

Cannock Chase Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Held via Remote Access

at 6:00p.m., Wednesday 20 January 2021

Part 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Dudson, A. (Chairman)
Witton, P.T. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G. (Leader)	Layton, A.
Alcott, G.	Lyons, Miss O.
Allen, F.W.C.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Bennett, C. (Telephone)	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Boucker, A.S.	Molineux, G.N.
Buttery, M.S.	Muckley, A.M.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Newbury, J.A.A.
Crabtree, S.K.	Pearson, A.R. (Telephone)
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Dunnett, Ms. A.J.	Smith, C.D.
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Startin, P.D.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z., M.B.E.
Hewitt, P.M.	Sutherland, M.
Hughes, R.J.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Johnson, J.P.	Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
Johnson, T.B.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Jones, B.	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.
Jones, Mrs. V.	Woodhead, P.E.
Kraujalis, J.T.	

56. Apologies

Apologies were submitted for Councillor P.A. Fisher.

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

Member	Interest	Type
Layton, A.	Agenda item 9 – ‘Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6’ – Motions (iii) and (iv) – interest due to nature of employment.	Personal

58. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2020, be approved as a correct record.

59. Questions Received from the Public under Council Procedure Rule 4B(c)

- (i) The following question was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4B(c) by member of the public, Michael Davey:

“Does the closure of Lea hall coal mine 25 January 1991 and the following closure of the Rugeley A Power station in 1994 and Rugeley B Power Station 8 June 2016 have significant health benefits for the population of Rugeley and the surrounding villages e.g., people with pulmonary diseases for example Asthma and C.O.P.D. and could an enquiry be set up to examine the benefits and problems of Rugeley and the adjacent villages?”

Councillor J.A.A. Newbury, Environment and Climate Change Portfolio Leader, provided the following response:

“I welcome this question but as I am sure Mr Davey will appreciate that to answer such a question fully requires a multi- organisation response and it is not one the Council can answer on its own. The Council will need the assistance and specialist expertise of the County Public Health Insights Team and data from the Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group, to whom the question has been referred on 13th January.

The Staffordshire Director of Public Health assists the Council in obtaining a statistical summary of mortality data associated with fine particulate matter (PM2.5). The data is acquired from Public Health Outcomes Framework indicators. It will also be necessary to examine historic air quality monitoring data, going back to the 1990’s, which the Council does not hold.

It is difficult to say with certainty what health benefits there have been for Rugeley and surrounding areas as a direct result of the closures described, since fine particulates (so-called PM 2.5) are carried over long distances. For this reason, levels of PM 2.5 tend to be measured regionally rather than down to local ward level.

In addition, levels of PM 2.5 are also affected by a range of other factors, including vehicle emissions, trends in smoking, increased use of domestic wood / log burners, the number and type of new businesses established over the period in question and recent trends for burning of scented candles / tealights indoors.

It has been possible to review some data for the period 2014-2018 showing estimated numbers of deaths attributable to PM 2.5 in adults over 30 within

Staffordshire. In Cannock Chase District deaths attributable to PM 2.5 accounted for 4.6%, which is just above the County average (4.4%) and below England average (5.2%) over the 5-year period.

I have asked Officers to liaise with colleagues in partner agencies to review any other available information and to write to you separately with any findings that will assist in answering the first part of your question.

As for the second part of the question, it might help to understand exactly what Mr Davey is looking to establish, particularly as to be effective such an inquiry would need to involve a number of different agencies and partners.

What I can say on this matter is that the Council is aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 and is currently developing its costed action plan to achieve this goal, which will also assist in improving the air quality of the district.”

60. Chairman’s Announcements and Correspondence

Minute’s Silence

The Chairman raised that as Members were aware, on 7 January the Council’s Principal Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Kevin Yates, sadly passed away.

Kevin had worked for the Council since 2015 and played a key role in many important projects such as the regeneration of Hednesford Park; he also worked closely with many different groups and communities in the District.

Kevin known for his friendliness and willingness to help. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him, and he would be greatly missed by his colleagues and friends at the Council as well as those he came into contact with across the District.

The Council’s thoughts were with his friends and family at this difficult time, and all Members joined the Chairman in a minute’s silence to show their respects.

61. Leader’s Announcements and Correspondence

Covid-19 Update

The Leader provided the following updates:

- As Members may be aware, he was the Chair of Governors at Staffordshire University Academy. The Academy, like other schools, was taking great steps to ensure the safety of students and staff at this time. A short video had been prepared by the Academy showing the procedures followed that should help provide reassurances to everyone that everything was being done to keep staff and students safe. A copy of the video was then played to Members.
- Covid-19 case numbers for the District remained stubbornly high, with the latest figure provided by Staffordshire County Council being 535.9 cases per 100,000 population. Whilst this reflected a decrease, it was still very high and above the Staffordshire average of 425.1. The District had the third highest case rate in Staffordshire, and 9 wards were considered to be hotspots.
- The vaccination programme was now going well after some initial glitches. The Clinical Commissioning Group had advised that they would complete the vaccination of the over 80s, and residents and staff of care homes this week. They intended to vaccinate front line social care staff next and use any spare

vaccines this week for this purpose too. Staffordshire County Council had been asked to provide the names and contact numbers of those staff so this could be done speedily.

- There were traffic problems at the Roman Way last night when the A5 and Longford Island were gridlocked due to the high number of people arriving at the vaccination site at the same time. This was partly due to people turning up early, others turning up without appointments and parking inconsiderately and dangerously. One resident, an 82-year-old, was so frightened by the chaos that she made her brother take her home and did not get vaccinated. Due to this, and knowing that everyone wanted to be vaccinated, people urged to think of others. The NHS was doing a magnificent job with the vaccine rollout and was well on target, so people were implored to wait their turn and follow the rules. Nobody wanted a situation to arise where people were getting killed or injured on the way to or from getting vaccinated.
- He attended a 'Together We're Better' meeting last night that involved the NHS, local authorities and voluntary sector. The message was that we were all working together to fight this wretched pandemic and collaboration was excellent and bode well for the future.
- Finally, in respect to concerns about mental health, Members were urged to highlight this issue and the help available. There was a 24-hour mental health helpline, which was 0808 800 2234. It was ok to not be ok, and Members were asked to encourage anyone suffering to get help.

62. Questions Received under Council Procedure Rule 8

No Questions under Council Procedure Rule 8 were received.

63. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

None referred.

64. Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6

- (i) Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6, by Councillor A.R. Pearson, Community Safety and Partnerships Portfolio Leader (*due to having connection problems, the Motion was instead presented by Councillor T.B. Johnson, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader*):

“At a council meeting held on 5th April 2017 the following motion was passed:

“That the Cannock Chase district council views with great concern the gross injustice whereby the treasury receives 50% of the surplus from the mine workers pension scheme, accumulating over £3 billion to date.

This money has been taken and continues to be taken from former coal mining communities such as our own, that can least afford it. The money removed from the pension scheme is vastly out of proportion to the risk covered by the treasury.

This council requests that the public accounts committee conduct an independent scrutiny of this extremely unfair arrangement and calls on the M.P. for Cannock Chase to take up the case for further actions in parliament.”

I am very sad to say little or no notice was taken by the treasury, the public accounts committee, or the M.P. for Cannock Chase. Therefore, I submit the following motion for consideration by this authority:

- The Council views the vastly increasing concern the ongoing pillaging of the Mineworkers pension scheme.
- The treasury is still receiving 50% of the scheme's surplus, it is now stated by Justice for mineworkers that it has reached £4.2 billion, this has been taken from the former mineworkers and their widows and the communities such as our own.
- There is no justifiable reason why the treasury takes 50% of the surplus when the risks are so low, to illustrate this the Labour Party 2019 election manifesto proposed that it would only take 10% of the surplus to maintain the status of guarantor.

Therefore this council request that the M.P. for Cannock Chase writes to the Secretary of State for work and pensions to ask why so many of her constituents continue to be plundered by the government at a time in their lives when this hard earned money is so needed."

Councillor A.M. Muckley moved the following Amendment to the Motion, which was duly seconded:

1. "In the second bullet point, insert the word 'National' before Justice.
2. Capitalise the first letter of the word's 'work' and 'pensions' in the Secretary of State's job title.
3. That the Managing Director be instructed to also write to the Secretary of State on this matter."

Councillor T.B. Johnson accepted the Amendment for inclusion in the Motion.

Councillor B. Jones then moved the following further Amendment, which was duly seconded:

"That a letter also be sent to the Trustees of the pension scheme asking them to take this matter up with the Government for further investigation."

The Amendment was not accepted by Councillor T.B. Johnson for inclusion in the Motion.

Due to the Amendment not being accepted, a vote was taken, and the Amendment approved.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Council viewed with vastly increasing concern the ongoing pillaging of the Mineworkers' pension scheme.
- (B) It be noted that the treasury was still receiving 50% of the scheme's surplus. It was now stated by the Justice for Mineworkers that it had reached £4.2 billion, and this had been taken from the former Mineworkers and their widows and the communities such as our own.
- (C) There was no justifiable reason why the treasury took 50% of the surplus when

the risks were so low. To illustrate this, the Labour Party 2019 election manifesto proposed that it would only take 10% of the surplus to maintain the status of guarantor.

Therefore:

- (D) Council requested that the MP for Cannock Chase write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to ask why so many of her constituents continued to be plundered by the Government at a time in their lives when this earned money was so needed.
- (E) The Managing Director write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions detailing the concerns of Council in respect of this matter.
- (F) A letter be sent to the Trustees of the pension scheme asking that they also take this matter up with the Government for further investigation.

(ii) Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6, by Councillor G. Adamson, Leader of the Council:

“COVID-19 has deepened existing inequalities, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest. It has put a spotlight on economic inequalities and fragile social safety nets that leave vulnerable communities to bear the brunt of the crisis. At the same time, social, political and economic inequalities have amplified the impacts of the pandemic. On the economic front, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased global unemployment and dramatically slashed workers’ incomes.” **Goal 10, Reduced Inequalities (UN Sustainable Development Goals).**

There is a large and growing body of evidence that highlights the disproportionate impact on low income communities as a result of recent global recessions and the COVID-19 pandemic.

For low income and non-earning residents in our district, income-based inequalities that pre-date COVID-19 have been further exposed and greatly exacerbated by these crises, the impact of which is yet to be fully realised. As this situation continues to unfold, and daily redundancies reach the thousands across the UK, Public Health England are reporting that those on the lowest incomes have suffered more than double the infection and mortality rates of those within the more financially stable or wealthier parts of the district and Country.¹ It is becoming clear that poverty is the key defining factor in how people experience the social and economic impacts of this pandemic in their lives, yet those struggling on the lowest incomes have the least influence in shaping and influencing our approach to recovery.

We have an opportunity in how we plan our Recovery, firstly to give true recognition to those low-income workers who have kept our country running while many of us were in lockdown or isolating at home, but also to create a lasting legacy of change, where poverty is not inevitable in our society and where fairer, greener and stronger communities can emerge.

In declaring a Poverty Emergency, this Council recognises that this is the time for that change. By aligning this work with our Climate Emergency declaration this Council commits to a People and Planet approach to Recovery and Renewal which encompasses:

- i. **Prioritising People and Planet** Identifying where the environmental and

poverty agendas overlap in order to tackle common issues of inequality, health and wellbeing.

- ii. **Recognising Socio-Economic Deprivation as an equalities issue** Acknowledging that the stress of being poor and in crisis has a detrimental impact on health, including mental health and wellbeing, achievement, life chances, participation, resilience and social cohesion.
- iii. **Investing in ‘Levelling Up’ locally** Working with residents to understand the barriers to employment, housing, health, leisure or education, and investing locally to level up our district’s communities.
- iv. **Embedding Lived Experience** Building on the foundations of the Poverty Truth Commissions, to reach out to people affected by poverty and use their experience to develop better policies and services which respond to their needs.
- v. **Building stronger communities** Continuing to work with the network of groups involved in the community response and other local initiatives, to increase participation in local democracy and involve people in the decisions that affect their lives. Providing a means for new groups to meet and build confidence, to collaborate, educate, experience a sense of ownership and influence and to build democratic participation, in order to root necessary responses within the heart of low-income communities.
- vi. **Unlocking Community Wealth and Potential** Developing further council strategies around community wealth building, including supporting communities to consider routes to community ownership in order to create jobs and share local wealth. Fostering the education, awareness, skills and culture-shift at all levels that provide the precursor to meaningfully explore and expand community ownership as a route out of poverty and forward through the crisis.
- vii. **Working together** Growing a network of local academics, professionals, unions, those with expertise in supporting migrants and asylum seekers and with existing and emerging poverty-related grassroots community groups and a wider network of people with lived-experience to support our work.
- viii. **Expanding our evidence-base** Collating more detailed poverty-related data in order to better inform the local and national approach.
- ix. **Starting with ourselves** Ensuring that our staff and those within our council companies are paid at least a local living wage will make us an example to others, helping to expand our local living wage district status. Through this and the implementation of a social value policy we can create inclusive growth in our district, in partnership with our suppliers, contractors and commissioned services.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Formally acknowledge the rising levels of poverty so widely evidenced over the past decade and further exacerbated by the dual crises of pandemic and recession.
2. Identify, report on and address unfair socio-economic barriers to democratic participation, security and wellbeing wherever they exist.
3. Ensure that the Poverty Emergency workstream sits alongside all other

workstreams within the council's recovery planning.

4. Develop a Poverty Emergency Strategy which takes a People and Planet approach to helping residents in our district cope which aims to remedy the disproportionate social and economic impacts of the pandemic and recession.
5. Continue to streamline and widely publicise access routes to advocacy and support for those directly impacted by the crisis and facing homelessness and unemployment/underemployment
6. Work collaboratively with partners to provide space for community-led 'hubs' where solutions to low income and crisis impacts can be explored by local residents and support provided
7. Keep the disproportionate impacts of the crisis on low income communities at the forefront of our response to planning, housing, land allocation and development including our response to recent legislative changes
8. Develop a dedicated online space for sharing of good practice, networking with other councils and an interface for collaboration with those directly impacted
9. Support the Portfolio lead for Health and Wellbeing to lead on this work, and a wide network of residents with lived experience.
10. Take a collaborative and evidence-based approach, working more closely with health, universities, trade unions and poverty-related community groups to improve our research and intelligence
11. Use what we learn through the work of the Poverty Emergency to raise the voices of those affected by poverty to help inform the government to shape and deliver their 'Levelling Up' agenda in our district and sub-region.
12. Invite other Councils to join with us in declaring a Poverty Emergency as a vehicle for systemic change in our society.
13. To share through networks like the LGA, our model for declaring a Poverty Emergency alongside a Climate Emergency as best practice in recovery and renewal."

Councillor A.S. Boucker moved the following Amendment to the Motion, which was duly seconded:

"At the end of 'Council resolves to:', insert:

14. Undertake a local review to assess the extent of isolation and the strength of support network in the District amongst those aged 65+.
15. Hold regular, well signposted advice and information events for families which bring together Housing Officers, Environmental Health Officers, Community Support Workers and local Housing Associations to help identify and assist vulnerable households; and
16. Ask the relevant Scrutiny Committee to revisit our housing policy, with a view to evaluating and, where possible, improving our role in helping to tackle wider issues and ensure homes within the District are as 'healthy and efficient' as possible.
17. To work closely with schools in the area, to support them in providing the highest level of education; recognising that education is one of the quickest

ways out of poverty and the surest way to end equality.”

Councillor G. Adamson accepted the Amendment for inclusion in the Motion.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The rising levels of poverty, so widely evidenced over the past decade and further exacerbated by the dual crises of the pandemic and recession, be formally acknowledged.
- (B) The unfair, socio-economic barriers to democratic participation, security and wellbeing, wherever they exist, be identified, reported and addressed.
- (C) The ‘Poverty Emergency’ work stream sits alongside all other work streams within the Council’s recovery planning.
- (D) A Poverty Emergency Strategy be developed, taking a People and Planet approach to helping residents in our District cope, which aims to remedy the disproportionate social and economic impacts of the pandemic and recession.
- (E) Access routes to advocacy and support for those directly impacted by the crisis and facing homelessness and unemployment / underemployment continue to be streamlined and widely publicised.
- (F) Collaborative working with partners takes place to provide space for community-led ‘hubs’, where solutions to low income and crisis impacts could be explored by local residents and support provided.
- (G) The disproportionate impacts of the crisis on low income communities be kept at the forefront of the Council’s response to planning, housing, land allocation and development, and recent legislative changes.
- (H) A dedicated online space be developed for the sharing of good practice, networking with other councils and an interface for collaboration with those directly impacted.
- (I) Support be given to the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader to lead on this work, and wide network of residents with lived experience.
- (J) A collaborative and evidence-based approach be taken, by working more closely with health, universities, trade unions and poverty-related community groups to improve the Council’s research and intelligence.
- (K) The Council to use what was learnt through the work of the Poverty Emergency to raise the voices of those affected by poverty to help inform the Government to shape and deliver their ‘Levelling Up’ agenda in the District and sub-region.
- (L) Other Councils be invited to join this Council in declaring a Poverty Emergency as a vehicle for system change in society.
- (M) Through networks like the Local Government Association, the Council’s model for declaring a Poverty Emergency alongside a Climate Emergency be shared as best practice in recovery and renewal.
- (N) A local review be undertaken to assess the extent of isolation and the strength of support network in the District amongst those aged 65+.
- (O) Regular, well signposted advice and information events for families be held,

which bring together Housing Officers, Environmental Health Officers, Community Support Workers and local Housing Associations to help identify and assist vulnerable households; and

- (P) The relevant Scrutiny Committee be asked to revisit the Council's housing policy, with a view to evaluating and, where possible, improving the Council's role in helping to tackle wider issues and ensure homes within the District were as 'healthy and efficient' as possible.
- (Q) The Council to work closely with schools in the area, to support them in providing the highest level of education; recognising that education was one of the quickest ways out of poverty and the surest way to end equality.

(iii) Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6, by Councillor Mrs. C.E. Martin, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader:

"The high unemployment and spiralling poverty forecast for 2021 is not an inevitable outcome from this pandemic and urgent action can still avert this. I therefore urge this Council to call on the Government to take the measures that can protect people's jobs and incomes, lives and livelihoods. These must include; ·

An increase in Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) to £320 a week – the living wage – and make it available to all workers so people can afford to self-isolate. The current £96 a week is a fifth of average weekly earnings and 2 million who earn less than £120 a week are not even entitled to that. Even while the vaccine is being rolled out people will still need to self-isolate to prevent the virus spreading.

A fix to furlough so that no one is paid less than minimum wage, it is unacceptable there are hundreds of thousands of the lowest paid receiving only 80% of the minimum living wage.

No cutting Universal Credit in April - cutting UC back £20 a week amounts to taking away £1000 a year from millions of low-income households.

An increase to public service wages and raising the minimum wage to £10 an hour. A pay cut in real terms – after a decade of real cuts - is a grave insult to millions of public service workers who cared for our loved ones during this crisis. Raising their wages and the minimum wage to £10 per hour would greatly assist in the fight against in-work poverty.

Protect and create jobs; the TUC has shown that investing £85 billion in green infrastructures would create 1.2 million jobs in 2 years and investing the resources public services need would create 600,000 jobs. This investment, alongside giving the packages of support which public sectors and businesses need, can prevent more job losses.

I call on this Council to resolve that the Managing Director pass on our demands to the Government, and also to ask our MP for her support in this, as it does have a direct impact on many of her constituents."

RESOLVED:

That the Managing Director pass on the Council's demands (as set out in the Motion) to the Government, and also to ask the MP for Cannock Chase for her support on this, as it had a direct impact on many of her constituents.

- (iv) Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6, by Councillor P.E. Woodhead, Leader of the Chase Community Independents and Green Group:

“Universal Basic Income is a non-means tested, unconditional, non-withdrawable payment which covers the basic cost of living from the state to every person paid irrespective of wealth, background, employment or marital status. A fully implemented system would replace the need for a complex and unfair welfare state, benefit system and tax credits but it is recognised that extensive research and pilot schemes would need to be established to understand how this might play a role in the financial and social security needed to promote a prosperous and equitable future for every person.

Cannock Chase has areas recognised with historic and continuing deprivation, poverty and challenges to promote equal opportunities for all. The impact of the pandemic will be felt most severely on those with greatest need, the most vulnerable to the economic and social impact a changing world of work and employment will have in the coming years. With businesses closing, employment opportunities reducing and the fragility of zero-hour contract and the gig economy our community of Cannock Chase will not be immune to financial and social challenges to come.

The Council recognises that financial security is critical to a stable, thriving and prosperous community in Cannock Chase. The Council further recognises that with the changing nature of employment, earning and livelihoods the current welfare, benefits and tax credit system is not fit for purpose to fulfil the challenges of a post Covid future.

A universal Basic Income has the potential to address many of the most complex challenges in our society including inequality, poverty, precarious employment, recognition of the value of non-economic work such as caring for family members or voluntary work, giving employers a more flexible workforce and employees greater freedom to pursue their ambitions and removing the complex, conditionality and negative aspects of the current system.

The Council believes that these principles need testing and developing to understand their impact on the real challenges which lie ahead and recognises the work being undertaken by UBILab and others. It is noted that trials have also been considered in Finland and Spain are rolling out something similar as part of their Covid-19 response.

The Council resolves that the Managing Director write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and their counterparts in all political parties as well as our Member of Parliament calling for a fully evaluated pilot of a Universal Basic Income in our community of Cannock Chase.”

RESOLVED:

That the Managing Director writes to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and their counterparts in all political parties, as well as the MP for Cannock Chase, calling for a fully evaluated pilot of a Universal Basic Income in the community of Cannock Chase.

65. Comments and Questions on Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

The following Question on Part 1 Minutes was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 by Councillor P.E. Woodhead:

“Council the Portfolio Leader please give the Council an update on progress regarding the strategic review of all boardwalks and footbridges in the District?”

The following response was provided by Councillor G. Alcott, Deputy Leader of the Council and Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader:

“Council Officers are working towards completing an assessment of all footbridges by the end of March 2021. Once that assessment is complete, a report of their findings will be submitted to Cabinet by summer 2021.

This report will include recommendations and a costed action plan for implementation, subject to funding being made available. Currently there is no budget set aside specifically for replacing these bridges.

These timescales and budget situation are as outlined in the response to a petition sent back in October 2020. Whilst that petition specifically related to a request to replace a footbridge removed from Anglesey Nature Reserve in July 2020, the response had also mentioned the wider picture in relation to footbridges generally.”

Councillor P.E. Woodhead asked the following supplementary question:

“Please can the Portfolio Leader advise of the breadth and depth of debate at the Cabinet meeting where this was discussed and why the matter wasn’t accelerated as in accordance with Council’s wishes?”.

The Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader provided the following response to the supplementary question:

“The Cabinet did discuss this item at the Cabinet meeting, and when Officers were asked about progressing this issue, the answer was a question of staffing, and there was not a great number of staff to do this work. Furthermore, it needed specialist advice and costings, and because of other priorities the Council had agreed to expedite, a view needed to be taken on what to progress. Cabinet had agreed certain priorities, and this was not one of them.” .

66. Review of the Members’ Allowances Scheme

Consideration was given to the Report of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer (Item 11.1 – 11.18 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Basic, Special Responsibility and Civic Allowances be frozen at the 2020/21 rates for 2021/22.
- (B) No changes be made to the rates payable under the Communications, Carers’ Travel and Subsistence Allowances.
- (C) The revised Members’ Allowances Scheme be in place for 1 year (1 April 2021

to 31 March 2022), with a further review to be undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel later in 2021.

The meeting closed at 9:28 p.m.

CHAIRMAN