

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE, 2008

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Ansell, Mrs. P.A. (Chairman)

Beddows, J. (Vice-Chairman)

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

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K.L. Bennett, J. Burnett, D.I. Dixon and C. Mitchell).

12. **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.	Governor of Blake Valley Technology College, Hednesford	Personal
Stanley, N.K.	Item 12 - Appointment of Independent Members to the Council's Standards Committee – Member knows person to be appointed	Personal and Prejudicial

Easton, R.	Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People Select Committee - 26 March, 2008 – Minute 64 Availability of Private Rented Housing Accommodation	Personal
Easton, Mrs. D.M.	Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People Select Committee - 26 March, 2008 – Minute 64 Availability of Private Rented Housing Accommodation	Personal

13. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 May, 2008 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- (i) Page 2 Minute 1 (b) to read that “Councillor R.G. Meaden be presented with a certificate of long service for completing 20 years service as a Member of the Council” and not 12 years.
- (ii) Page 6, Minute 10 paragraph 4, Establishment of Council Committees and Proposed Substitution Scheme, to read “Members then moved the following amendments separately, which were seconded”.

(With regard to Minute 10 it was requested that the schedules circulated at the meeting outlining the membership and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and other bodies be attached to the Minutes of the Council held on 21 May 2008).

14. Question in Accordance with the Scheme for Receiving Questions from Members of the Public

In accordance with the Scheme for Receiving Questions from the Public, the Chairman reported that the question submitted by Mr. Brogan would not be dealt with as he was not present at the meeting.

15. Chairman’s Announcements and Correspondence

(i) British Armed Forces

It was reported that in the last few months several service men and women had lost their lives whilst on active duty, serving their country. In recognition of this, a two-minute silence was held and the Council offered its condolences to all their families.

(ii) Councillor Brian Faulkner

The Chairman reported that Councillor Brian Faulkner had recently been ill and was now out of hospital. Members wished him a speedy recovery.

(iii) Chairman's Charity Box

The Chairman reported that the charity box was circulating for Members to make a small donation to support her charities. A total of £41.00 was donated at the last meeting.

(iv) Petition

Councillor J.T. Kraujalis presented a petition on behalf of local residents of Girton Road regarding allotment rents.

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

16. Question in Accordance with Rule 8

Councillor G. Alcott asked the following question of the Children & Young People Leader in accordance with Rule 8:

"Could the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People tell me:

Following the Labour Government's announcement that over 60's and under 16's are to be allowed to swim free of charge at public swimming baths, can he tell me when this Council propose to introduce that policy?

This would give the senior citizens of the Cannock Chase District Council area an opportunity to lead an active life and also would provide the Council's policy on obesity in young children.

The introduction of this over 60's and under 16's free swim would help the Chase Community Partnerships Sustainable Community Strategy for Cannock Chase District as outlined by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Neil Stanley, relating to health trainers for the District and provide assistance to those most in need".

Councillor N.K. Stanley, Children and Young People Leader, provided the following response:

"An announcement was made on the 6 June 2008 of a new £140m fund to provide free swimming for the over 60's in England only as part of the legacy plans for the 2012 Olympics to get 2 million more adults involved in sport.

£80m is to be used to waive entrance fees for over 60's and promote increased participation in swimming, particularly for under 16's. This revenue funding will be available for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years and will be allocated on a population based formula to unitary and district authorities.

£60m capital fund for pool upkeep (renovation and maintenance) with £10m for 2008/9 financial year with £25m in each of the subsequent two financial years (2009/10 + 2010/11) and local authorities are expected to bid against these sums.

Therefore, Cannock Chase Council will introduce the policy of free swimming for over 60's and promote increased participation in swimming subject to and consistent with the national policy announcement and the fundings made available.

Turning to the position in Cannock Chase and Free swimming for under 16 yr olds:

- This Council has already introduced free swimming for under 5 year olds from 1st January 2007
- This Cabinet, through the Leisure Strategy, has invested £4.2m in establishing a new 6 Lane 25m community swimming pool at Rugeley Leisure Centre; this is planned to open next month and will significantly expand access to swimming for Cannock Chase residents and school children. It is a step change in the quality and quantity of swimming facilities in the District.
- There is a commitment within the Council's Leisure strategy to also establish a new swimming pool in Cannock as part of the proposed Chase Leisure Village
- Through the Local Strategic Partnership, South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust has agreed to allocate £12,500 to Cannock Chase Council to provide free swimming sessions for 6 to 16 yr olds over the 2008 summer holidays. The Council is working closely with the PCT to agree the details of this programme and I can confirm that this will be available at both Chase Leisure Centre and Rugeley Leisure Centre from 19 July 2008. The Council will continue to explore and progress free swimming opportunities for 6 to 16 years olds working closely with its partners in the LSP.
- In terms of free access to sporting facilities, Councillor Alcott will also be aware that the Cabinet has included in its Budget for the 2008/09 financial year free use of all tennis facilities and residents are already benefiting from this.

The Council is working very closely with South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust on the introduction of a Health Trainer scheme for Cannock Chase District. This will be a personalised service working with obese individuals, especially from disadvantaged communities, on a one to one basis to improve fitness and assist in weight loss. They will also signpost individuals to other services that may be necessary as part of an overall individualized programme. It is estimated that there are 26,000 people in Cannock Chase District with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of over 30. There is a considerable amount of detailed planning and recruitment that is required to ensure that this is implemented appropriately. 2008/9 will be focused on this preparatory work and starting to establish the scheme and it is intended that the scheme will then be operational for the 2009/10 financial year.

The introduction of free swimming locally for under 16yr olds this summer, the opening of the new swimming pool at Rugeley next month, the proposed new swimming pool for Cannock, free access to tennis facilities and the planned introduction of a Health Trainer scheme for obese individuals is all evidence of the significant improvements and opportunities being provided to residents, children and young people living in Cannock Chase".

17. 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) Cabinet – 17 April, 2008
- (B) Scrutiny Committee – 17 July, 31 July, 6 August and 29 August, 2007
- (C) Children and Young People Select Committee – 6 February and 8 April, 2008
- (D) Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People Select Committee – 26 March, 2008
- (E) Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Select Committee – 18 March and 21 April, 2008
- (F) Performance and Partnership Select Committee – 18 February and 14 April 2008
- (G) Planning Control Committee – 2 April, 23 April and 7 May, 2008
- (H) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 26 February and 30 April, 2008
- (I) Standards Committee – 20 February, 2008
- (J) Audit and Governance Committee – 25 February and 14 April, 2008
- (K) Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee – 1 April, 2008
- (L) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 14 April and 25 April, 2008

18. Recommendation Referred from Cabinet held on 19 June, 2008

Consideration was given to the recommendation from Cabinet held on 19 June, 2008 in relation to the Sustainable Community Strategy.

RESOLVED:

That the Sustainable Community Strategy be adopted.

19. Recommendation Referred from the Audit and Governance Committee held on 17 June, 2008

Consideration was given to the recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee held on 17 June, 2008 in relation to the Annual Governance Statement for 2007-08.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2007-08, be approved.

20. Notice of Motion Under Rule 6

In accordance with Council Procedure 6, Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton moved the following motion which was seconded: -

“This Council agrees to a supplementary estimate of £120,000 to enable the Cannock Sports Stadium to remain open for public use until 31 March, 2009”.

Prior to the motion being debated by Members, the Director of Governance reported on the financial implications for the Council in respect of a supplementary estimate. He also advised that a report would need to be submitted to the next Council meeting which would seek to clarify where the savings would be taken from in respect of this.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4), the following votes were recorded in respect of the motion: -

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Alcott, G.	Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Burnett, G.	Bennett, K.L.
Allen, F.W.C.	Beddows, J.		Burnett, J.
Ball, G.D.	Bennett, Mrs. D.J.		Dixon, D.I.
Bullock, L.W.	Bernard, Mrs. A.F.		Mitchell, C.
Carr, I.R.	Bernard, J.		
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Davies, D.N.		
Grice, Mrs. D.	Easton, Mrs. M.		
Holder, M.J.	Easton, R.		
Kraujalis, J.T.	Faulkner, B.J.		
Morgan, C.W.J.	Freeman, M.P.		
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.	Green, M.R.		
Thomas, D.	Grocott, M.R.		
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Jillings, J.		
	Jones, R.		
	Mawle, D.L.		
	Meaden, R.G.		
	Molineux, G.N.		
	Pearce, Mrs. L.J.		
	Stanley, N.K.		
	Williams, A.		
	Williams, B.		
	Williams, Mrs. P.		
	Yates, Ms. W.		
13 Members	23 Members	1 Member	4 Members

Following a vote, the motion was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the motion fall.

21. Scheme of Members Allowances 2008-09

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(4), the Chairman agreed to waive the 10 minute rule.

The Leader moved the following motion which was seconded:-

(A) That all recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel be adopted except those related to basic allowances, special responsibility allowances and civic allowances.

(B) That the civic allowances for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council be increased in line with inflation to £8,980 and £3,525 respectively.

(C) That the total annual allowance for the Leader of the Council be set at the level of the salary for the recently advertised North Staffordshire PCT Chairman of £32,923 for a 3 to 3½ day week, in line with the national guidance.

(D) That the level of allowances for all other Members be set as a percentage of the Leader's allowance as follows:

Leader	100%	£32,923
Deputy Leader	50%	£16,462
Cabinet Member	45%	£14,815
Leader of the Opposition	40%	£13,169
Scrutiny Chairman	40%	£13,169
Planning Control Chairman	30%	£9,877
Shadow Cabinet Member	20%	£6,585
Policy Committee Chairman	20%	£6,585
Licensing Chairman	20%	£6,585
Audit and Governance Chairman	20%	£6,585
Backbencher (Basic Allowance)	12.5%	£4,115

(E) That the consumables element of the basic allowances recommended by the Panel of £1,224 be added to all the above allowances, resulting in a basic allowance of £5,339 payable to all Members, and the balance of the above amounts payable as special responsibility allowances for the roles identified.

(F) That, in line with the Panel's recommendations, if a Member is entitled to more than one special responsibility allowance, only the single highest allowance would be paid. This would not apply to civic allowances, which could be paid in addition to special responsibility allowances in accordance with national guidance.

- (G) That the above annual amounts are adopted within the Council's allowances scheme with effect from 1 Jul, 2008, with the basic allowance payable automatically to all elected Councillors.
- (H) That those Councillors who qualify for a special responsibility allowance elect to accept that allowance and confirm in writing to the Chief Executive their decision to accept that Special Responsibility Allowance.
- (I) That Members note that the cost of the proposed scheme can be met within the existing budget and represents an overall increase below the rate of inflation compared with the existing allowances".

The Leader then amended his original motion as follows, which was seconded by Councillor M.P. Freeman.

"That if the proposal is adopted, the scheme stand until after the next District Council Elections".

Councillor D. Thomas then moved the following amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Z.P. Stretton:-

"That the motion moved by the Leader of the Council be referred back to the Independent Remuneration Panel together with the Independent Panels report in order to seek the Panels views".

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4) the following votes were recorded in respect of the amended motion:-

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

Williams, A.
Williams, B.
Williams, Mrs. P.
Yates, Ms. W.

12 Members

24 Members

5 Members

Following a vote the amendment was lost.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4) the following votes were recorded in respect of the original motion:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Alcott, G.	Bennett, K.L.
Beddows, J.	Allen, F.W.C.	Bullock, L.W.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Ball, G.D.	Burnett, J.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Carr, I.R.	Davis, Mrs. M.A.
Bernard, J.	Grice, Mrs. D.	Dixon, D.I.
Burnett, G.	Holder, M.J.	Mitchell, C.
Davies, D.N.	Kraujalis, J.T.	
Easton, Mrs. M.	Morgan, C.W.J.	
Easton, R.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.	
Faulkner, B.J.	Thomas, D.	
Freeman, M.P.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.	
Green, M.R.		
Grocott, M.R.		
Jillings, J.		
Jones, R.		
Mawle, D.L.		
Meaden, R.G.		
Molineux, G.N.		
Pearce, Mrs. L.J.		
Stanley, N.K.		
Williams, A.		
Williams, B.		
Williams, Mrs. P.		
Yates, Ms. W.		
24 Members	11 Members	6 Members

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That all recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel be adopted except those related to basic allowances, special responsibility allowances and civic allowances.
- (B) That the civic allowances for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council be

increased in line with inflation to £8,980 and £3,525 respectively.

- (C) That the total annual allowance for the Leader of the Council be set at the level of the salary for the recently advertised North Staffordshire PCT Chairman of £32,923 for a 3 to 3½ day week, in line with the national guidance.
- (D) That the level of allowances for all other Members be set at a percentage of the Leader's allowance as follows:

Leader	100%	£32,923
Deputy Leader	50%	£16,462
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Audit and Governance Chairman	20%	£6,585
Backbencher (Basic Allowance)	12.5%	£4,115

- (E) That the consumables element of the basic allowances recommended by the Panel of £1,224 be added to all the above allowances, resulting in a basic allowance of £5,339 payable to all Members, and the balance of the above amounts payable as special responsibility allowances for the roles identified.
- (F) That, in line with the Panel's recommendations, where a Member is entitled to more than one special responsibility allowance, only the single highest allowance would be paid. This would not apply to civic allowances, which could be paid in addition to special responsibility allowances in accordance with national guidance.
- (G) That the above annual amounts are adopted within the Council's allowances scheme with effect from 1 July, 2008, with the basic allowance payable automatically to all elected Councillors.
- (H) That those Members who qualify for a special responsibility allowance elect to accept that allowance and confirm in writing to the Chief Executive their decision to accept that Special Responsibility Allowance.
- (I) That Members note that the cost of the proposed scheme can be met within the existing budget and represents an overall increase below the rate of inflation compared with the existing allowances.
- (J) That the scheme stand until after the next District Council elections.

22. Appointment of Independent Members to the Council's Standards Committee

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That Geoffrey Sindrey and Julie Chapman be appointed as Independent Members of the Council's Standards Committee for a term of five years.

(Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest Councillor N.K. Stanley left the meeting during consideration of the item).

23. Scheme of Delegation for Officers

Consideration was given to the report of the Directors Management Team (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Scheme of Delegation for Officers attached at Annex 1 to the report, be adopted.

24. Annual Treasury Report 2007-08

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

25. Consultation on Changes to Electoral Arrangements

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer (Enclosure 15.1 – 15.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That a consultation process be commenced in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement In Health Act 2007 on whether the Council should change to whole Council Elections every 4 years as from 2011.

26. Performance Outturn for the Financial Year 2007-08

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 16.1 – 16.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

(A) That the publication of the Best Value Performance Indicator outturn for 2007-08 as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

(B) That it be noted that during the last 12 months the Council has not entered into any contracts which have been subject to a transfer of staff and therefore

have not had to comply with best value requirements in terms of the Code of Practice on workforce matters for Local Authority service contracts.

- (C) That the Council's financial performance for 2007-08 as detailed in appendix 4 of the report, be noted.

27. Approval of Statement of Accounts

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 17.1 – 17.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2007-08, be approved.
- (B) That the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2007-08, be approved.

28. Membership of the Fundamental Review Steering Group

Members of the Council noted that in accordance with the wishes of the Conservative Group, Councillor Ms. W. Yates had replaced Councillor J. Beddows on the Fundamental Review Steering Group.

29. 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 2 and 3, 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 25 JUNE 2008

PART 2

30. 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 – 26 February and 30 April, 2008
- (B) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 14 April and 25 April, 2008

CHAIRMAN