential borrowing for 2007-08 to 2009-10 to reflect the potential delay in receipt of external funding for the project be approved.

CHAIRMAN