

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
RATE RELIEF COMMITTEE
28 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 4.00 PM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Thomas, D. (Chairman)
Kraujalis, J.T. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, J.D. Freeman, M.P.
Collis, C. Grocott, M.R.

15. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Collis, C.	Other Item – Charity shops selling new retail goods – Member owns a retail shop in the District	Personal

17. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2010 be approved as a correct record.

18. National Non-Domestic Rates – Charitable Relief

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.20 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the action of the Head of Financial Management in awarding Mandatory Rate Relief as set out below be noted and the amount of Discretionary Relief be awarded as follows:-

- (i) Computers 4 Africa, Unit 4 Linkway Retail Park, Watling Street, Bridgtown

That 80% Mandatory Rate Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for one year with effect from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

- (ii) International Aid Trust, 46 Hednesford Street, Hednesford

That 80% Mandatory and 7% Discretionary Rate Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for the period 19 July 2010 to 31 March 2011.

- (iii) Housing 21, Suite 2 Ground Floor, Pendragon House, Ridings Park, Eastern Way, Cannock

That 80% Mandatory Rate Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for one year with effect from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

- (iv) Addaction, 5 Ber Mar House, Rumer Hill Business Estate, Rumer Hill Road, Cannock

That 80% Mandatory Rate Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for the period 1 October 2009 to 31 March 2010 and 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

19. Other Item

Councillor C. Collis raised the issue of charity shops selling new retail goods in addition to donated goods. He commented that these charities were now competing directly with small business and had an unfair advantage over small businesses as they were receiving a reduction in rates due to their charity status. He considered that charities that sold new goods and employed professional staff should pay full business rates to allow small businesses to compete on an equal footing.

The Local Taxation and Benefits Manager explained that charities were regulated by the Charities Commission. The Business Rates regulations specified that the main use of the property should be for charitable purposes and not to generate a profit for the charity, in order for mandatory business rate relief to apply. The degree to which bought goods were sold, as opposed to donated goods, was the deciding factor in considering relief.

Following a discussion, it was requested that the Local Taxation and Benefits Manager provide Members with a briefing paper outlining the regulations regarding this matter.

RESOLVED:

That the Local Taxation and Benefits Manager provide Members of the Committee with a briefing paper outlining the regulations regarding the issue of charity shops selling new retail goods.

(The meeting closed at 4.20 pm)

CHAIRMAN