

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH, 2010**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

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

Alcott, G.	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, J.	Pearce, Mrs. L.J.
Collis, C.	Stanley, N.K.
Davies, D.N.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Thomas, D.
Dixon, D.I.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Easton, Mrs. D.M.	Williams, A.
Easton, R.	Williams, B.
Green, M.R.	Williams, Mrs. P.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Yates, Ms. W.

**83. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F.W.C. Allen; G. Burnett; M.P. Freeman, J. Jillings and Mrs. H. Sutton.

**84. 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

Bullock, L.W.	Trustee of South Staffs Relate	Personal
Kraujalis, J.T.	Member of Bridgtown Parish Council	Personal

## 85. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

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

The Chairman reported that he had 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 previously circulated to Members. This would be considered as item 3a on the agenda.

### (ii) 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 24 February, 2010 a total of £48.00 was donated.

### (iii) Mr. Les Trigg, Deputy Chief Executive

The Chairman reminded Members that Les Trigg, Deputy Chief Executive, would be leaving the Council on 31 March 2010. As this would be the last Council meeting before that date, the Chairman took the opportunity, on behalf of himself and the Council, to express sincere thanks for all Mr. Trigg's hard work and assistance during his time at Cannock.

Other Members also took the opportunity to express best wishes on behalf of themselves and their Group colleagues to Mr. Trigg.

Mr. Trigg thanked the Council for their best wishes.

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

Further to this matter having been brought before Council on 24 February, 2010, Mr. Alistair Welch, Council Solicitor, advised Council that he had investigated the conflicting guidance given in the Constitution. Unfortunately, there was no absolute answer and the Constitution clearly requires further review. Mr. Welch advised that he would carry out a review in due course and report back to a future meeting of the Council. However, it was noted that the recent changes to Cabinet meant that the issue previously in conflict had, effectively, resolved itself.

The Leader, Councillor N.K. Stanley, moved the allocation of seats to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies in accordance with the schedule that had been previously circulated to Members.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the allocation of seats to the different political groups to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as set out in the circulated schedule be approved.

- (B) That the allocation of seats approved at (A) take effect forthwith.
- (C) That, if they had not already done so, each of the Group Leaders would notify the Chief Executive, within five working days of the names of those Members to be added to / removed from the Council's Committees and Other Bodies.

**87. Questions in accordance with Rule 8**

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

**88. Budget 2010-11 to 2012-13**

Prior to consideration of the item, Mr. Alistair Welch, Council Solicitor, explained the procedure for dealing with the matter.

The Chairman of the Council consented to waive the 10 minute rule, in accordance with Rule 10(4) of the Council's Rules of Debate procedure rules, to allow the Leader of the Council to move the Cabinet's revised budget recommendations.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N.K. Stanley, moved the revised budget recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 11 February, as amended by Cabinet held on 25 February, 2010 and reconvened on 3 March, 2010, in respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2010-11 to 2012-13, which was seconded.

The Chairman of the Council then asked if there were any amendments for consideration.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor D. Thomas, moved an alternative budget put forward by the Labour Group as previously moved at Council on 24 February, 2010 and referred back to Cabinet held on 25 February, 2010, which was seconded.

Members then debated the recommendations referred from Cabinet and the alternative budget proposal referred back to Cabinet by the Labour Group.

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 motion on the alternative budget failed.

There being no further amendments, the Chairman called for a vote on the recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 25 February, 2010 and reconvened on 3 March, 2010, in respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2010-11 to 2012-13 be approved.
- (B) That in respect of the General Fund Capital Programme 2009-10 and Resources 2009-10

to 2012-13, approval be given to the available General Fund Resources and Capital Programme for 2010-11 to 2012-13, as summarised in Tables 6 to 7 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11.

- (C) That in respect of the proposed Section 106 Capital Programme, the Section 106 Scheme Programme for 2010-11 to 2012-13 as set out in Tables 8 and 9 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2009-10 be approved.
- (D) That in respect of the General Fund Reserves and Balances:
  - (i) A minimum level of working balances for the budget of £832,000 for 2010-11 with indicative levels of £970,000 and £1,090,000 for subsequent years be approved.
  - (ii) It be noted that the Head of Financial Management, as Section 151 Officer, considered that the level of Working Balances, as reflected in Table 1, and the General Fund Specified Reserves, Table 17, remained adequate based upon the stated General Fund Budget and the circumstances in place at the time of preparing it.
- (E) That In respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2010-11 to 2012-13:
  - (i) A 2010-11 Council Tax for District Council purposes of £199.11 for a Band D property, an increase of £7.47 (3.9%) over the current year, be set.
  - (ii) Indicative Council Tax increases of 4.0% in 2011-12 and 4.0% in 2012-13 be approved.
  - (iii) The proposals for savings set out at Table 2a of the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11, be agreed.
  - (iv) The proposals for service enhancements (growth) set out at Table 2b of the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11, be agreed.
  - (v) The use of Section 106 Funds for Economic Development purposes as set out at Table 3 in the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11, be agreed.
  - (vi) The use of Planning Delivery Grant as set out at Table 4 in the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11, be agreed.
  - (vii) The outturn budget for 2009-10 and the three year budget for 2010-11 to 2012-13 as set out at Table 1 in the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11, be approved.
  - (viii) The relevant Prudential Indicators for General Fund capital financing as set out in Table 18 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2010-11, be approved.
  - (ix) It be noted that the Head of Financial Management, as Section 151 Officer, considered that the Budget as proposed in Table 1, based upon the recommended level of Working Balances (as referred in (D)(i) above) was sufficiently robust for approval by Council.

(F) That it be noted that, at its meeting on 9 December 2009, the Council agreed the following amounts for the year 2010-11 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(i) 30,043.71 (equivalent Band D properties) being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year.

(ii) Part of the Council's Area

Parish of Brereton & Ravenhill	1,974.66
Parish of Bridgtown	329.69
Parish of Brindley Heath	250.55
Parish of Cannock Wood	408.09
Parish of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	4,273.94
Parish of Norton Canes	2,305.26
Parish of Rugeley	5,578.64
Parish of Hednesford	5,130.48

being the amounts (equivalent Band D properties) calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(G) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2010-11 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 :-

(i) £55,690,826 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) and 32(6) (a) of the Act.

(ii) £40,700,302 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act.

(iii) £14,990,524 being the amount by which the aggregate at (G)(i) above exceeds the aggregate at (G)(ii) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.

(iv) £8,497,179 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant, reduced by the amount of the sum which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and increased by the amount of the sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the

Local Government Finance Act, 1988, both estimates having been made on 15 January, 2010.

- (v) £216.13 being the amount at (G)(iii) above less the amount at (G)(iv) above, all divided by the amount at (F)(i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- (vi) £574,556 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 34(1) of the Act.
- (vii) £197.01 being the amount at (G)(v) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (G)(vi) above by the amount at (F)(i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

(viii) Part of the Council's Area:

	£.	p.
Parish of Brereton & Ravenhill	223.	62
Parish of Bridgtown	218.	24
Parish of Brindley Heath	201.	00
Parish of Cannock Wood	217.	20
Parish of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	210.	67
Parish of Norton Canes	218.	27
Parish of Rugeley	245.	12
Parish of Hednesford	222.	35

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (G)(vii) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (F)(ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(ix) Part of the Council's area:

Valuation Bands

	A (disabled) £. P	A £. p	B £. p	C £. p	D £. p	E £. p	F £. P	G £. p	H £. p
Brereton & Ravenhill	124.23	149.08	173.93	198.77	223.62	273.31	323.01	372.70	447.24
Bridgtown	121.24	145.49	169.74	193.99	218.24	266.74	315.24	363.73	436.48
Brindley Heath	111.67	134.00	156.33	178.67	201.00	245.67	290.33	335.00	402.00
Cannock Wood	120.67	144.80	168.93	193.07	217.20	265.47	313.73	362.00	434.40
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	117.04	140.45	163.85	187.26	210.67	257.49	304.30	351.12	421.34
Norton Canes	121.26	145.51	169.77	194.02	218.27	266.77	315.28	363.78	436.54
Rugeley	136.18	163.41	190.65	217.88	245.12	299.59	354.06	408.53	490.24
Hednesford	123.53	148.23	172.94	197.64	222.35	271.76	321.17	370.58	444.70
All other parts of Council's area	109.45	131.34	153.23	175.12	197.01	240.79	284.57	328.35	394.02

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (G)(vii) and (G)(viii) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (H) That it be noted that, for the year 2010-11, the Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police Authority and the Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

	A (disabled) £. p	A £. p	B £. p	C £. p	D £. p	E £. p	F £. p	G £. p	H £. p
Staffordshire County Council	571.56	685.87	800.19	914.50	1,028.81	1,257.43	1,486.06	1,714.68	2,057.62
Staffordshire Police Authority	98.67	118.41	138.14	157.88	177.61	217.08	256.55	296.02	355.22
Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire	37.58	45.09	52.61	60.12	67.64	82.67	97.70	112.73	135.28

- (I) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (G)(i) and (H) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2010-11 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Part of the Council's Area	Valuation Bands								
	A (disabled)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p
Brereton & Ravenhill	832.04	998.45	1,164.87	1,331.27	1,497.68	1,830.49	2,163.32	2,496.13	2,995.36
Bridgtown	829.05	994.86	1,160.68	1,326.49	1,492.30	1,823.92	2,155.55	2,487.16	2,984.60
Brindley Heath	819.48	983.37	1,147.27	1,311.17	1,475.06	1,802.85	2,130.64	2,458.43	2,950.12
Cannock Wood	828.48	994.17	1,159.87	1,325.57	1,491.26	1,822.65	2,154.04	2,485.43	2,982.52
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	824.85	989.82	1,154.79	1,319.76	1,484.73	1,814.67	2,144.61	2,474.55	2,969.46
Norton Canes	829.07	994.88	1,160.71	1,326.52	1,492.33	1,823.95	2,155.59	2,487.21	2,984.66
Rugeley	843.99	1,012.78	1,181.59	1,350.38	1,519.18	1,856.77	2,194.37	2,531.96	3,038.36
Hednesford	831.34	997.60	1,163.88	1,330.14	1,496.41	1,828.94	2,161.48	2,494.01	2,992.82
All Other Parts of the Area	817.26	980.71	1,144.17	1,307.62	1,471.07	1,797.97	2,124.88	2,451.78	2,942.14

- (J) That the Council authorise:

- (i) Mr. Stephen Brown, Chief Executive for the Council, or such other Officer authorised by him in writing:
- to collect and recover any Council Tax payable on dates previously determined;
  - in the event of a Council Taxpayer defaulting, to implement the appropriate recovery proceedings for the recovery of the amounts due.
- (ii) The Chief Executive, or such other Officers authorised by him to take all such proceedings as maybe necessary to secure the recovery of sums due and appear on behalf of the Council at any hearing of any legal proceedings in respect thereof.



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CHAIRMAN