

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY, 2019

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Witton, P.T. (Chairman)
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z., M.B.E. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Johnson, T.B.
Alcott, G.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Allen, F.W.C.	Lyons, Miss O.
Bennett, C.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Buttery, M.S.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Pearson, A.R.
Cooper, Miss J.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Crabtree, S.K.	Smith, C.D.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Snape, P.A.
Fisher, P.A.	Startin, P.D.
Foley, D.	Sutherland, M.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Tait, Ms. L.
Hewitt, P.M.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Hoare, M.W.A.	Woodhead, P.E.
Johnson, J.P.	

69. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; J.L. Bowater; Miss M.J. Dudson; C.I. Lea; Mrs. C.L. Peake; D.J. Snape; and Ms. C.L. Wilkinson. Councillor A. Dudson was also absent.

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

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

71. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January, 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed.

The Leader of the Council advised that further changes had subsequently been made to the memberships of Scrutiny Committees, which had been agreed by the Leaders of the Conservative and Green Groups.

72. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Minute's Silence

The Chairman referred Members to a house fire in Highfields, Stafford on Tuesday, 5 February, in which four children between the ages of three and eight tragically died. He said that the Council's thoughts were with the family and friends at a sad and difficult time and asked those present to stand and observe a minute's silence.

(ii) Chairman's Charity Collection

The Chairman advised that a collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support his fundraising. At the meeting held on 23 January, 2019 a total of £34.00 was received, and he thanked Members for their donations.

(iii) Chairman's Charity Evening

The Chairman reminded Members that he was hosting a Rock and Roll Night on Friday, 15 March, 2019 in aid of his chosen charities: St. Giles Hospice and Air Ambulance. There would be a live band; hot roasts; and a raffle to which he had personally contributed many of the prizes. Tickets were available for £20 per head from the Managing Director's PA or Support Services. Unfortunately, they had not yet reached the breakeven point which required a further 22 tickets to be sold and he encouraged Members to join him in what should be a great evening.

73. Housing Revenue Account Budgets and Capital Programmes 2018-19 to 2022-23: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Adamson, introduced the Housing Revenue Account Budgets and Capital Programmes 2018-19 to 2022-23, and consideration was given to the recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 7 February 2019, in respect of:

- (i) Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets 2018-19 to 2021-22.
- (ii) Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2018-19 to 2022-23.

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

(A) Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2018-19 to 2021-22

- (i) A minimum level of working balances of £1.594 million for 2019-20,

and indicative working balances of £1.627 million and £1.663 million for 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively, be determined.

- (ii) The further 1% reduction in rents in 2019-20 in accordance with the Government's Social Rent Policy, be noted.
- (iii) The Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets for 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 as summarised in Appendix 1 of the 7 February 2019 Cabinet report, be approved, and the estimated outturn for 2018-19 be noted (as summarised in the same Appendix).

(B) Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2018-19 to 2022-23

- (i) The four-year Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for the period 2019-20 to 2022-23, as set out in Appendix 2 of the 7 February 2019 Cabinet report, be approved.

74. 2019-20 to 2021-22 Budget Process Procedural Rules

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Council Solicitor (Item 6.1 – 6.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The timetable for setting the budget for 2019-20 be noted.
- (B) The overall level of Council Tax be set at the 6 March 2019 Council meeting, following determination of Cannock Chase's Council Tax requirement in accordance with the procedural rules as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

75. Budgets 2018-19 to 2021-22: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader introduced and moved the Budget for 2018-19 to 2021-22, which was seconded, and consideration was given to the recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 7 February 2019, in respect of:

- (i) General Fund Budget and Capital Programme 2018-19 to 2021-22.
- (ii) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2019-20.

Conservative Group Alternative Budget Proposals

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor P.A. Snape, introduced the Group's Alternative Budget proposals for 2018-19 to 2021-22, copies of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Leader of the Conservative Group then moved the Alternative Budget proposals as a referral back to Cabinet, which was seconded.

Members then debated the Conservative Group's Alternative Budget proposals, which were moved to a vote and not carried.

Green Party Alternative Budget Proposals

In advance of the Leader of the Green Party, Councillor P.E. Woodhead introducing his Group Budgets, Council determined that the reference to "Deletion of A Boards

Policy” did not constitute an Alternative Budget and should be deleted. The Leader of the Green Party then introduced the Group’s Alternative Budget proposals for 2019-20 to 2021-22, (without reference to the “Deletion of A Boards Policy). Copies of the Alternative Budget had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Leader of the Green Party then moved the Alternative Budget proposals as a referral back to Cabinet, which was seconded.

Members then debated the Green Party’s Alternative Budget proposals, which were moved to a vote and not carried.

Cabinet Budget Recommendations

A vote was then taken on the Cabinet’s Budget recommendations:

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

(A) General Fund Budget and Capital Programme 2018-19 to 2021-22

- (i) The level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019-20 be set at £13.072 million, with indicative net spending for 2020-21 and 2021-22 of £13.301 million and £13.230 million, respectively.
- (ii) The detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 of the 7 February 2019 Cabinet report be approved.
- (iii) The forecast outturn net budget of £12.258 million be approved.
- (iv) The use of Government Grants in 2019-20 of £1.580 million be approved.
- (v) Although indicative figures existed for the use of Government Grants in 2020-21 and 2021-22, it be noted that they could not be accurately determined at this stage with each element of Government funding being subject to review.
- (vi) The working balances be set at £0.704 million, £1.061 million and £1.006 million for 2019-20 to 2021-22, respectively.
- (vii) A Council Tax of £217.09 be approved for 2019-20, with indicative increases of 1.95% to the level of Council Tax for 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- (viii) The Council’s Tax Base be set at 28,874.46.
- (ix) The revised Capital Programme, including new schemes, as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 of the 7 February 2019 Cabinet report be approved.
- (x) It be noted that the Authority was now part of the ‘Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Business Rates Pool’, with the ‘Greater Birmingham and Solihull Pool’ being dissolved following successful pilot applications for 2019-20.
- (xi) The premium for long-term empty properties be increased to 100% from April 2019.
- (xii) A detailed report on the impact of decision (xi) be submitted as part of

the 2020-21 budget process to enable Cabinet to determine whether further increases in the premium should be adopted.

(B) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2019-20

The following be approved:

- (i) The Prudential and Treasury Indicators.
- (ii) The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement.
- (iii) The Treasury Management Policy.
- (iv) The Annual Investment Strategy for 2019-20.
- (v) The Capital Strategy 2018-22.

The meeting closed at 6:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN