

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 2010**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

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

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

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D.I. Dixon.)

**62. 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.

**63. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 November, 2010 be approved as a correct record.

#### **64. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence**

(i) Chairman's Charity Box

The Chairman reported that the charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a small donation to support his charities. At the meeting held on 3 November, 2010, a total of £37.00 had been donated.

(ii) Chairman's Ball

The Chairman reminded Council that his Chairman's Charity Ball was to be held on 18 March, 2011, in the Ballroom, Civic Suite. Tickets for the event would be £29.95 to include a three course meal and entertainment from Swede Dreamz, an ABBA tribute band. The Chairman reminded Members that 2011 would be the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of town twinning with Datteln, and he encouraged them to show support for this and other events throughout the year.

(iii) Chairman's Charity Evening

The Chairman advised Council of a fundraising evening to be held at the Prince of Wales Centre on Sunday, 6 March, 2010. The event would include Cannock Ex-Servicemen's Choir; Rugeley Power Station Band and pupils from Heath Hayes Primary School. Tickets for the evening would be £7.00 each, or £6.00 with a concession.

(iv) Chairman's Christmas Drinks

The Chairman extended an invitation to all Members and Officers to join him for drinks in the Chairman's Room between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m. on Monday, 20 December, 2010. As it was the last Council meeting before Christmas, the Chairman also took the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

#### **65. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8**

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

#### **66. 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 – 20 October, 2010

(b) Planning Control Committee – 22 September; 13 October; and 27 October, 2010.

- (c) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 7 October and 3 November, 2010
- (d) Audit and Governance Committee – 27 September, 2010
- (e) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 6 October, 2010
- (f) Standards Committee – 17 August, 2010
- (g) Joint Parking Committee – 21 July, 2010
- (h) Cannock Community Forum – 14 September, 2010

In respect of Item 16, Members expressed concerns about the proposed incinerator and the lack of certainty as to when the landfill operation would cease and the site be returned to the Green Belt. The Leader of the Council suggested that the reduced amount of waste produced from the incinerator could present an opportunity for a substantial proportion of the site to be returned to Green Belt at an earlier opportunity than might otherwise have been the case.

- (i) Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Wimblebury Community Forum – 9 September, 2010
- (j) Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum – 7 September, 2010

**67. Recommendation Referred from Cabinet Held on 25 November, 2010**

Consideration was given to the following recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 25 November, 2010, in respect of:

(A) Draft General Fund Revenue Budget, 2011-12 to 2013-14:

“Council be recommended to:

1. Note the progress made to date in formulating a balanced budget and that Cabinet will be recommending a Balanced Budget at its meeting of the 3 February, 2011.
2. Amend its Early Retirement Policy to accommodate Voluntary Redundancies, based upon viable business cases, and receive a report on the amended policy as soon as practically possible having followed due process.

3. In light of the financial situation that the Council will face in 2011-12, authorise the Chief Executive to issue redundancy notices to affected staff, including restructures as referred to in paragraph (D) and any efficiency proposals, in order to allow redundancies to take effect on 31 March 2011, or as soon as practical thereafter. To note that this measure is being adopted based upon options for consideration to enable full consultation to take place and alternative options considered, rather than budget proposals as in previous years.
4. Note that all of the options will be reviewed following the results of consultation and that a Cabinet proposal will be put to the Council in February, 2011, which will determine the actual redundancies required.”

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The progress made to date in formulating a balanced budget be noted, and it be further noted that Cabinet would be recommending a Balanced Budget at its meeting of the 3 February, 2011.
  - (B) The Council’s Early Retirement Policy be amended to accommodate Voluntary Redundancies, based upon viable business cases, and a further report on the amended policy be received as soon as practically possible having followed due process.
  - (C) In light of the financial situation that the Council will face in 2011-12, the Chief Executive be authorised to issue redundancy notices to affected staff, including restructures as referred to in paragraph (D) and any efficiency proposals, in order to allow redundancies to take effect on 31 March, 2011, or as soon as practical thereafter. It be noted that this measure was being adopted based upon options for consideration to enable full consultation to take place and alternative options considered, rather than budget proposals as in previous years.
  - (D) It be noted that all of the options would be reviewed following the results of consultation and that a Cabinet proposal would be put to the Council in February, 2011, which would determine the actual redundancies required.”
- (B) Update – New Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP), Cardinal Griffin Catholic High School:
- “That the Council be recommended to approve the addition of the S106 funds (£305k) and the Project Management Funds (£40k) identified in this report to the 2010-11 Capital programme for the delivery of an ATP at Cardinal Griffin Catholic High School.”

RESOLVED:

That the addition of the S106 funds (£305k) and the Project Management Funds (£40k) identified in the report to the 2010-11 Capital programme for the delivery of an ATP at Cardinal Griffin Catholic High School be approved.

**68. Motion(s) Received Under Rule 6**

Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor G. Adamson:

“This Council deplores the action of the Liberal Democrat controlled Cabinet in ignoring the views of the traders in Cannock and Rugeley, and those of the Scrutiny Committee, in relation to the proposals for free car parking in Cannock and Rugeley in the run up to Christmas, 2010, and for jeopardising the future of a number of our small traders who are the lifeblood of our town centres.”

The Leader of the Council moved the following amendment to the Motion, which was seconded and debated:

“This Council deplores the disastrous mismanagement of the United Kingdom’s economy by the last Labour Government that has resulted in an economic crisis and a record deficit.

Council recognises that the new Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government is having to tackle the economic crisis and ensure that the national budget is returned to a sound financial basis.

It is acknowledged that to help achieve that objective there will be reductions in public expenditure similar to those announced by the former Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer. This will mean a reduction in the funding available to Cannock Chase District Council over the next four years and require the Council to be even more diligent in managing its own budget.

Council reconfirms that its objectives will be:

1. To provide high quality services for the benefit of the residents of all parts of the Cannock Chase district.
2. To strive to keep increases in both the Council tax level of the District Council and the level of charges to the minimum required.
3. To ensure that it provides value for money and that both income and expenditure are carefully managed.”

Following the debate, the amendment to the Motion was voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) This Council deplores the disastrous mismanagement of the United Kingdom’s economy by the last Labour Government that has resulted in an economic crisis and a record deficit.

- (B) Council recognises that the new Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government is having to tackle the economic crisis and ensure that the national budget is returned to a sound financial basis.
- (C) It is acknowledged that to help achieve that objective there will be reductions in public expenditure similar to those announced by the former Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer. This will mean a reduction in the funding available to Cannock Chase District Council over the next four years and require the Council to be even more diligent in managing its own budget.
- (D) Council reconfirms that its objectives will be:
  - (i) To provide high quality services for the benefit of the residents of all parts of the Cannock Chase district.
  - (ii) To strive to keep increases in both the Council tax level of the District Council and the level of charges to the minimum required.
  - (iii) To ensure that it provides value for money and that both income and expenditure are carefully managed.

**69. Review of Licensing Policy**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

RESOLVED:

That: the revised Licensing Policy shown at Annex 3 to the report be approved and adopted.

**70. Determination of Council Tax Base – Year Commencing 1 April, 2011**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) In terms of Long Term Empty Properties no discount should apply from April 2011.
- (B) Subject to the above, the report and the associated calculation of the Council's tax base for the year commencing 1 April 2011 be approved.
- (C) Pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by the Cannock Chase District Council as its tax base for the year commencing 1 April 2011 shall be £30,422.77 equivalent Band D properties and that for the various parts of the District, the amounts so calculated shall be as stated.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Base</u>
Brereton & Ravenhill	2,004.87
Bridgtown	402.94
Brindley Heath	258.62
Cannock Wood	410.21
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	4,291.39
Hednesford	5,205.63
Norton Canes	2,316.49
Rugeley	5,627.42
Balance of the Area	9,905.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,422.77</b>

**71. Amendment to Early Termination and Retirement Policy**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

RESOLVED:

That the revised Early Termination and Retirement Policy be approved.

**72. 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, 8 DECEMBER, 2010**

**PART 2**

**73. 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 – 20 October, 2010
- (b) Licensing and Public Protection – 7 October and 3 November, 2010
- (c) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 6 October, 2010

(The meeting closed at 5.50 pm)

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CHAIRMAN