

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2007

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Easton, R. (Chairman)
Ansell, Mrs. P.A. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Grice, Mrs. D.
Allen, F.W.C.	Grocott, M.R.
Ball, G.D.	Holder, M.J.
Beddows, J.	Jones, Mrs. A.E.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Jones, R.
Bennett, K.L.	Mawle, D.L.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Meaden, R.G.
Bullock, L.W.	Mitchell, C.
Burnett, J.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Butler, R.D.	Pearce, Mrs. L.J.
Carr, I.R.	Stanley, N.K.
Collis, C.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Davies, D.N.	Thomas, D.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Easton, Mrs. M.	Williams, A.
Faulkner, B.J.	Williams, B.
Freeman, M.P.	Yates, Ms. W.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.I. Dixon, G.R. Martin, G.N. Molineux, and J. Toth).

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Alcott, G.	Item 9 – Recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 14 June 2007 – Blake Valley Technology College Facilities Development – Governor of Blake School	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Relative employed by the Council's Street Cleaning Contractor	Personal

Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Partnership	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Centre	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Health Centre Steering Group	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Parish Council	Personal
Bullock, L.W.	Any Street Cleansing matters and Vehicle Procurement	Personal
Grice, Mrs. D.	Member of Hednesford Town Council	Personal
Jones, Mrs. A.E.	Member of Hednesford Town Council	Personal
Morgan, C.W.J.	Council Tenant	Personal
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.	Member of Hednesford Town Council	Personal
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Member of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Member of Hednesford Town Council	Personal
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Member of Cannock & Datteln Miners Club	Personal

19. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 23 May 2007 be approved subject to Councillor Mrs. D.J. Bennett being included in the list of Members present and G.D. Ball, Mrs. G.M. Davies, S.M. Hewitt and R.C. Turville being excluded from the list of those present.

20. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) The Chairman welcomed Declan Hoare, the Council's new Director of Service Improvement to the meeting.

(ii) Certificates of Service

The Chairman presented a Certificate of Service to retired Member Mrs. Glenda Davies who was unable to attend the Annual Council Meeting on 23 May 2007.

(iii) Retirement Presentation

The Chairman reported that Valerie Amphlett Support Service's Officer, was retiring on 29 June after working for Cannock Urban District and Cannock Chase District Council for the last 43 years. He thanked her for her dedication and service.

Valerie was presented with a token of the Council's appreciation for her steadfast and loyal service to both authorities.

(iv) Reputation Award

The Chairman reported that the Council's Public Relations & Marketing had recently received a Reputation Award from LG Communications. Cannock Chase was one of seven local authorities across the country to have received such an award that recognises communications work which has improved the reputation of Local Government.

Kathryn Cooper, Public Relations and Marketing Manager collected the award.

(v) Chairman's Charity Football Match

Members were advised that a charity football match had been arranged for Saturday, 4 August 2007 at Brereton Social Football Club, Armitage Lane, Brereton, in aid of the Chairman's chosen charities.

Anyone wishing to take part or assist in any way should advise the Chairman as soon as possible.

(vi) Collection for Chairman's Charity

The Chairman also reported that the charity collection box would be circulating for Members to make a small donation to support his charities.

At the Annual Meeting a total of £35.00 was donated.

(vii) Urgent Report

The Chairman reported that he had agreed that as a matter of urgency a report relating to the Allocation of Seats to Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and Other Bodies would be considered. The Chairman had agreed to consider this matter as an urgent item on the grounds that the Membership of the Labour Group had changed following the Hednesford South Ward By-Election on 21 June 2007, which had implications in respect of allocated seats to different political groups.

(viii) The Chairman stated that he had agreed to take items 12, 13 and 14 prior to items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 on the agenda.

21. Representatives on Outside Bodies 2007/08

Consideration was given to the appointment of representatives to those Outside Bodies which were deferred for consideration at the last meeting of the Council (Enclosure 5.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Councillor G.D. Ball be appointed as the Council's representative on the Barbara Bird Memorial Fund until the Annual Council Meeting 2011.
- (B) That Councillors J. Burnett and B.J. Faulkner be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Shoal Hill Common Joint Committee until the Annual Council Meeting 2008.

(The Chairman reported that at the Annual Council Meeting, Ron Turville was appointed as one of the Council's representatives on the Chase CVS. Clarification had been sought as to whether the appointed representatives should be Council Members. The CVS Board was to confirm this issue and if necessary a further report would be considered by Council once clarification had been received).

22. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

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

23. Approval of Statement of Accounts

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2006-07 be approved.
- (B) That the Statement on Internal Control for the financial year 2006-07 be approved.

(The Chairman then signed the Statement of Accounts).

24. General Fund Capital Outturn 2006-07

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the scheme outturn on the Capital Programme and the Section 106 Capital Programme as outlined in Annexes 1 and 6 of the report be noted.

- (B) That scheme variations and the reasons therefore be noted and approved.
- (C) That approval be given for slippage of schemes as outlined in Annexes 2 and 6 from 2006-07 to 2007-08 General Fund Capital Programme and Section 106 Capital Programme.
- (D) That the revised uncommitted resources available be noted and an updated report on the 2007-08 to 2009-10 Capital Programme be received as part of the first quarter's monitoring report.

25. Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2006-07 and 2007-08

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Director of Service Improvement and the Director of Governance (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.11) of the Official Minutes of the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the position with regard to actual expenditure in respect of the 2006-07 HRA Capital Programme be noted and approval be given to incur £238,460 of additional expenditure as detailed in Annex 4 of the report.
- (B) That the slippage of expenditure from the 2006-07 HRA Capital Programme to the 2007-08 HRA Capital Programme be noted and approval be given to the transfer of £83,180 of expenditure as detailed in Annex 5 of the report.
- (C) That the expenditure brought forward from the 2007-08 HRA Capital Programme to the 2006-07 HRA Capital Programme be noted and approval be given to the transfer of £64,120 of expenditure as detailed in Annex 6 of the report.
- (D) That the availability and use of resources in financing the 2006-07 HRA Capital Programme be noted.
- (E) That the position with regard to estimated expenditure and resource availability in respect of the 2007-08 HRA Capital Programme be noted and approval be given to incur £85,000 of additional expenditure as detailed in Annex 8 of the report.

26. Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and Panels

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 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) Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee – 9 February 2007.
- (B) Scrutiny Committee – 13 and 20 February 2007.

(C) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 2 March 2007.

(D) Planning Control Committee – 4 and 25 April and 16 May 2007.

(Councillor L.W. Bullock reported that his name should have been included on the list of Members present at the meeting on 16 May 2007.)

(E) Social Inclusion and Housing Select Committee – 11 January 2007 and 26 April 2007.

(F) Access to Skills and Economic Development Select Committee – 5 and 26 February and 30 April 2007.

(Councillor R. Jones requested that his thanks to Officers and Members for their hard work and assistance on the Select Committee be noted).

(G) Health Select Committee – 6 February 2007 and 28 March 2007.

(Councillor Mrs. A. Bernard reported that her name should have been included on the list of Members present at the meeting on 6 February 2007).

Councillor J. Beddows stated that on 14 February 2007 an informal meeting of Members of the Health Select Committee received a report entitled the Provision of Additional Cemetery Land, Cannock. Members of that Committee agreed that a further report be submitted to the Health Select Committee which is now Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People Select Committee. Councillor Beddows confirmed that the provision of additional cemetery land had been included on the work programme of the new Committee.

(H) Councillor A. Williams reported that prior to moving the formal adoption of the minutes of the Environment Select Committee, the Head of Environmental Health would clarify some issues arising out of Minute 27 of the meeting held on 27 February 2007.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that resolution (A) of Minute 27 referred to the allocation of £25,000 funding. However, the Select Committee does not have the authority to approve or otherwise the use of this funding and the minute should have read that the Select Committee endorsed the use of this funding.

The reference to making funding available to allow wider participation in the Chase It Scheme cannot be funded from the £25,000 and it was agreed at the meeting that officers would explore an appropriate source of funding for this.

Councillor A. Williams then moved adoption of the minutes of the Environment Select Committee held on 27 February and 16 April 2007, taking into account the information provided by the officer in respect of the meeting held on 27 February 2007.

(Councillor D.N. Davies reported that his name should have been included on the list of Members present at the meeting on 27 February 2007).

(The meeting was then adjourned for 5 minutes).

(l) Cabinet – 19 April 2007.

27. Recommendations referred from the Trade Union Consultative Forum held on 26 March 2007

Consideration was given to the following recommendation referred from the Trade Union Consultative Forum held on 28 March 2007, which was moved and seconded:

“That the number of employee representatives on the Trade Union Consultative Forum be increased from 10 to 11 and the Council’s Constitution be amended accordingly”.

RESOLVED:

That the number of employee representatives on the Trade Union Consultative Forum be increased from 10 to 11 and the Council’s Constitution be amended accordingly.

28. Recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 14 June 2007

Consideration was given to the following recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 14 June 2007:-

(i) Blake Valley Technology College Sport Facilities Development

Councillor N. Stanley moved the following recommendation, which was seconded:-

“That Council be recommended to change the Capital Project to “Provision of Sports/Leisure Facilities” rather than refer specifically to Blake Valley Technology College (BVTC)”.

Councillor C. Mitchell moved an amendment to include the following additional recommendation and this was seconded:-

“That, following investigation of further options for the siting of the Sports/Leisure Facilities, any decision be submitted to full Council prior to any final decision on the location being made by Cabinet”.

Following a vote, the amendment was carried and this became the substantive motion.

Following a further vote the substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Capital Project be amended to "Provision of Sports/Leisure Facilities" rather than refer specifically to Blake Valley Technology College (BVTC).
- (B) That, following investigation of further options for the siting of the Sports/Leisure Facilities, any decision be submitted to full Council prior to any final decision on the location being made by Cabinet.

(ii) Howard Crescent Play Area

Councillor N. Stanley moved the following recommendation, which was seconded:-

"That it be noted that the estimated cost of the works would be in the region of £15,000 and that Council be recommended to include the scheme in the Capital Programme for 2007-08 to 2009-10".

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that the estimated cost of the works would be in the region of £15,000 and that the scheme be included in the Capital Programme for 2007-08 to 2009-10.

29. Recommendations referred from the Standards Committee held on 19 June 2007

Consideration was given to the following recommendations referred from the Standards Committee held on 19 June 2007:-

- "(A) That Council be recommended to adopt the revised Code of Conduct for Members as set out in Annex 1 of the report with effect from 1 September 2007.
- (B) That the revised Code of Conduct for Members be incorporated in the Council's Constitution in substitution for the current Code of Conduct.
- (C) That training for Members be provided between July and August 2007 prior to the revised Code of Conduct for Members becoming effective and that Council determine whether training on the Code should be compulsory for all Members of the Council".

Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell moved recommendations (A) and (B) and these were seconded.

Councillor C. Mitchell moved the following amendment to recommendation (C) and this was seconded:-

- "(C) That training for Members be provided between July and August 2007 prior to the revised Code of Conduct for Members becoming effective and that training be made available for all Members of the Council but that it not be compulsory".

Following a vote the recommendations, as amended, were carried.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Council be recommended to adopt the revised Code of Conduct for Members as set out in Annex 1 of the report with effect from 1 September 2007.
- (B) That the revised Code of Conduct for Members be incorporated in the Council's Constitution in substitution for the current Code of Conduct.
- (C) That training for Members be provided between July and August 2007 prior to the revised Code of Conduct for Members becoming effective and that training be made available for all Members of the Council but that it not be compulsory.

30. Membership of the Performance and Partnerships Select Committee

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the wishes of the Conservative Group it be noted that, Councillor Ms. W. Yates had replaced Councillor B.J. Faulkner on the Performance and Partnerships Select Committee.

31. Procurement of Housing Service Vehicles

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 15.1 – 15.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the replacement housing service vehicles be procured through the Framework Agreement procured by the Office of Government Commerce or the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation.
- (B) That the Director of Service Improvement be authorised to select the preferred Framework Agreement following the receipt of further information, including pricing alternatives/savings identified from a mini-tendering exercise under the ambit of Framework Agreement(s).
- (C) That subject to (A) and (B) above, the procurement of the said service vehicles be exempted from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- (D) That the Housing Capital Programme be amended to include the purchase of the replacement vehicles at a cost of £320,000 funded from a Revenue Contribution to Capital over 6 years.

32. Review of the Council's Relocation Expenses Scheme

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 16.1 – 16.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the content of the revised Relocation Expenses Scheme be noted.
- (B) That the revised Relocation Expenses Scheme for employees taking up employment with this Authority be adopted.

33. Appointment of Co-opted Member to the Performance and Partnerships Select Committee

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 17.1 – 17.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That approval be given to the appointment of the Chairman of the Performance and Partnerships Select Committee to Staffordshire County Council's Partnerships Scrutiny and Performance Panel.
- (B) That approval be given to the appointment of a representative from Staffordshire County Council to the Council's Performance and Partnerships Select Committee.
- (C) That subject to (A) and (B) above, the terms of reference of the Performance and Partnership's Select Committee be amended accordingly and that they be incorporated into the Council's Constitution.

34. Corporate and Performance Plan

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 18.1 – 18.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the publication of the Corporate and Performance Plan for 2007-10 be approved and that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to make any necessary additions or alterations prior to printing of the document.

35. Allocation of Seats to Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and Other Bodies

Consideration was given to the urgent Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 18a.1 – 18a.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council) which the Chairman had agreed to take as a matter of urgency.

A copy of the following additional recommendation was circulated to all Members at the meeting:-

"2-3 That the Leaders of the Political Groups advise the Chief Executive in writing (within the next 5 working days) of any changes in membership to their Groups and that the political balance of committees be adjusted accordingly and that the Chief Executive advise the respective Leaders of such changes and inform all Members of the

effective date of such changes”.

The Chairman moved the recommendations contained within the report together with the additional recommendation which had been circulated which were duly seconded.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the allocation of seats to the different political groups to the Council's Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and Other Bodies as set out in Annex 1 of the report be approved.
- (B) That the allocation of seats approved under (A) above, take effect forthwith.
- (C) That the Leaders of the Political Groups advise the Chief Executive in writing (within the next 5 working days) of any changes in membership to their Groups and that the political balance of committees be adjusted accordingly and that the Chief Executive advise the respective Leaders of such changes and inform all Members of the effective date of such changes.

36. 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 Paragraph 2, Part 1, 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, 27 JUNE 2007

PART 2

37. Part 2 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 – 2 March 2007.
- (B) Health Select Committee – 6 February 2007.
- (C) Cabinet – 19 April 2007.

CHAIRMAN