

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY, 2010

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Beddows, J. (Chairman)
Mawle, D.L. (Vice-Chairman)

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

75. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. F. Jillings .

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

In addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests the following interests were declared:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Bullock, L.W.	Street Cleansing	Personal
Kraujalis, J.	Member of Bridgtown Parish Council	Personal

77. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 December, 2009 be approved as a correct record.

78. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Chairman's Charity Collection Box

The Chairman reported that his charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to his chosen charities.

At the meeting held on 9 December 2009 a total of £120.00 was donated.

(ii) Christmas Activities

The Chairman reported that he had attended a number of functions over the Christmas period including:

- Lantern parades
- Visiting staff at the Civic Offices
- Visiting Old People's Homes

(ii) Changes to the Form and Composition of the Cabinet

The Chairman reported that he had agreed to consider an additional item in relation to changes to the form and composition of the Council's Cabinet, a copy of which had been circulated to Members prior to the commencement of the meeting. This would be considered as item 4a on the agenda.

(iii) Allocation of Seats to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies

The Chairman reported that he had also agreed to consider an additional item in relation to the allocation of seats to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies, a copy of which had been circulated to Members prior to the commencement of the meeting. This would be considered as item 4b on the agenda.

(iv) Chairman's Variety Show

The Chairman reported that he would be holding a Charity Variety Show at the Prince of Wales Theatre on Saturday, 10 April 2010 at 7.30 p.m. Tickets were £8.00 per person and £6.00 for children under the age of 12 years.

(v) Chairman's Black Country Night

The Chairman reported that he would be holding a Black Country night in the Ballroom at the Civic Centre on Thursday, 13 May 2010. Only 180 tickets would be available and further details would be provided shortly.

(vi) Councillor Mrs. P. Z. Stretton, M.B.E.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Mrs. P. Z. Stretton on being awarded an M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours list 2010 and, on behalf of himself, Cannock Chase Council and the people of Cannock Chase district, presented her with a plaque and Swarovski crystal stag which he had personally purchased. He thanked Councillor Stretton for the tireless work she had undertaken for over 30 years for the community and for the money she had raised for charity. Other Members also proffered their congratulations.

(vii) Councillor M. R. Green

The Chairman extended best wishes to Councillor M. R. Green who was celebrating his birthday today.

79. Changes to the Form and Composition of Cabinet

In accordance with Rule 4B(f) of the Council Procedure Rules, the Leader, Councillor N. K. Stanley, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Cabinet and of the lead Cabinet Members for each of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Service Blocks: -

Leader of the Council

Councillor N. K. Stanley – no change to current portfolio

Culture, Sport and Services for Children and Young People

Councillor M. R. Grocott – No change to current portfolio

Healthier Communities and Older People

Councillor Ms. W. Yates – No change to current portfolio

Housing

Councillor M. P. Freeman – No change to current portfolio

Access to Education, Skills and Employment

Councillor D. Davies – Existing portfolio will be expanded to include the following responsibilities which were previously within the Environmental Sustainability Portfolio, specifically:

- Speaking at Council, Cabinet, Committee and other meetings on:
- Town and country planning and transportation services and facilities including planning policy development at regional, county and local plan levels
- All statutory and non statutory plans and policy documents prepared by the Council relating to the above mentioned services and facilities.

Environmental Sustainability

Councillor A. Williams – Existing portfolio will be changed to remove those responsibilities relating to Planning and Local Development Framework (LDF) issues (which have been confirmed as being part of the Access to Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio) and provide capacity for the Environmental Sustainability Portfolio to include Safe, Strong and Cohesive Communities responsibilities, specifically:

- Speaking at Council, Cabinet, Committee and other meetings on:
- Community Safety arrangements (insofar as they are not the responsibility of the Chief Executive) including crime prevention and crime reduction programmes, Street Wardens, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
- Safer and Stronger Communities Block of the Local Area Agreement for Staffordshire
- Issues relating to itinerants
- Equality and diversity
- Community engagement and consultation
- All statutory and non-statutory plans and policy documents prepared by the Council relating to the above mentioned services and facilities

80. Allocation of Seats to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies

Consideration was given to the allocation of seats to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies. Concern was raised with respect to whether Members of Cabinet should be allowed to sit on Policy Development Committees and that the Constitution appeared to give conflicting guidance.

During the debate, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned in order that clarification of this issue could be sought. Following a vote, the motion was carried.

Upon the meeting being reconvened it was moved and seconded that consideration of the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Council to allow the Monitoring Officer to investigate this matter further.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the Allocation of Seats to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies be deferred to the next meeting of the Council in order that clarification could be provided with respect to Cabinet Members sitting on Policy Development Committees.

81. Question in accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

82. Budget 2010-11 to 2012-13

Prior to the Leader of the Council presenting Cabinet's budget proposals, Members discussed the procedure for dealing with alternative budget proposals. The Leader provided for Members' information a schedule of the dates of meetings held in respect to the budget setting process, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N.K. Stanley, presented the recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 11 February 2010 in respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2010-11 to 2012-13.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N.K. Stanley, requested that consideration be given to the following recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 11 February 2010:-

- Housing Revenue Account Capital Resources and Housing Revenue Account Capital Expenditure Requirements 2010-11 to 2012-13.
- Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2010-11 to 2012-13
- Rent Restructuring

Having been moved and seconded a vote was then taken and the recommendations declared carried.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor D. Thomas, then moved an alternative budget proposal put forward by the Labour Group as a referral back to Cabinet, which was seconded.

Members then debated the recommendations referred from the Labour Group's alternative budget proposal.

At the end of the debate, the Chairman called for a vote on the alternative budget put forward by the Labour Group as a referral back to Cabinet. Following a vote, the referral back was carried.

The Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor J. Burnett, then moved an alternative budget proposal put forward by the Conservative Group as a referral back to Cabinet, which was seconded.

Following a debate the Leader moved that the question be now put, which was seconded. A vote was taken on this and, having been declared carried, the Chairman then called for a vote on the alternative budget put forward by the Conservative Group as a referral back to Cabinet. Following a vote, the referral back was carried.

RESOLVED:

(A) That in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2010-11 to 2012-13, approval be given to the available HRA Capital Resources and the two year HRA Capital Programme as set out in Tables 10 and 11 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11.

(B) That in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2010-11:

(i) A minimum level of working balances of £836,000 for 2010-11 be determined;

(ii) The following revenue contribution to the capital programme be approved:

2010-11	£ 1,596,000
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(iii) In all other respects, the HRA budget for 2009-10 to 2010-11 as set out in Table 5 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11 be approved.

- (iv) The relevant Prudential Indicators for HRA capital financing as set out in Table 18 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11 be approved.
- (C) That in respect of the Rent Restructuring plan, approval be given to:
 - (i) The plan being implemented with effect from 5 April, 2010;
 - (ii) Service charges for the provision of entry phones and grounds maintenance services to communal entrance flats being introduced with effect from 5 April, 2010.
 - (iii) An increase of garage rents by 25p with effect from 5 April, 2010
- (D) That, in light of the two alternative budgets, Cabinets budget recommendations, other than those listed above at (A) to (C), be referred back for further consideration.

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN