

Cannock Chase Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
Held in the Ballroom, Civic Centre, Cannock
On Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Part 1

Present: Councillors:

Smith, C.D. (Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Jones, P.G.C.
Arduino, L.	Jones, Mrs. V.
Beach, A.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Boucker, A.S.	Kruskonjic, P.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Lyons, N.
Dunnett, Ms. A.J.	Lyons, Mrs. O. (Leader)
Fisher, P.A.	McMahon, J.B.
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Molineux, G.N.
Frew, C.L.	Muckley, A.M.
Haden, Mrs. P.K.	Newbury, J.A.A.
Hewitt, P.M.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Hoare, M.W.A.	Startin, P.D.
Hughes, R.J.	Sutherland, M.
Johnson, J.P.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Johnson, T.B.	Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
Jones, B.	Wilson, Mrs. L.J.

72. Apologies

Apologies were submitted for Councillors F.W.C. Allen; Buttery (Vice-Chairman); Mrs. S.M. Cartwright; S.K. Crabtree; M. McCall; Ms. C.L. Wilkinson; and P.E. Woodhead. Councillor P.T. Witton was also absent.

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

No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

74. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2022 approved.

75. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Chairman's Charity Event

The Chairman reminded Members of his charity 'Burns Night' event scheduled for Sunday 20 March 2022 at the Beaudesert Golf Club, having been postponed from January.

Confirmed attendees were currently low in number, so anyone wishing to attend should contact Support Services by Friday 4 March to confirm menu choices and make payment.

76. Leader's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Russian Attack on Ukraine

The Leader advised she only had one announcement to make today, something that sadly, put everything else into perspective.

The world was in a dark place because of Russia's attack last Thursday on the free world. The war that had broken out in Europe would disrupt millions of lives. Locally, the District had a local Ukrainian community living in fear - fear for their families and loved ones, fear for the security of their country and fear of what the future may hold.

The Council stood with Ukraine and was ready to step up to help its friends and neighbours.

The Leader would have liked to submit a formal motion for full Council's consideration today, but constitutional timeframes meant this wasn't possible.

Councillor Muckley was thanked for her email to all Councillors that morning, with the Leader also feeling it appropriate for the Council to speak out on this matter.

The Leader advised that on behalf of the Council, she would like to write to the Ukrainian Ambassador to the UK to show solidarity and unity against the unprovoked and wholly unacceptable aggression by Russia. The Council was a local, civic authority, of which there were many across Europe and across Ukraine.

All Members showed support for the Leader's proposal to send the letter and then joined the Leader in standing for one minute to indicate support and stand in solidarity with Ukraine.

Councillor Adamson, Leader of the Opposition, supported the Leader's words and requested that the Council purchase a Ukraine flag as a show of practical support. Councillor Adamson then advised that Councillor Preece and others had setup a Facebook site for donations of clothing, bedding, etc. called 'Norton Canes Stands with Ukraine', which Members were asked to publicise. Furthermore, anyone wishing to make financial donations were encouraged to do so via the Red Cross.

77. Council Tax Resolution

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Council Solicitor (Item 6.1 - 6.6).

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4)(b), a named vote was held on the proposals:

For**Against****Abstain**

Adamson, G.

Arduino, L.

Beach, A.

Boucker, A.S.

Davis, Mrs. M.A.

Dunnett, Ms. A.J.

Fisher, P.A.

Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.

Frew, C.L.

Haden, Mrs. P.K.

Hewitt, P.M.

Hoare, M.W.A.

Hughes, R.J.

Johnson, J.P.

Johnson, T.B.

Jones, B.

Jones, P.G.C.

Jones, Mrs. V.

Kraujalis, J.T.

Kruskonjic, P.

Lyons, N.

Lyons, Mrs. O.

McMahon, J.B.

Molineux, G.N.

Muckley, A.M.

Newbury, J.A.A.

Preece, J.P.T.L.

For

Against

Abstain

Smith, C.D.

Startin, P.D.

Sutherland, M.

Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

Thompson, Mrs. S.L.

Wilson, Mrs. L.J.

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In addition, Councillors F.W.C. Allen, M.S. Buttery, Mrs. S.M. Cartwright, S.K. Crabtree, M. McCall, Ms. C.L. Wilkinson, P.T. Witton, and P.E. Woodhead were absent from the meeting.

Resolved:

That the Council Tax Resolutions 1 to 6, as included at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

78. Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6

(i) Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor Mrs. O. Lyons, Leader of the Council:

“On 5 January 2022, the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) and Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) launched a petition calling on the Government to change the law to give councils (ranging from county, district, and unitary authorities, through to town and parish councils) the freedom to hold remote meetings when local circumstances suit. This includes hybrid meetings.

This Council supports the petition launched by the Association of Democratic Services Officers and Lawyers in Local Government on 5 January with regard to remote and hybrid meetings. We agree to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling on the Government to change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem appropriate within agreed rules and procedures.”

Councillor J.A.A. Newbury moved the following Amendment to the Motion, which was accepted by the Leader:

“That the Council also writes to the local MP to request that she supports the Council in its efforts to convince the Government to introduce this.”

Resolved:

That:

(A) The Council supports the petition launched by the Association of Democratic Services Officers and Lawyers in Local Government on 5 January regarding remote and hybrid meetings and writes to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the local MP, to call on the Government to

change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deemed appropriate within agreed rules and procedures.

- (B) The Council also writes to the local MP to request that she supports the Council in its efforts to convince the Government to introduce this.

79. Comments and Questions on Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

None received.

80. Appointment of Armed Forces Champion

(Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis left the meeting at the start of this item and did not return.)

Consideration was given to the Report of the Leader of the Council (Item 9.1 - 9.4).

Resolved:

That Councillor M.S. BATTERY be appointed as the Council's Armed Forces Champion.

81. Localism Act 2011 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23

Consideration was given to the Report of the Leader of the Council (Item 10.1 - 10.10).

Resolved:

That the Pay Policy Statement as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved and published on the Council's website.

82. Calendar of Meetings 2022-23

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Item 11.1 - 11.11).

Resolved:

- (A) The Calendar of Meetings 2022-23, as included at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
- (B) The Managing Director, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, relevant Chairmen of Committees and / or Leader of the Council, as appropriate, be authorised to amend the Calendar of Meetings, through convening additional meetings, or the postponement / cancellation of meetings, if required.

83. Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme

Consideration was given to the Report of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer (Item 12.1 - 12.18).

The Leader moved that recommendation (b) (as detailed in report paragraph 5.2), be amended to read that "The Basic, Special Responsibility and Civic Allowances be frozen at the 2021/22 rates for each year of the revised Scheme."

Members indicated their support for the amendment as proposed.

Resolved:

That:

- (A) The revised Members' Allowances Scheme be in place for three years, from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025.

- (B) The Basic, Special Responsibility, and Civic Allowances be frozen at the 2021/22 rates for each year of the revised Scheme.
- (C) The Carers' Allowance continues to be paid at National Living Wage Rates for each year of the revised Scheme.
- (D) The Travel and Subsistence Allowances continue to be linked to officers' rates payable for each year of the revised Scheme.
- (E) The 'Communications' Allowance be removed from the Scheme with effect from 1 April 2022.

84. Comments and Questions on Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

None received.

The meeting closed at 6:48 p.m.

Chairman