

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2008

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Easton, R. (Chairman)

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

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

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Burnett and C. Mitchell).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman presented the year's Youth Endeavour Award to Sarah Bartlam of Hednesford Valley High School, who had been nominated by Dawn Stanaway.

Sarah is a student who has cerebral palsey and is a key member of her form group, who is very supportive towards pupils less able than her. Sarah has been a buddy for two and a half years, and has supported children and staff at break times by being a friend. Sarah is a key member of the group, which has raised £48,000 to build a new playground in the school. She is currently raising £10,000 towards an outdoor classroom. She is also a member of the Youth Club and has helped to raise funds to buy new furniture.

1. Presentation of Certificates

Prior to the start of the formal business, the Chairman welcomed all new Members and made the following presentations:-

(A) Certificates of Service

The Chairman presented a Certificate of Service to Chris Collis. He reported that apologies had been received from past Members, Geoff Martin, Annette Jones and Janos Toth who could not be present to receive their past Members Certificates of Service.

(B) Certificates of Long Service

The Chairman presented Certificates of Long Service to Councillor D.N. Davies for completing 20, Councillor R. G. Meaden and Councillor J.T. Kraujalis for completing 12 year's service as Members of the Council.

(C) Outgoing Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman thanked all Members for their support during his year as Chairman of the Council, especially his consort Mrs. D.M. Easton and to the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell and her consort. He highlighted a number of outstanding events that he had attended and thanked all those who had supported him during his term of office.

The Chairman also reported that he had agreed to amend the agenda in order to meet the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which sets out the order of business for the annual meeting. He advised that Members should have received a revised agenda, which included the following amendments:

- (i) Item 5 - The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2008 had been included for consideration.
- (ii) Items 7 and 11 – This was formally item 6 on the previous agenda, which had been separated into two items.

2. Election of Chairman of the Council

Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton (seconded by Councillor Mrs. D. Grice) nominated Councillor G.D. Ball to be Chairman of the Council.

Councillor D.L. Mawle (seconded by Councillor M. P. Freeman) nominated Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell to be Chairman of the Council.

Following a vote Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell was elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell be elected Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell thereupon declared and signed her acceptance of office and was invested with the badge of office).

Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell, the newly appointed Chairman, thanked Members for electing her to office and announced that she would be supporting Guide Dogs for the Blind, British Heart Foundation and St. Giles Hospice.

Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell in the Chair

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton (seconded by Councillor Mrs. D. Grice) nominated Councillor G.D. Ball to be Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Councillor M.P. Freeman (seconded by Councillor Ms. W. Yates) nominated Councillor J. Beddows to be Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Following a vote, Councillor J. Beddows was appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor J. Beddows be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor J. Beddows thereupon declared and signed his acceptance of office and was invested with the badge of office).

4. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 16 April 2008 be approved as a correct record.

5. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Petition

Councillor J.T. Kraujalis presented a petition on behalf of residents of Rumer Hill regarding allotments.

Having received the petition, the Chairman agreed that it be forwarded to the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Leader to deal with in the usual way.

(ii) Annual Civic Dinner

The Chairman reminded Members that the annual civic dinner would be taking place in the Ballroom at the conclusion of the meeting.

(iii) Collection for Chairman's Charity

The Chairman reported that a charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a small donation to support her charities. A total of £24.20 was donated at the last meeting.

6. Changes to the Council's Constitution

Prior to the consideration of the report, the Director of Governance formally apologised to the Council for the previous versions of the report which had been issued to Members, indicating that it was unacceptable. He advised Members that measures were in place to ensure that this did not happen again.

Consideration was then given to the report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the changes to the Scrutiny and Select Committee arrangements as specified in Annex A of the report be noted.
- (B) That a Constitution Working Group be established to report to Council no later than August 2008 on any proposed changes to the Council's Constitution. The membership shall be 2 Members from each political group with each Group Leader notifying the Chief Executive of such Members within 5 working days.

7. Form and Composition of the Cabinet

The Leader, Councillor N. K. Stanley notified the Council of the form and composition of the Cabinet and of the lead Cabinet Members for each of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Service Blocks: -

That the Cabinet be 7 Members and that the following Members be appointed as spokespersons for the respective portfolios to serve on the Cabinet and the LAA Service Blocks: -

Councillor N. K. Stanley	Leader of the Council Children and Young People Portfolio Leader Children and Young People LAA Block Lead
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Councillor M.P. Freeman	Deputy Leader of the Council Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Portfolio Leader Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise LAA Block Lead
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Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard	Housing Portfolio Leader
Councillor B. Faulkner	Healthier Communities and Older People Portfolio Leader Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People LAA Block Lead
Councillor D.N. Davies	Town Centres Development Portfolio Leader
Councillor M.R. Grocott	Safer and Stronger Communities Portfolio Leader Safer and Stronger Communities LAA Block Lead
Councillor A. Williams	Environment Portfolio Leader Environment LAA Block Lead

8. Leader of the Opposition

The Chairman called upon the Leader of the largest opposition group to confirm the acceptance of office as the Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor D. Thomas confirmed his acceptance of office as Leader of the Opposition.

9. Form and Composition of the Shadow Cabinet

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor D. Thomas notified the Council of the form and composition of the Shadow Cabinet and of the LAA Service Block Shadow Members: -

That the Shadow Cabinet be 7 Members and the following Members be appointed with the respective portfolios to serve on the Shadow Cabinet and LAA Blocks: -

Councillor D. Thomas	Leader of the Opposition Town Centers Development Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor M.J. Holder	Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Shadow Portfolio Leader Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise LAA Block
Councillor F.W.C. Allen	Deputy Leader of the Opposition Housing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Councillor Mrs. M. A. Davis	Healthier Communities and Older People Shadow Portfolio Leader Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People LAA Block
Councillor L.W. Bullock	Safer and Stronger Communities Shadow Portfolio Leader Safer and Stronger Communities LAA Block

Councillor G. Alcott

Environment Shadow Portfolio Leader
Environment LAA Block

Councillor C. Mitchell

Children and Young People Shadow Portfolio Leader
Children and Young People LAA Block

10. Establishment of Council Committees and Proposed Substitution Scheme

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

RESOLVED

- (A) That the proposed changes specified in Appendix A of the report to the size of Committees be approved in accordance with the political balance rules and that Group Leaders be requested to notify the Chief Executive in writing within the next 5 working days of the allocation of named individuals to those seats for the new municipal year.
- (B) That the Terms of Reference of Committees and other bodies be determined as set out in the Constitution.
- (C) That approval be given to a Substitution Scheme for Committees as specified in Appendix B of the report and that Group Leaders notify the Chief Executive in writing of the named substitutes.

At this point the meeting adjourned whilst copies of the schedules of the proposed memberships of Council Committees and other bodies, including Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen was circulated at the meeting.

On the meeting being reconvened, Councillor N.K. Stanley moved the following motion, which was seconded: -

“That the membership of the Council’s Committees and other bodies, including the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, be as set out on the schedules circulated”

Councillor Thomas then moved the following amendments separately, which were seconded:

“That the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the following Committees, as set out on the schedules circulated, be amended as follows:

Scrutiny Committee

Chairman – Councillor D. Thomas
Vice-Chairman – Councillor M.J. Holder

Performance & Partnerships
Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Chairman – Councillor D. Thomas
Vice-Chairman – Councillor C.W.J. Morgan

Children & Young People Policy Development Committee	Chairman – Councillor C. Mitchell Vice-Chairman – Councillor F.W.C. Allen
Housing Policy Development Committee	Chairman – Councillor F.W.C. Allen Vice-Chairman – Councillor D.I. Dixon
Access to Skills, Economic Development & Enterprise Policy Development Committee	Chairman – Councillor M.J. Holder Vice-Chairman – Councillor D.I. Dixon
Environment Policy Development Committee	Chairman – Councillor G. Alcott Vice-Chairman – Councillor L.W. Bullock”

Following a separate vote on each of the above amendments, each amendment was lost.

Councillor Stanley’s motion then became the substantive motion, which was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the membership and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and other bodies be as set out on the schedules circulated at the meeting.

11. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to the appointment of representatives on Outside Bodies for 2008/09.

The Chief Executive reported that the Leaders of the Liberal Democrat and Conservatives Groups had recently submitted to him additional nominations to those included on the schedule that had previously been circulated to Members.

He advised Council of the additional nominations which had been received and asked Members if there were any further nominations. Members were advised that it would be necessary to vote on each of the nominations received and that when voting Members should vote in accordance with the number of seats available on each body.

Following a vote on each of the nominations received, it was

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the nominations to Outside Bodies as set out on the schedule previously circulated, be the Council’s representatives for the forthcoming municipal year, subject to the Council’s representatives on the following bodies being:-

<u>Body</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Cannock Bowling Green Trust	Councillor M.P. Freeman Councillor B. Faulkner Councillor M. Green Mr. R. Wells

(Note: Council agreed that in the event that the representatives on the above body were required to be Members of the Council, Mr. R. Wells would be replaced by Councillor C.W.J. Morgan having received the next highest number of votes).

Cannock Chase Arts Council	Councillor K.L. Bennett Councillor N.K. Stanley Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell
Chase Sports Council	Councillor Mrs. D.J. Bennett Councillor M.R. Grocott Councillor N.K. Stanley Councillor D.L. Mawle Councillor Ms. W. Yates Councillor M. Green
Cannock Policy Authority Community Consultation Committee	Councillor J. Jillings
Cannock Youth Centre Management Committee	Councillor Mrs. D.J. Bennett Mr. M. Lees
Charity for the Provision of a Recreation Ground for the Inhabitants of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley	Councillor R. Jones Councillor A. Williams Mr. S. Porter
Charity for the Provision of Allotments for the Labouring Poor of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley	Councillor R. Jones Mr. S. Porter
Chetwynd Charity	Councillor M.R. Grocott Mr. G. Martin
Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee (Cannock)	Mr. R. Wells
Community Learning Partnership – Chase Valley	Councillor Miss W. Yates
Community Learning Partnership – Norton Canes	Councillor J. Beddows
Community Learning Partnership – Kingsmead	Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell
Midland Joint Advisory Council for Environmental Protection	Head of Environmental Health (or his/her nominee) Councillor G. Alcott Councillor Mrs. D.M. Easton

Norton Canes Community Centre Councillor J. Beddows

South Staffordshire Waterworks Company Councillor D.N. Davies
Consumer Consultative Committee

Wedges Mills Welfare and Playing Fields Mr. M. Lees
Association

West Midlands Reserve Forces and Mr. K. Daly
Cadets Association

- (B) That the Chief Executive, with the agreement of the Political Group Leaders, be authorised to make additional appointments at any Outside Bodies, as necessary, throughout the municipal year.
- (C) That, in the event of the Political Group Leaders failing to agree on a nomination(s) to an Outside Body (as referred to in (B) above) the appointment be a matter for determination by the Council.
- (D) That, subject to (B) above, the Chief Executive when appointing representatives to Outside Bodies, be authorised to determine which of the appointments should be classed as an 'approved duty' for the purposes of claiming traveling and subsistence expenses.

CHAIRMAN