

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2010**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Alcott, G. (Chairman)  
Jones, R. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Grice, Mrs. D.
Allen, F.W.C.	Grocott, M.R.
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Meaden, R.G.
Ball, G.D.	Mitchell, C.
Beddows, J.	Molineux, G.N.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Rowley, J.
Bernard, J.D.	Stanley, N.K.
Burnett, G.	Sutherland, M.
Collis, C.	Thomas, D.
Davies, D.N.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Williams, A.
Dixon, D.I.	Williams, B.
Freeman, M.P.	Williams, Mrs. P.
Gilbert, P.	Yates, Ms. W.
Green, M.	

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L.W. Bullock, J. Burnett, Mrs. S.M. Cartwright, Mrs. D.M. Easton, R. Easton, J.T. Kraujalis and Mrs. H. Sutton)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Members stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect on the recent passing of Councillor John Jillings. Following this, a number of Members paid tribute to Councillor Jillings.

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

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

### 13. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 19 May, 2010 be approved as a correct record.

Arising from the Minutes it was reported that the Schedule of Appointments to Outside Bodies had not been updated following the Appointments made at the Annual Council Meeting. The Monitoring Officer stated that he would ensure that the Schedule was updated accordingly.

### 14. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

#### (i) Chairman's chosen charity and collection box

The Chairman reported that he had chosen to support the Royal British Legion during his term of office. All monies raised would be shared equally across the District to the following branches:

- Cannock
- Norton Canes
- Rugeley
- Hednesford

The Chairman reported that the charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a small donation to support his charities. A total of £29.00 had been donated at the last meeting.

#### (ii) Chairman's Civic Sunday

The Chairman explained that the Civic Service would take place on Sunday 18 July 2010 at Chadsmoor Methodist Church, Cannock Road followed by a light buffet in the ballroom to which all Members have been cordially invited.

The Chairman took the opportunity to invite all past Chairmen and their Consorts to wear their past Chairman and Consort badges and he looked forward to seeing all Members there.

#### (ii) Gwilym Roberts

The Chairman reported that Gwilym Roberts had recently suffered a stroke and had been admitted to Cannock Chase Hospital and was now recovering at home. He asked that Gwilym be sent best wishes for a speedy recovery on behalf of all Members.

(iii) PR & Marketing

The Chairman reported that the PR & Marketing Team had won an LG Communications award in the Partnership Working category for the seasonal 'Beat Violence Before It Beats You' campaign. The judges said the campaign was well targeted, had clear objectives with robust evaluation.

The team worked together with a range of partners including Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire County Council.

Kathryn Cooper and Katie McBey from PR & Marketing came forward to collect their Award.

**15. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8**

The following question had been submitted by Councillor M. Sutherland:

"This Administration has already openly declared in the press that they will be making cuts in all areas. Many people in my ward are concerned that the current financial situation will detrimentally impact upon the much needed redevelopment of Cannock Town centre. Can the Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration please advise me of what contingency plans the Council has put, or is putting in place, to deal with this eventuality and what timescales is this regeneration now working to or has it been totally abandoned?"

Councillor Mrs. P. Williams, Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader provided the following response:

"Thank you for your question on the importance of the regeneration of Cannock Town centre in the context of significant national, regional and local economic difficulty.

First of all, may I remind Members and the public that the District Council does not have the ability to invest millions on Town Centre redevelopment. Redevelopment of our Town Centres depends on investment by private developers such as St Modwen's. The regeneration and redevelopment of all three of the District's town centres is a priority of the Administration. Bringing new development into Cannock town centre is the most complex of all the regeneration schemes the Council is currently working on. Over a number of years the Council has worked with potential development partners with the aim of identifying a viable scheme which will add to the range and quality of shopping in Cannock town centre.

During the last financial year 2009/10 and in the face of a national economic recession which has impacted particularly severely on the property and investment markets, the Council has continued to prioritise this issue. Two important pieces of work have been completed as part of this regeneration project. The first is an assessment of the future provision of indoor and outdoor markets as part of any redevelopment. This was conducted by a company called The Retail Group and has been used to identify what level of provision is required for Cannock. The second piece of work completed by a company called Charcoal Blue defines the type of theatre provision that should be considered by this scheme subject to affordability. I hope Members will agree that we need to research our requirements and plan properly for this regeneration.

Due to changes in European case law about the way in which regeneration partners are procured, the Council took the decision in July 2009 of committing to go through the expensive, complex and necessary process of procuring a development partner formally through the European contracts regulations. At the same time, the Council committed the funding required to get through this process.

The first stage in this process involves marketing the opportunity of working with the District Council on a redevelopment scheme for Cannock amongst developers who may be interested. The aim is to raise awareness of the Cannock scheme and to obtain the views of developers on what needs to be in place to make a redevelopment scheme viable and successful. The Council will then use this information to refine the Cannock offer before committing to go through the European procurement process to select a development partner and outline scheme.

The first stage marketing work has been affected by the length and depth of the recession in the retail property industry. This is especially the case for a scheme, such as Cannock, which is not based on a food store development. I hope that the Conservative Member would agree that it would not be a good use of resources to be going out to the market at a time when property developers were going bust and shopping schemes were being shelved. So the recession has delayed progress on this scheme.

However, I can report that the Council's specialist town centre and European procurement advisors were appointed in April 2010 and the marketing stage is now underway. The company appointed is Lambert, Smith and Hampton. The current programme is for the market intelligence gathered to be assessed and for Members to consider the next steps for the redevelopment process by September 2010. Following this and subject to economic circumstances, a European procurement process would be initiated by the end of 2010/11 financial year as the next major step in this regeneration to secure our development partner or partners together with an outline scheme for the redevelopment.

Councillor Sutherland is right to point out that this scheme is being progressed within a difficult economic context and has already been affected by the recession. However, this Administration has consistently identified that this, and other regeneration schemes for Hednesford and Rugeley, are priorities for this Council and has resourced this commitment to date. No guarantees can be offered as to the viability of this scheme or the impact of public sector grant reductions but it is wrong to claim that this Administration has abandoned the regeneration of Cannock Town Centre. As I hope the information I have provided today and the detailed briefing that Council officers provided to Cllr Sutherland on 8 June confirms, this Administration has and will continue to progress the regeneration of Cannock Town Centre in the face of the most severe recession and changes in European law that have impacted to date. I hope this will be with the support of all Members of the Council."

(The Chairman then reported that he had agreed that Item 11 would be considered at this point in the proceedings).

**16. Annual Report of the Chairman of the Standards Committee**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chairman of the Standards Committee (Enclosure 11.2 – 11.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council). Ray Betteridge, Chairman of the Standards Committee presented the Report outlining the relevant issues.

RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Chairman of the Standards Committee be approved.

**17. Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Forums and Panels**

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 Minutes of the following Cabinet, Committees, Forums and Panels be adopted and any recommendations be approved and decisions implemented following the expiry of any call-in period:-

- (a) Cabinet – 18 March 2010
- (b) Planning Control Committee – 31 March, 21 April and 12 May 2010
- (c) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 26 February and 13 April 2010
- (d) Joint Parking Committee – 20 January 2010
- (e) Hednesford Community Forum – 11 March 2010
- (f) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawnsley Community Forum – 16 March 2010
- (g) Cannock Community Forum – 17 March 2010
- (h) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 22 March 2010

**18. Recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 24 June 2010**

Consideration was given to the following recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 24 June 2010 which had been circulated to Members by email:

“The Cabinet:

1. Notes the Head of Financial Management’s report and Briefing Note provided on the Coalition Governments Emergency Budget.

The Cabinet recommends that, in light of the impact of the in year reduction in Grant funding for 2010-11 and the projected impact of the Coalition Governments Emergency Budget in 2011-12 and beyond, that the Council:

2. Implements the interim budget proposals for 2010-11 as detailed below enabling a balanced budget to be achieved in year and notes that they represent only a stop gap pending the full implications and consequences of all potential saving options to be evaluated as part of the Delivering Change and Budget process for 2011-12 to 2013-14.
3. Approves that a detailed Budget for 2011-12 to 2013-14 be considered by full Council in December (at the latest) enabling the necessary action to implement the required savings to provide a balanced three year budget to be approved and delivered before the 31 March 2011 wherever possible
4. Notes that some of the budget proposals arising from the December budget, may be reviewed following the results of consultation and that a final Cabinet proposal will be put to the Council in February 2011 which may result in some changes being made.

#### Budget Proposals – Interim Budget

5. That subject to the consideration of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations by Council that a reduction in Members Allowance is proposed (backdated to the date of election) generating full year savings of £18,400 per annum.
6. That in accordance with the review of Equipment and Consumable Budgets undertaken by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Improvement that ongoing savings of £50,000 per annum is built into budgets with effect from 1 April 2010 (the current year)."

Councillor D. Thomas moved the following amendment to recommendation 5 which was seconded:

"That subject to consideration of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations by Council that a reduction in Members Special Responsibility Allowance by 30% (excluding the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council) is proposed (backdated to the date of election) generating full year savings of £57,900 per annum."

Following a vote the amendment was carried and this became the substantive motion. Following a further vote the substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

That Council note that the Cabinet:

- (A) Notes the Head of Financial Management's report and Briefing Note provided on the Coalition Government's Emergency Budget.

The Cabinet recommends that, in light of the impact of the in year reduction in Grant funding for 2010-11 and the projected impact of the Coalition Governments Emergency Budget in 2011-12 and beyond, that the Council:

- (B) Implements the interim budget proposals for 2010-11 as detailed below enabling a balanced budget to be achieved in year and notes that they represent only a stop gap pending the full implications and consequences of all potential saving options to be evaluated as part of the Delivering Change and Budget process for 2011-12 to 2013-14.
- (C) Approves that a detailed Budget for 2011-12 to 2013-14 be considered by full Council in December (at the latest) enabling the necessary action to implement the required savings to provide a balanced three year budget to be approved and delivered before the 31 March 2011 wherever possible
- (D) Notes that some of the budget proposals arising from the December budget, may be reviewed following the results of consultation and that a final Cabinet proposal will be put to the Council in February 2011 which may result in some changes being made.

#### Budget Proposals – Interim Budget

- (E) That subject to the consideration of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations by Council that a reduction in Members Special Responsibility Allowance by 30% (excluding the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council) is proposed (backdated to the date of election) generating full year savings of £57,900 per annum.
- (F) That in accordance with the review of Equipment and Consumable Budgets undertaken by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Improvement that ongoing savings of £50,000 per annum is built into budgets with effect from 1 April 2010 (the current year)."

Following this there was a short adjournment.

#### **19. Approval of Statement of Accounts**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2009-10 be approved.
- (B) That the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2009-10 be approved.

#### **20. Annual Performance Report 2009-10**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.18 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the 2009/10 performance outturn for the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership as detailed at Annexes 1 to 8 of the Report be noted and approved.
- (B) That in accordance with the Council's Performance Management Framework the report and annexes be provided to the next available Scrutiny Committee.
- (C) That Council note that the content of exception reports for Quarter 4 has informed the development and refresh of the 2010/11 Priority Delivery Plans and that the exception reports be provided in full to the Scrutiny Committee.

## **21. Priority Delivery Plans**

The Chief Executive reported that this item would be deferred to a future Council Meeting in view of the budget situation.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the Priority Delivery Plans 2010/11 be deferred to a future meeting of the Council.

## **22. Confirmation of Appointment of Vice Chairman of Rate Relief Committee**

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of Councillor J.T. Kraujalis as Vice Chairman of the Rate Relief Committee be confirmed.

## **23. Appointments to Outside Bodies**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That 8 Members be appointed to the Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee comprising 2 Members from the Cannock South, Norton Canes and Hawks Green Wards, the Chairman of the Environment Policy Development Committee and the Environment Portfolio Leader, and the following Members be appointed as the representatives:

Councillor L.W. Bullock  
Councillor C.W.J. Morgan  
Councillor J.T. Kraujalis  
Councillor M. Sutherland  
Councillor Mrs. A. Bernard  
Councillor P. Gilbert  
Councillor M.R. Green (Chairman Environment Policy Development Committee  
Councillor A. Williams (Environment Portfolio Leader)

- (B) That the representative on the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty be a local Ward Member within the AONB area and Councillor Mrs. P.A Ansell be appointed as the representative.

#### **24. Constitutional Updates**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the amendments to Section 6, 6A, 9 and 24 of the Constitution necessitated as a result of the changes to Portfolio responsibilities, as notified to the Annual Council Meeting held on 19 May 2010 be approved.
- (B) That the proposals in respect of further review of the Constitution be noted.
- (C) That the Constitutional Working Group be re established and the membership be made up of 2 Liberal Democrat, 2 Conservative and 2 Labour Members as follows:

Councillors Ms. W. Yates, Mrs. P.A. Ansell, D. Thomas, F.W.C. Allen, G. Burnett and J.D. Bernard.

#### **25. 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 paragraph 2, 3 and 4, Part 1, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.



**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2010**

**PART 2**

**26. 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) Cabinet – 18 March 2010
- (b) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 26 February and 13 April 2010

(The meeting closed at 6.10pm)

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CHAIRMAN