

**Cannock Chase Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council**  
**Held in the Ballroom, Civic Centre, Cannock**  
**On Wednesday 8 September 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Part 1**

**Present:** Councillors:

Smith, C.D. (Chairman)

Buttery, M.S. (Vice-Chairman)

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

**31. Apologies**

None received.

**32. 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.

**33. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2021 be approved.

**34. Presentation of Certificates to Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen**

The Chairman reminded Members that at the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 19 May 2021, Council approved that the title of Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman be awarded to four nominated former councillors. The title was in recognition of eminent service rendered to the Council, as a past Member, for at least three terms in office (12 years).

As an Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman of a principal council, a person may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide to host. Unfortunately, over the past 18 months the Council has not been able to host any such ceremonies due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Chairman hoped however to be able to recommence civic events in the coming months.

An invitation was extended to each nominated former councillor to attend today's meeting to collect their awards, and the Chairman was pleased to announce that the following individuals were present:

- Gordon Alcott
- Patricia Ansell
- Zaphne Stretton
- Diane Todd

This was a prestigious award given not only in relation to length of service, but also dedication to the position of ward councillor, and the Chairman considered that each former councillor present was worthy of such an award, having been outstanding councillors and a credit to this Council. The Chairman then invited each former councillor to come forward to collect their awards and asked that all Members join in congratulating them.

**35. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence**

None.

**36. Leader's Announcements and Correspondence**

**(i) Covid-19 Update**

The Leader advised there had been a concerning increase in confirmed cases across Cannock Chase, with a current average rate of 464.1 cases per 100,000 population. For perspective, the rate in the District was currently the highest in Staffordshire and was above the average rate of both the West Midlands and England as a whole. Most cases were amongst the 11-17 age group.

Despite the increase in cases, there was a lower number of people coming forward for Covid tests. It was therefore more important than ever for residents across the District to undertake regular, free lateral flow tests and register for PCR tests if they felt they may be experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19.

**(ii) '999' Day**

The Leader advised that Thursday 9 September marked national Emergency Services, or '999' Day. Each and every day, NHS heroes and emergency services workers worked selflessly to serve the nation, this being more evident than ever during the pandemic.

The day was an opportunity for Councillors, and the Council as an organisation, to celebrate the 2 million heroes who worked and volunteered across the NHS and emergency services – including Police, Fire and Rescue, Maritime, and Search and Rescue.

To show our gratitude and to mark the national day, the Council would be raising the official Emergency Services Day flag above the Civic Centre at 9am on Thursday morning.

The Council would also join a two-minute silence to remember and honour the 7,500 members of the UK Emergency Services killed in the line and duty and whilst serving the nation over the past 200 years.

**(iii) NATO Decision to Withdraw Troops from Afghanistan**

The Leader noted that everyone had seen the harrowing scenes unfold as Afghanistan had fallen back under Taliban Rule.

Afghan locally employed staff who had worked for the United Kingdom for the past 20 years and had put their own lives at risk to support and work alongside our Armed Forces had had to flee the Country and seek safety.

As a Council, our duty to those who had worked alongside our Armed Forces would be fulfilled by supporting and helping to resettle some of those most in need.

**(iv) Letter to Professor David Loughton, Chief Executive of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, and Marcus Warnes, CEO of the Local CCGs**

The Leader advised that along with Councillor Mrs. V. Jones, Community Engagement, Health & Wellbeing Portfolio Leader, a joint letter had been sent to Professor David Loughton, Chief Executive of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, to lobby for the reopening of the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Cannock Hospital, post pandemic. The hospital served our community well and local provision was greatly lacking with the current closure.

Professor Loughton responded to confirm that discussions with the Southwest Staffordshire Commissioners were ongoing, and an announcement was expected in August.

The Portfolio Leader had since followed up with our local Clinical Commissioning Group as no announcement had been forthcoming. Council would be updated once a response had been received.

**(v) Disappearance of Kim Castro**

The Leader advised her last announcement was a 'thank you' from, and on behalf of, the family of Kim Castro and her sister, Claire Drury.

Following Kim's disappearance on 9 July, the family were overwhelmed by the warmth and support received from the local community. Hundreds of residents joined the search across Norton Canes, Great Wyrley, and Pelsall. As a result of the local

community's extensive search efforts, Kim was thankfully found alive by a member of the public along Gains Lane, Norton Canes.

**(vi) Congratulations to Cllr. P.D. Startin**

The Leader congratulated Councillor Startin and his partner on the recent birth of their baby boy.

**37. Changes to Membership of Committees etc. 2021/22**

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor O. Lyons, notified of a change in membership of the Licensing and Public Protection Committee for approval by Council.

**Resolved:**

That the appointment of Councillor Kruskonjic to the Licensing and Public Protection Committee in place of Councillor McCall be approved.

**38. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.**

- (i)** Consideration was given to the following recommendations to Council, made by Cabinet at its meeting held on 8 July 2021 in respect of:

**Enabling Paperless / Digital Meetings and Revised Start Times for Calendar of Meetings 2021/22 (Minute No. 18):**

“That the following be recommended to Council at its meeting to be held on 8 September 2021:

- (A) All Members be provided with a Council laptop or tablet device during the current municipal year, and that in future, new equipment be provided upon election or re-election as a councillor.
- (B) Subject to recommendation (A) being agreed, Members will cease to be entitled to receive a communications allowance.
- (C) An assessment be made of the ongoing costs and practicalities of live streaming meetings and reported back to Members for further consideration.
- (D) The start times of Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees, Audit & Governance Committee and Standards Committee meetings, as detailed in the Calendar of Meetings 2021-22 approved by Council on 21 April 2021, be amended to 6:00p.m. with effect from the September / October cycle of meetings. Further, that the Chairs of these meetings be authorised, in consultation with the Joint Chief Executive, to start a meeting earlier where it is necessary to invite external representatives to attend the meeting.
- (E) The Chairmen, officers, and regular attendees at other Committees, such as Planning Control Committee and the Licensing & Public Protection Committee, be consulted on whether it is practicable to change the start times of these meetings.
- (F) The Joint Chief Executive, as appropriate, 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.”

Councillor J.A.A. Newbury, Environment and Climate Change Shadow Portfolio Leader, moved the following Amendment to the Recommendation (A), which was duly seconded:

"All Members be **offered** a council laptop or tablet device during the current municipal year, and that in future, new equipment be **offered** upon election or re-election as a councillor. **Members who wish to use their own devices in place of a Council device will be supported by the IT department to do so.**"

A vote was then taken on the Amendment, which was not carried.

A vote was then taken on the Recommendations as presented:

**Resolved:**

That:

- (A) All Members be provided with a Council laptop or tablet device during the current municipal year, and that in future, new equipment be provided upon election or re-election as a councillor.
  - (B) Subject to recommendation (A) being agreed, Members will cease to be entitled to receive a communications allowance.
  - (C) An assessment be made of the ongoing costs and practicalities of live streaming meetings and reported back to Members for further consideration.
  - (D) The start times of Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees, Audit & Governance Committee and Standards Committee meetings, as detailed in the Calendar of Meetings 2021-22 approved by Council on 21 April 2021, be amended to 6:00p.m. with effect from the September / October cycle of meetings. Further, that the Chairs of these meetings be authorised, in consultation with the Joint Chief Executive, to start a meeting earlier where it is necessary to invite external representatives to attend the meeting.
  - (E) The Chairmen, officers, and regular attendees at other Committees, such as Planning Control Committee and the Licensing & Public Protection Committee, be consulted on whether it is practicable to change the start times of these meetings.
  - (F) The Joint Chief Executive, as appropriate, 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.
- (ii) Consideration was given to the following recommendations to Council, made by the Standards Committee at its meeting held on 12 July 2021 in respect of:

**LGA Model Code of Conduct (Minute No. 4)**

"That Council, at its meeting to be held on September 2021, be recommended to adopt the Local Government Association's Model Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report."

**Resolved:**

That the Local Government Association's Model Code of Conduct, as set out in Appendix 1 of the 12 July 2021 Standards Committee report, be adopted.

### 39. **Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6**

Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor P.E. Woodhead, Leader of the Chase Community Independents and Green Group:

“At the recent General Assembly of the Local Government Association delegates of all political parties and none from Councils across the Country unanimously supported the following motion at the Annual Conference:

#### **Proposes that:**

#### **In light of**

- The significant and far-reaching steps that councils across the United Kingdom are taking to combat climate change, cut carbon emissions and protect our environment; including such measures as:
  - o Declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency, action now taken by nearly three-quarters of all local councils;
  - o Announcing extensive commitments often with detailed action plans to reach net-zero carbon by 2030, surpassing the vague government commitments of 2035;
  - o Implementing broad community level action on climate change, such as climate assemblies, green bonds, warmer homes schemes, sourcing electricity demand from renewables, and developing new parks, open spaces, and active travel measures.
- The significance of the ‘Conference of the Parties,’ (COP26) UN Conference on Climate Change taking place this year in Glasgow, hosted by the UK; and its aims to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The response of local councils to the issue of sustainable food, given that food systems account for 1/3 of total greenhouse gas emissions, environmental degradation, food waste and socio-economic and health inequalities; in particular the efforts of councils during the Covid-19 crisis in providing food to local communities, as well as supporting community food growing and assisting food banks.

#### **The Association therefore agrees to:**

- Call on national government to ensure the adequate representation of local government at COP26, in order to promote the significant contribution, leadership and efforts of local councils in reducing toxic carbon emissions across the UK, and to champion the innovative and rapid progress being made at a local level to tackle climate change.
- Encourage councils to continue their work to address climate change by:
  - promoting further signatories to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration<sup>[1]</sup>. This Declaration confirms the commitment of local and regional authorities to develop sustainable food policy, and calls on national government to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency at COP26

- promoting greater participation from local councils to the UK100<sup>[2]</sup>: the network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and switch to clean energy as soon as possible.

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org/>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.uk100.org/>

Cannock Chase Council fully endorses the commitment and call from the Local Government Association to addressing the Climate Emergency and undertakes to:

- Accelerate our own plans, initiatives, and commitments from our own declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019.
- Write to our Member of Parliament and relevant Secretary of State to highlight and importance of the efforts of this Council and others across the Country in leading and addressing the actions needed to prevent catastrophic Climate Change and biodiversity collapse.
- To advance membership of this Council to the UK100 and sign up to the Glasgow Declaration.”

The Leader of the Council moved the following amendment to the Motion, which was duly seconded:

“Cannock Chase Council acknowledges the motion agreed by the Local Government Association in respect of local government contributions to national climate action in light of COP26 and undertakes to:

- a) Consider the costed 10-year action plan as soon as available, undertake cross-party analysis to agree and prioritise the most efficient and impactful path forward for the Council;
- b) Once agreed, write to our local Member of Parliament and the relevant Secretary of State to outline the agreed action plan, and highlight the importance of the work undertaken by local Councils in addressing Climate Change; and
- c) Look at the Climate Change and Environment Declarations (including UK100 and the Glasgow Declaration) that local Councils can sign up to, in light our tailored action plan once received, and determine what best suits the ambitions of our own Council and best serves the needs of Cannock Chase residents.”

A vote was then taken on the Amendment, which was approved.

A vote was then taken on the Motion as amended.

**Resolved:**

That:

“Cannock Chase Council acknowledges the motion agreed by the Local Government Association in respect of local government contributions to national climate action in light of COP26 and undertakes to:

- a) Consider the costed 10-year action plan as soon as available, undertake cross-party analysis to agree and prioritise the most efficient and impactful path forward for the Council;
- b) Once agreed, write to our local Member of Parliament and the relevant Secretary of State to outline the agreed action plan, and highlight the importance of the work undertaken by local Councils in addressing Climate Change; and

- c) Look at the Climate Change and Environment Declarations (including UK100 and the Glasgow Declaration) that local Councils can sign up to, in light our tailored action plan once received, and determine what best suits the ambitions of our own Council and best serves the needs of Cannock Chase residents.”

**40. Comments and Questions on Part 1 and Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9**

None received.

The meeting closed at 7:32 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN