

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST, 2010

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

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

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

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Adamson; G.D. Ball; J. Burnett; P. Gilbert; M.R. Green; M. Sutherland; and B. Williams.)

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Declaration</u>	<u>Type</u>
Kraujalis, J.T.	Bridgtown Community Centre Trustee	Personal

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

28. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 June, 2010 be approved as a correct record.

29. 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. A total of £29.00 had been donated at the last meeting.

(ii) Chairman's Civic Sunday

The Chairman reported that the Civic Service had taken place on Sunday 18 July 2010 at Chadsmoor Methodist Church, Cannock Road, and a total of £297.17 had been collected, which was to be donated to the Church.

(iii) Civic Visit to Datteln

The Chairman reported that he and his wife, along with the Chief Executive and a number of Councillors and others had recently attended a Civic visit to Datteln in Germany. As usual, their hosts had made them feel very welcome, and the visiting group had included the Bridgtown Brass Band and a local special needs group. .

30. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

31. 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 – 15 April; 29 April; and 24 June, 2010

In respect of the Minutes of 24 June, 2010, Item 7(G) (Free Swimming) – The Leader of the Council, Councillor N. Stanley, commented that he was concerned that some Members of the Council appeared to be attempting to re-write history in the local press. Cannock Chase District Council had started a free swimming initiative prior to the Government initiative through funding secured from the Local Strategic Partnership. Furthermore, the Government initiative had always been time limited; initially to two years.

- (b) Planning Control Committee – 2 June; 23 June; and 14 July, 2010
- (c) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 18 May, 2010
- (d) Joint Parking Committee – 12 April, 2010
- (e) Audit and Governance Committee – 18 March; and 28 June, 2010
- (f) Rate Relief Committee – 27 January, 2010
- (g) Scrutiny Committee – 8 March, 2010

32. Members Allowances, 2010-12: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Leader of the Council moved the recommendations contained in the report subject to an amendment to the implementation date, which, following legal advice should be taken as “from September’s payment”. The recommendations were seconded.

The Leader of the Opposition then moved an amended motion, which was seconded. Members debated the amendment and a vote was called for. The amendment was defeated.

The Leader of the Conservative Group then moved an amended motion, which was seconded. Members debated the amendment and a vote was called for. The amendment was defeated.

The Leader of the Opposition advised that he wished to submit a further amended motion and the Chairman moved a 15 minutes recess in order to allow the amended motion to be written out for clarification purposes and copies made and circulated.

The meeting went into recess at 6.10pm and reconvened at 6.25pm.

The Leader of the Opposition’s second amended motion was moved and seconded. Members debated the amendment and a vote was called for. The amendment was defeated.

The Leader of the Council then moved an amendment to the recommendations which was seconded and debated:

It was proposed that:

1. There be no change to the Civic Allowances for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council; and the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Standards Committee.
2. A 30% reduction apply to the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of the Council.
3. A 25% reduction apply to all other Special Responsibility Allowances (Deputy Leader of the Council; Cabinet Portfolio Leaders; Shadow Cabinet Leader; and Chairmen of Committees).
4. Special Responsibility Allowances for Councillors of Shadow Cabinet be abolished.
5. The recommendations be implemented with effect from 1 October, 2010, to run until 31 March, 2012.

Note: Members' Basic Allowance and other Allowances and conditions remain unchanged.

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

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) There be no change to the Civic Allowances for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council; and the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Standards Committee.
- (B) A 30% reduction apply to the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of the Council.
- (C) A 25% reduction apply to all other Special Responsibility Allowances (Deputy Leader of the Council; Cabinet Portfolio Leaders; Shadow Cabinet Leader; and Chairmen of Committees).
- (D) Special Responsibility Allowances for Councillors of Shadow Cabinet be abolished.
- (E) The recommendations be implemented with effect from 1 October, 2010, to run until 31 March, 2012.

33. Motion(s) Received Under Rule 6

Consideration was given to the following motions submitted under Rule 6:

Motion 1. Submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor N.K. Stanley, Leader of the Council:

1. Council recognises with regret that the new Coalition Government discovered that the outgoing Labour Government left the public finances in a catastrophic state and much worse than they had previously admitted. Notes this public deficit is the second largest in Europe and is equivalent to £22,400 for every man, woman and child in the UK. Also notes the outgoing Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Labour MP, Liam Byrne left a note stating *'Dear chief secretary, I'm afraid there is no money. Kind regards – and good luck! Liam.'*
2. Council further notes that the outgoing Labour Government was also planning massive public spending cuts to get the deficit under control with the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, admitting in a BBC interview on 25 March 2010 that Labour's planned spending cuts would be *'deeper and tougher'* than those implemented by Margaret Thatcher.
3. Council recognises that the Coalition Government's spending cuts have been carefully considered and knows the moderating influence of Liberal Democrats will ensure the decisive action needed to reduce the deficit will be tempered with fairness and a concern for the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.
4. Council welcomes the measures in the budget protecting the poor and vulnerable including:
 - Nearly 1 million low earners taken out of tax altogether with more to follow
 - £2billion extra child tax credit to tackle poverty
 - Help for pensioners with the restoration of the earnings link that Labour had 13 years to restore, but failed
 - A 10% increase in Capital Gains Tax for top earners
 - A new tax on banks
5. Council further welcomes the new government's freeing of councils from unnecessary and wasteful bureaucracy including the ending of the Comprehensive Area Assessment and believes the resources now freed up from the inspection regime can be used to more effectively align frontline services to reflect the priorities of local people.

The motion was seconded and debated and a named vote was called for, following which the motion was approved.

Motion 2. Submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor N.K. Stanley, Leader of the Council, signed by Councillors: Mrs. D.J. Bennett; C. Collis; D.N. Davies; Mrs. D.M. Easton, R. Easton; M.P. Freeman; M.R. Green; M.R. Grocott; R. Jones; R.G. Meaden; G.N. Molineux; A. Williams; Mrs. P. Williams; and Ms. W. Yates:

Constitutional Amendment

1. That all meetings of the Council, the Cabinet, Shadow Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups will commence no earlier than 6:30 p.m.
2. That all such meetings will conclude by 9:00 p.m. unless the committee resolves to continue beyond that time in order to deal with urgent business.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to Rule 24 ("Variation and Revocation of Rules"), of the Council Procedure Rules. The Chairman ruled that the matter should stand adjourned without further discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, where the Monitoring Officer would present a report to the Council on the proposed changes.

Motion 3. Submitted under Rule 6 by Councillor N.K. Stanley, Leader of the Council:

That the form and composition of Shadow Cabinet and appointment of the Leader of the Opposition be reviewed and amended with immediate effect whereby:

- The number of Members of Shadow Cabinet be the same number as the Members of Cabinet (that being such number as I have most recently notified to Council)
- The composition of Shadow Cabinet will consist of Members of all political groups which do not form part of and are not represented on the Executive.
- The allocation of Shadow Cabinet seats shall be in proportion to the representation of those political groups on the Council.
- The Leaders of political groups (which do not form part of and are not represented on the Executive) shall appoint Shadow Cabinet Members in accordance with their respective allocation of seats.
- In the event that a political group determines that it does not wish to accept its allocation of seats on the Shadow Cabinet, the number of such seats will be allocated to the other group or groups proportionately.
- The Leader of the Opposition shall be the Leader of the political group which holds and has accepted the largest number of seats on Shadow Cabinet.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to Rule 24 ("Variation and Revocation of Rules"), of the Council Procedure Rules. The Chairman ruled that the matter should stand adjourned without further discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, where the Monitoring Officer would present a report to the Council on the proposed changes.

34. Representative on Outside Bodies, 2010-11

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Councillor Ms. W. Yates be appointed as the Council's representative to Staffordshire County Council's Communities Scrutiny Committee for 2010-11.
- (B) Council noted the amendments in respect of persons recorded as having been appointed to the Cannock Bowling Green Trust (Councillors M.P. Freeman; M. Green and J.T. Kraujalis, and Mr. R. Wells), and Cannock Chase Arts Council (Councillors G. Adamson; Mrs. P.A. Ansell; and Mrs. C. Mitchell), respectively.

35. Priority Delivery Plans

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The current Priority Delivery Plans for the financial year 2010-11 be approved.
- (B) It be noted that it had been necessary to review the contents of the current PDP's for 2010-11 following the Government's announcement of the Emergency Budget on 22 June, 2010. In the event of any further funding reduction within the 2010-11 financial year, the implications on 2010-11 delivery would be reported to Cabinet and Scrutiny as part of the performance management framework.
- (C) It be noted that the current 2010-11 Performance Delivery Plans had originally been developed based on the Local Government agenda and framework prior to 6 May, 2010. Since that time, in addition to the financial position in (B) above, the coalition Government had indicated their intention to radically overhaul Local Government. Whilst the overhaul was expected to include devolution and decentralisation of powers and greater financial autonomy; the review of local government finance due to be announced in October, 2010 would, undoubtedly, impact on these new freedoms. Members, therefore, noted that the changing context and framework within which Local Authorities operate would require a radical rationalisation of what services the Council delivered and how and by whom those services were delivered. The current 2010-11 PDP's had, therefore, been reconsidered in light of that context (albeit that much of the detail of Local Government reform was not definitive at the time of writing); and amended to reflect the evolving political and financial landscape. Members noted that significant further changes may be required as the national agenda emerged.

36. External Data Transfers: New Policy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the External Data Transfers Policy be approved and adopted.

37. 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.

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HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST, 2010

PART 2

38. 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 – 29 April; and 24 June, 2010
- (b) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 18 May, 2010

(The meeting closed at 7.30pm)

CHAIRMAN