

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2007

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

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

Alcott, G.	Jones, Mrs. A.E.
Allen, F.W.C.	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.
Bullock, L.W.	Mitchell, C.
Burnett, J.	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.
Easton, Mrs. M.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Faulkner, B.J.	Toth, J.
Freeman, M.P.	Williams, A.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Williams, B.
Grocott, M.R.	Yates, Ms. W.
Holder, M.J.	

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K.L. Bennett and R.D. Butler).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman reported on the recent death of Mr. Tom Smith who was a former Member and Chairman of the Council. The Chairman and Members passed on their deepest sympathies to his wife Gladys and family.

62. 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>
Grice, Mrs. D.	Member of Hednesford Town Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Norton Canes Parish Council	Personal

Toth, J.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Council's CCTV/Social Alarms Section – Family Connection	Personal
Toth, J.	Minute 66(F) - Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People Select Committee – 30 October 2007 – Choice Based Lettings Scheme Presentation – Potential tenancy interest	Personal and Prejudicial Interest

63. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 26 September and 7 November 2007 be approved as a correct record.

64. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Collection for the Chairman's Charities

The Chairman reported that his charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a small donation to his charities.

At the last meeting a total of £27.20 was donated.

(ii) Chairman's Christmas Reception

The Chairman invited Members to his Christmas Reception, which would be held on 17 December 2007 in his room.

(iii) Chairman's Charity Ball

It was reported that the Chairman's Charity Ball would be held on Saturday, 15 March 2008 at the Chase Leisure Centre, with entertainment provided by The Tremeloes and Swingin Jim's Dance Band. Tickets were available from the Chase Leisure Centre.

The Chairman sought Members assistance with donating prizes for the raffle and advised that all money raised would be donated to his charities.

65. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

Councillor J. T. Kraujalis asked the following question in accordance with Rule 8:

"Can I thank the officers and Councillors for arranging to have the war memorial cleaned in Cannock town centre in response to my request before Remembrance Sunday.

I was particularly concerned at the response of our officers to my initial request when I was informed that there was no specific budget and that no real thought had been put

into how we were going to clean or protect the memorial into the future.

This is not an attempt to “have a go” at the controlling group, as I am sure that my own Party did not have a budget to deal with such an eventually either when we were in control. My concern, as a Cannock Councillor is to ensure the maintenance and cleaning of the memorial into the future, but my comments may apply to all the other memorials in the district and if so, I feel that they should receive equal attention.

In Particular, I have been approached by many people about the damage that is being caused to our public buildings by pigeons, which are seen as a major part of the problem.

What I would simply ask is whether the relevant Portfolio leader is how we as a Council can deal with these concerns?”

Councillor A. Williams, Environment Leader, provided the following response:

“I would like to thank Councillor Kraujalis for asking this question today. We all consider that it is of the greatest importance to maintain all of Cannock Chase's War Memorials that serve to remind the public of the sacrifices made by local people.

It is true to say that there is not a specific budget for cleaning the War memorials which exist in the District and sometimes specialist companies are required to undertake work which places pressure on the existing budgets. It is not true to say that the memorial in Cannock would not have been cleaned but for my colleague's intervention. I am informed that officers had already planned to undertake the required cleansing work on the memorial.

In respect to the future position I have asked Council officers to establish what powers exist to clean war memorials and will establish a cost of maintaining these monuments for incorporation into the budget making process.

With regard to my colleague's view on Pigeons, overall I am informed by Council officers that we don't have a major problem with them, but there are enough to cause some concerns in certain areas.

Defacement of buildings is a problem, with the war memorial in Cannock being a prime example. I am informed that Pigeon controls have been put in place in the past but this can prove a controversial matter with some members of the public. Furthermore, the pigeon problem in town centre's is not helped where misguided members of the public deliberately feed pigeons, which incidentally can also encourages rats. Prompt cleaning up of this food is required by street cleansing contractors, together with enforcement action by Council officers, where the offender can be identified.

A number of buildings in the town centres have installed pigeon proofing or deterrent measures, at their own expense.

I will ask Council officers to submit a report to members on options and costs on control measures available in order that a clear decision and Council policy be adopted”.

66. 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) Licensing & Public Protection Committee - 12 July 2007 and 24 September 2007
- (B) Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee - 28 June 2007
- (C) Planning Control Committee - 24 August 2007, 12 September 2007, 3 October 2007 and 24 October 2007
- (D) Cabinet - 20 September 2007 and 18 October 2007

The recommendation referred to it in Minute 43(B) of 20 September 2007 in relation to "Steering Group for New Athletics Track" was approved.

(At this point the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes).

- (E) Environment Select Committee - 12 July 2007, 4 September 2007 and 15 October 2007
- (F) Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People Select Committee - 10 July 2007, 25 September 2007, 10 October 2007 and 30 October 2007

Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2007 Councillor J. Toth left the meeting during consideration of these minutes.

- (G) Safer & Stronger Communities Select Committee - 30 August 2007
- (H) Performance and Partnerships Select Committee - 21 August 2007
- (I) Children and Young People Select Committee - 5 September 2007
- (J) Audit and Governance Committee - 7 August 2007 and 21 September 2007
- (K) Standards Committee - 10 September 2007

67. Scheme of Delegations of Officers and Financial Regulations

Consideration was given to the Report of the Directors' Management Team (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.4) of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Scheme of Delegations to Officers (Annex 2 of the report) and Financial Regulations (Annex 3 of the report) be adopted.

68. Determination of Council Tax Base – Year Commencing 1 April 2008

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.3) of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the report and the associated calculation of the Council's tax base for the year commencing 1 April 2008 be approved.
- (B) That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by the Cannock Chase District Council as its tax base for the year commencing 1 April 2008 shall be 29,971.73 equivalent Band D properties, and that for the various parts of the District described below, the amounts so calculated shall be as stated:

Parish	Base
Brereton & Ravenhill	1,974.30
Bridgtown	318.74
Brindley Heath	252.90
Cannock Wood	405.40
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	4,252.32
Hednesford	5,114.68
Norton Canes	2,300.13
Rugeley	5,571.90
Balance of the Area	9,781.36
Total	29,971.73

69. Review of Licensing Policy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the revised Licensing Policy as set out at Annex 3 of the report be approved and adopted.

70. Review of Polling Districts

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive Acting as Returning Officer (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the proposals as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

- (B) That the Returning Officer be granted delegated powers to make changes to polling districts, polling places and polling stations in between formal reviews.

71. Scheme of Members Allowances 2007/08

Consideration was given to the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Enclosure 11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Leader moved the following motion, which was seconded:

"That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) special responsibility allowance be approved as follows:

- (i) Leader of the Council – 35% of two Cabinet Members Allowances
- (ii) Cabinet Member – 25% of a Cabinet Member Allowance

That the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) special responsibility allowance be paid to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Select Committee Chairmen and the Leader of the Opposition at the rates set out below:

- (i) Deputy Leader of the Council – 35% of a Cabinet Member Allowance
- (ii) Select Committee Chairmen – 12.5% of a Cabinet Member Allowance
- (iii) Leader of the Opposition – 35% of a Cabinet Member Allowance

That the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the scheme of travel and subsistence (Option 2) be approved.

That approval be given to a supplementary estimate of £32,340 from working balances".

Councillor D. Thomas moved the following amendment, which was seconded:

"That approval be given to Option 1, as set out in the report of the Panel, in relation to travel and subsistence.

That the recommendations of the Panel in relation to the LLA and LSP Special Responsibility Allowance be referred back to the Panel for re-consideration in order that the Panel can compare the level of allowances against those of other similar local authorities".

Following a vote, the amendment was lost.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Special Responsibility Allowance be approved as follows:

- (iii) Leader of the Council – 35% of two Cabinet Members Allowances
- (iv) Cabinet Member – 25% of a Cabinet Member Allowance

- (B) That the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Select Committee Chairmen and the Leader of the Opposition at the rates set out below:
- (iv) Deputy Leader of the Council – 35% of a Cabinet Member Allowance
 - (v) Select Committee Chairmen – 12.5% of a Cabinet Member Allowance
 - (vi) Leader of the Opposition – 35% of a Cabinet Member Allowance
- (C) That the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the scheme of Travel and Subsistence (Option 2) be approved.
- (D) That approval be given to a supplementary estimate of £32,340 from working balances.

72. Recommendation from the Planning Control Committee held on 14 November 2007

Consideration was given to a recommendation referred from the Planning Control Committee held on 14 November 2007 in relation to Revised Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making be approved and that it be incorporated as part of the Council's Constitution.

73. 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 and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2007

PART 2

74. 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 - 12 July 2007 and 24 September 2007
- (B) Cabinet - 20 September 2007 and 18 October 2007

75. Hednesford Town Centre Regeneration – Phase 1 – Rugeley Road Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 15.1 – 15.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Council hereby makes a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of that land edged red on the plan set out in Annex 4 to facilitate the regeneration proposals for the Rugeley Road site in Hednesford Town Centre, as detailed in this report.
- (B) That the Chief Executive be authorised to undertake all necessary steps conducive and incidental to the progression of the CPO in respect of the land (or any part thereof) required for the Hednesford Town Centre Phase I – Rugeley Road Scheme.
- (C) That the Chief Executive (or anyone appointed by him) be authorised to make any alteration(s) or amendment(s) as is deemed necessary and appropriate to any document, statement or plan relating to and/or required for the Compulsory Purchase Order and the confirmation thereof by the Secretary of State.

CHAIRMAN