

## Cannock Chase Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Held in the Ballroom, Civic Centre, Cannock

On Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

#### Part 1

**Present:** Councillors:

Smith, C.D. (Chairman)

Buttery, M.S. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Jones, B.
Allen, F.W.C.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Arduino, L.	Kruskonjic, P.
Beach, A.	Lyons, N.
Boucker, A.S.	Lyons, Mrs. O. (Leader)
Crabtree, S.K.	McCall, M.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	McMahon, J.B.
Dunnett, Ms. A.J.	Molineux, G.N.
Fisher, P.A.	Muckley, A.M.
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Newbury, J.A.A.
Frew, C.L.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Haden, Mrs. P.K.	Startin, P.D.
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.

#### 41. Apologies

Apologies were submitted for Councillors Mrs. S.M. Cartwright; P.G.C. Jones; Mrs. V. Jones; M. Sutherland; and P.E. Woodhead.

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

Member	Interest	Type
Beach, A.	Agenda item 10 – ‘Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6’ – interest due to nature of employment.	Personal

**43. Local Government Association (LGA) Support for Members**

Members received a short briefing from Councillor Mike Wilcox, LGA Lead Member Peer for the West Midlands on support available to Members from the LGA.

**44. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2021 be approved.

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

**(i) Minute's Silence**

The Chairman invited all Members to join in a minute's silence to pay respects to Sir David Amess, MP who tragically and needlessly lost his life on 15 October. The Council's thoughts were with Sir David's family, friends and colleagues at this immensely difficult time.

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

**(i) Covid-19 Update**

The Leader advised there continued to be a concerning increase in cases across Cannock Chase. As of 18 October, the average case rate for the District was 681.9 per 100,000 population. In perspective, the District had the second highest rate in Staffordshire and was above the average rate of both the West Midlands and England as a whole.

The majority of cases were amongst the 5 to 10 and 11 to 18 age groups, however, in schools where additional measures were being implemented, rates were declining.

Amongst adult care home staff where vaccination was required, 96% had received their first vaccination and 89% their second.

As mentioned before, the best steps Councillors could take was to encourage residents to undertake regular lateral flow tests and register for PCR tests if symptomatic and accept the vaccine or booster vaccines as soon offered, including the flu immunisation for those eligible.

**(ii) Vaccination Centres**

The Leader thanked staff and volunteers manning vaccination centres. The sheer enormity of nationwide vaccination was unprecedented, with staff and volunteers at vaccination centres, GP practices, and chemists having worked tirelessly over the past year, now finding themselves embarking on the booster programme.

Members joined the Leader in noting what an incredible job the staff and volunteers had done and expressed their gratitude for this work.

**(iii) Tributes**

The Leader paid tribute to both James Brokenshire, MP and Sir David Amess, MP, noting that both men were incredibly committed, dedicating their lives to public service, and that the loss would surely be felt by all Members.

**47. Changes to Membership of Outside Bodies 2021/22**

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Mrs. O. Lyons, notified of a request to change the Council's appointee on the Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall Committee from Councillor P.M. Hewitt to Councillor M.S. Buttery.

**Resolved:**

That Councillor M.S. Buttery be appointed to the Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall Committee in place of Councillor P.M. Hewitt.

**48. Questions Received under Council Procedure Rule 8**

**(i) The following question was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8 by Councillor J.A.A. Newbury, Environment and Climate Change Shadow Portfolio Leader:**

"Can the Portfolio Holder give an update on the progress made on the review, and subsequent report to Cabinet, which featured in a motion submitted by Councillor Newbury and passed unanimously by full council on 25th November 2020? The review concerns the information this Council collects on the gender of residents, tenants and staff as well as the practical implications of allowing for self-identification."

**The Innovation and High Streets Portfolio Leader, Councillor P.M. Hewitt, provided the following response:**

"I can confirm that with regard to Cllr. Newbury's motion agreed by Council on 25 November 2020, the following actions have been completed:

- The Managing Director wrote to the Minister for Women and Equalities to affirm the Council's support for self-identification.
- A review of the information that the Council collects on gender has been undertaken.

The outcome of the data collection exercise has yet to be reported to Cabinet, but I understand from Officers that the work undertaken so far indicates that gender data is not widely collected and is not being specifically used to determine accessibility to services provided by the Council. A report is to be presented to Cabinet in the new year on this as part of a wider piece of work on equality and diversity matters."

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

**(i) Consideration was given to the following recommendation to Council, made by the Planning Control Committee at its meeting held on 22 September 2021 in respect of:**

**Public Speaking on Planning Applications, Tree Preservation Orders and Enforcement Cases (Planning Control Committee 22/08/21, Minute No. 48.)**

"That Council be recommended to amend the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making which forms part of the Constitution, so that the time allowed for speakers to address the Planning Control Committee on planning applications, TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) and enforcement cases be reduced from 10 minutes to 5 minutes."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4)(a), a named vote was taken on the Recommendation:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
	Adamson, G.	Arduino, L.
	Allen, F.W.C.	Boucker, A.S.
	Beach, A.	Buttery, M.S.
	Crabtree, S.K.	Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.
	Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Frew, C.L.
	Dunnett, A.J.	Haden, Mrs. P.K.
	Fisher, P.A.	Hewitt, P.M.
	Hoare, M.W.A.	Hughes, R.J.
	Johnson, T.B.	Johnson, J.P.
	Kraujalis, J.T.	Jones, B.
	Molineux, G.N.	Kruskonjic, P.
	Muckley, A.M.	Lyons, N.
	Newbury, J.A.A.	Lyons, Mrs. O.
	Preece, J.P.T.L.	McCall, M.
	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.	McMahon, J.B.
	Witton, P.T.	Smith, C.D.
		Startin, P.D.
		Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
		Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
		Wilson, Mrs. L.J.
<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>

In addition, Councillors Mrs. S.M. Cartwright; P.G.C. Jones; Mrs. V. Jones; M. Sutherland; and P.E. Woodhead were absent from the meeting.

**Resolved:**

That the time allowed for speakers to address the Planning Control Committee on planning applications, Tree Preservation Orders, and enforcement cases remain as 10 minutes.

**50. 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 P.T. Witton, Member for Cannock South Ward:**

**Universal Credit Cut**

“This Council is opposed to the Tory cut of £20 a week in Universal Credit.

The chancellor has said that the temporary increase in benefit, made to help the poorest families cope with the affects of the pandemic, will end this year, leaving claimants receiving £1,040 less a year.

The hardest hit regions are those in which more than a third of working-age families with children will be affected. In total, there are 191 Tory seats including 53 won in 2019 or at subsequent by-elections.

This is another example of the Tories pulling the rug from under the most vulnerable in society, and it couldn't have come at a worse time.

We already have unacceptable levels of poverty due to the roll out of UC. But this cruel cut by the Tories will undoubtedly create further inequality and poverty, in which is supposed to be one of the richest countries in the world.

I move that our Managing Director writes to the Secretary of State and our local MP calling for the cut of £20 a week to be reversed, in line with the Prime Ministers levelling up statement that 'austerity is dead and gone'."

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

"This Council is concerned about the removal of the £20 a week uplift to Universal Credit for those with greatest need.

The chancellor has said that the temporary increase in benefit, made to help the poorest families cope with the effects of the pandemic, will end this year.

The potential hardest hit regions are those in which more than a third of working-age families with children will be affected.

With a difficult winter ahead, we fear this could create further inequality and poverty.

We move that our Managing Director writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, copying in our local MP, highlighting the difference the £20.00 uplift made to local residents during the pandemic, thanking him for that support and the subsequent additional £500 million 'Household Support Fund' that has been set up to continue to support vulnerable households over the coming months.

We call on the Chancellor to ensure that the needs of vulnerable residents, those in greatest need and working families are also considered during the upcoming Autumn Spending Review."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4)(a), a named vote was taken on the Amendment:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Adamson, G.	Witton, P.T.	Beach, A.
Allen, F.W.C.		
Arduino, L.		
Boucker, A.S.		
Buttery, M.S.		
Crabtree, S.K.		
Davis, Mrs. M.A.		
Dunnett, Ms. A.J.		
Fisher, P.A.		
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.		

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
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.		
Kraujalis, J.T.		
Kruskonjic, P.		
Lyons, N.		
Lyons, Mrs. O.		
McCall, M.		
McMahon, J.B.		
Molineux, G.N.		
Muckley, A.M.		
Newbury, J.A.A.		
Preece, J.P.T.L.		
Smith, C.D.		
Startin, P.D.		
Sutton, Mrs. H.M.		
Thompson, Mrs. S.L.		
Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.		
Wilson, Mrs. L.J.		
<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Councillor Beach did not vote on the Amendment having declared a personal interest in this item.

In addition, Councillors Mrs. S.M. Cartwright; P.G.C. Jones; Mrs. V. Jones; M. Sutherland; and P.E. Woodhead were absent from the meeting.

A vote was then taken on the Motion as amended.

Councillor Beach did not vote on the Motion having declared a personal interest in this item.

**Resolved:**

That:

- (A) This Council was concerned about the removal of the £20 a week uplift to Universal Credit for those with greatest need.
- (B) The chancellor had said that the temporary increase in benefit, made to help the poorest families cope with the effects of the pandemic, would end this year.
- (C) The potential hardest hit regions were those in which more than a third of working-age families with children would be affected.
- (D) With a difficult winter ahead, we fear this could create further inequality and poverty.
- (E) The Managing Director writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, copying in our local MP, highlighting the difference the £20.00 uplift made to local residents during the pandemic, thanking him for that support and the subsequent additional £500 million 'Household Support Fund' that had been set up to continue to support vulnerable households over the coming months.
- (F) We call on the Chancellor to ensure that the needs of vulnerable residents, those in greatest need and working families were also considered during the upcoming Autumn Spending Review.

**51. 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 7:30 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN