

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY, 2019
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

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

4. Chairman's Outgoing Remarks

New Members

The Chairman welcomed the newly elected Members to the Council: Councillors Anthony Boucker; Mandy Dunnett; Adrienne Fitzgerald; Robert Hughes; Bryan Jones; Val Jones; Andrea Layton; Gerald Molineux; Andrea Muckley; Josh Newbury; and Samantha Thompson

Former Members

The Chairman then offered thanks and gratitude to former Members of the Council for their service and dedication to the residents of Cannock Chase and to this

Council. An invitation had been sent to each former Councillor to attend the meeting but, unfortunately not all were able to attend. The Chairman, therefore, asked Members to firstly recognise those who were unable to attend:

- Darren Foley, for 4 years service as elected Member for Brereton and Ravenhill;
- Linda Tait, for 2 years service as elected Member for Hednesford Green Heath;
- Michelle Dudson, 4 years service as elected Member for Hagley;
- Jessica Cooper, 4 years service as elected Member for Cannock North;
- Paul Snape, 8 years service as elected Member for Cannock West;
- Jim Bowater, 4 years service as elected Member for Etching Hill and the Heath.

The Chairman then asked the following former Councillors to come forward to receive their certificates of recognition:

- Anne Allt had in total served as a Councillor for 8 years, as a ward Member for Western Springs.
- Mike Hoare had in total served as a Councillor for 4 years, as a ward Member for Norton Canes.
- Doris Grice had in total served as a Councillor for 19 years, as a ward Member for Hednesford North.
- Colin Lea had in total served as a Councillor for 4 years, as a ward Member for Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury;
- Claire Peake had in total served as a Councillor for 4 years, as a ward Member for Rawnsley.

Chairman's Consort

The Chairman advised that during his term of office, he had been supported by his wife, Christine, as Consort. He wished to thank her for giving up her precious time to attend many of the events he had accepted invitations to.

The Chairman gave a valedictory speech, saying that it had been a great pleasure over the past twelve months to represent the District of Cannock Chase as Chairman of the Council. It had been a most enjoyable experience and a great opportunity to meet some wonderful people, and it has been an absolute honour to hold this prestigious position, which he would cherish for years to come.

He also wished to take the opportunity thank all of his fellow elected Members and Council Officers for their support over the last twelve months, and to wish the soon to be newly elected Chairman great success in their new role. The Chairman hoped they would enjoy the experience as much as he had.

5. Chairman's Charities

The Chairman reminded Members that, at the start of his term, he had announced that he would be supporting two organisations and would be fundraising for them over the twelve month period. The organisations chosen were St. Giles Hospice and Midlands Air Ambulance. The Chairman then invited the following representatives to come forward and receive their donations:

- Corrine Blood from St. Giles Hospice;
- Pat Roberts from Midland Air Ambulance.

6. Youth Endeavour Award

The Chairman advised that the Youth Endeavour Award was to be presented to Paige Hodgkiss, who had been nominated by Miss D. Jinks, Director of Year 11 at Cannock Chase High School, in recognition of her being an outstanding and remarkable young lady. The Chairman then read out to Members the reasons for Miss. Jinks' nomination of Paige:

"Paige is an amazing young lady who always put others before herself.

Whilst working part time at a local shop Paige recognised that an elderly lady was struggling with her shopping bag, so she asked if she would like some help. Paige carried her shopping bag to her house and then this became a regular thing, with Paige buying flowers for the old lady too. School have received emails from the elderly lady's daughter outlining the kindness Paige demonstrates.

Paige has supported many charities by donating some of her wages from her part time job to Macmillan and has organised dance events such as a sponsored 24 hour 'danceathon' which raised around £600. Along with this she has organised, promoted and participated in a Talent Show at Cannock library which raised over £100. Paige participated in a sponsored walk last year and raised money for Teenage Cancer Trust. Currently Paige is working on another dance project to raise money for prostate cancer.

She is a Senior Prefect in Year 11 at school and demonstrates an extremely caring nature towards other students of all ages and abilities, including supporting others in their revision process for the current exam season. We have a number of students in our year group in school who have emotional difficulties and Paige has worked tirelessly with individuals when they have been struggling.

At home Paige helps to look after her Dad, who has recently had surgery whilst also supporting her younger siblings in making sure they behave and follow in her footsteps and become caring individuals.

Voluntary work at a local Care Home is something else Paige puts her heart and soul into, taking the residents to the in-house café, spending time talking to them and accompanying her Auntie (who works at the Care Home) to take residents into Cannock in their wheelchairs.

Whilst doing all of this outside of school Paige really focuses on her education and planning for her own future, as a teacher! She is one of only 2 students in our year group who has achieved a grade 9 in maths in our in-house exams (the other student is her boyfriend who she has supported with maths too).

Paige does not see any of her actions as being special or out of the ordinary and believes everyone should be caring and considerate of others. She truly puts the 'extra' in extraordinary and is an inspiration to all."

The Chairman said he thought those words summed up the reasons why he thought Paige was more than deserving of the Youth Endeavour award; she was a real credit to the District and a perfect role model to her peers.

The Chairman then asked Paige to come forward to collect the Youth Endeavour Award, and he asked Members to join with him in congratulating her.

7. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors M.S. Buttery; Mrs. V. Jones; D.J. Snape; and Mrs. H.M. Sutton.

8. 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.

9. Election of Chairman of the Council

Councillor J.P.T.L. Preece nominated Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton, M.B.E., to be the Chairman of the Council, which was seconded by Councillor G. Adamson.

The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations.

Councillor P.M. Hewitt nominated Councillor D. Smith, to be the Chairman of the Council, which was seconded by Councillor M. Sutherland.

The matter was put to a vote.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton, M.B.E., be elected Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing Municipal year.

Councillor Mrs. Stretton thereupon read and signed the Acceptance of Office and was invested with the badge of office by the outgoing Chairman, to whom she presented a Past Chairman's badge.

Councillor Mrs. Stretton, the newly appointed Chairman, thanked Members for electing her to office and took the Chair.

(Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton, M.B.E., in the Chair)

10. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor T.B. Johnson nominated Councillor A. Dudson to be Vice-Chairman of the Council, which was seconded by Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor T.B. Johnson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing Municipal year.

(Councillor T.B. Johnson thereupon declared and signed the Acceptance of Office and was invested with the badge of office.)

11. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 April, 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed.

12. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Chairman's Charity Collection

The Chairman advised that a charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support her chosen charities, which were to be Birmingham Children's Hospital.

At the meeting held on 17 April, 2019 a total of £41.54 was collected.

(ii) Group Photo

The Chairman requested that all Members stayed behind in the Chamber at the conclusion of the meeting in order that photographs could be taken.

(iii) Interim Council Solicitor

At this point, the Chairman reminded Members that Alistair Welch had retired from his position with Stafford Borough Council, including serving as Cannock Chase Council's Council Solicitor. Therefore, arrangements had been made for an interim replacement, and Ian Curran had been appointed to act as Interim Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

13. Leader's Announcements and Correspondence

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Adamson, advised that a working arrangement had been agreed with the Green Party to lend support to the Labour Group to ensure ongoing stability in governing the Council. Accordingly, Councillor Paul Woodhead, Leader of the Green Party Group, would also be invited to attend all informal and formal meetings of Cabinet as an Observer.

The Leader also took the opportunity to offer his congratulations to Councillor Miss Lyons, on her appointment as the Conservative Group Leader and Leader of the Opposition.

14. Form and Composition of the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council notified the Council of the form and composition of the Cabinet:

Cllr. G. Adamson	Leader of the Council
Cllr. G. Alcott	Deputy Leader of the Council and Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader
Cllr. A.R. Pearson	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Cllr. C. Bennett	Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. C. Mitchell	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Cllr. T.B. Johnson	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Cllr. J.P.T.L. Preece	Environment Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. C.E. Martin	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Cllr. J.T. Kraujalis	Housing Portfolio Leader

15. Leader of the Opposition

The Chairman called upon the Leader of the largest opposition group to confirm the acceptance of office as the Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor Miss O. Lyons (Conservative) confirmed her acceptance of office as Leader of the Opposition.

16. Form and Composition of the Shadow Cabinet

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Miss O. Lyons, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Shadow Cabinet:

Cllr. Miss O. Lyons	Leader of the Opposition
Cllr. P.D. Startin	Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Economic Development and Planning Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. M. Sutherland	Corporate Improvement Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. B. Jones	Crime and Partnerships Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. M.S. Buttery	Culture and Sport Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. J.P. Johnson	Environment Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. C.D. Smith	Health and Wellbeing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. A.A. Fitzgerald	Housing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. P.M. Hewitt	Town Centre Regeneration Shadow Portfolio Leader

17. Allocation of Seats to Political Groups to Committees and Other Bodies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 11.1 – 11.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the allocation of seats to the different Political Groups to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be confirmed.

18. Appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies 2019-20

A schedule setting out the nominations provided by each of the Political Group Leaders for Members to be appointed to the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies, together with nominations for the appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman (Item 12.1 – 12.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council) was moved by the Leader of the Council.

Members agreed to suspend Rule 15(7) of the Council Procedure Rules for voting purposes, and then determined the appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairman of Committees etc.

(NB The Leader of the Council withdrew his Group's nominations for the Vice Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees, so these were uncontested.)

Following a vote on each of the nominations requiring determination, it was

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The membership of the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies for the 2019-20 municipal year, as set out in the schedule, be agreed.
- (B) The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies for the 2019-20 municipal year be:

Committee	Position	Councillor	Political Group
Community Scrutiny Committee	Chairman	Woodhead, P.E.	Green
	Vice-Chairman	Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Conservatives
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Chairman	Allen, F.W.C.	Labour
	Vice-Chairman	Hughes, R.J.	Conservatives
Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee	Chairman	Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Labour
	Vice-Chairman	Sutherland, M.	Conservatives
Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Chairman	Freeman, Miss M.A.	Independent
	Vice-Chairman	Jones, Mrs. V.	Conservatives
Audit & Governance Committee	Chairman	Witton, P.T.	Labour
	Vice-Chairman	Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Labour
Planning Control Committee	Chairman	Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Labour
	Vice-Chairman	Allen, F.W.C.	Labour
Licensing and Public Protection Committee	Chairman	Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Labour
	Vice-Chairman	Dudson, A.	Labour
Standards Committee	Chairman	Allen, F.W.C.	Labour
	Vice-Chairman	Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Labour
Trade Union Consultative Forum	Chairman	Adamson, G.	Labour

19. Representatives on Outside Bodies 2019-20

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Items 14.1 – 14.4 and 14.5 – 14.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

A schedule of outside bodies, together with the nominations received by each of the Political Groups, was circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed to suspend Rule 15(7) of the Council Procedure Rules for voting purposes, and then determined the appointment of representatives to outside bodies. Following a vote on each of the nominations requiring determination, it was

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Council's representatives on the following Outside Bodies, as detailed in the schedule circulated at the meeting, for the 2019-20 Municipal Year, or as indicated, be:

<u>Outside body</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>	
	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Other</u>
Amazon (Rugeley) Members' Liaison Forum	Boucker, A.S. (C) Hughes, R.J. (C) Molineux, G.N. (LD) Sutherland, M. (C)	
Beaudesert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Charity Management Committee (1)		Mr. P. King
Cannock Advice Centre (3)	Adamson, G. (L) Cartwright, Mrs. S. (L) Mitchell, Mrs. C (L)	
Cannock Bowling Green Trust (4)	Adamson, G. (L) Johnson, T. (L) Kraujalis, J.T. (L) Smith, C.D. (C)	
Cannock Chase Arts Council (3)	Crabtree, S. (G) Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A. (C) Mitchell, Mrs. C. (L)	
Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall Management Committee (1)	Jones, B. (C)	
Charity for the Provision of Allotments for the Labouring Poor of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley (3)	Bennett, C. (L) Martin, Mrs. C.E. (L) Thompson, Mrs. S.L. (C)	
Charity for the Provision of a Recreation Ground for Inhabitants of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley (1)	Boucker, A.S. (C)	
Chase Sports Council (6)	Boucker, A.S. (C) Buttery, M. (C) Cartwright, Mrs. S.M. (L) Johnson, J.P. (C) Mitchell, C. (L) Preece, J. (L)	

Chetwynd Charity (2)	Martin, Mrs. C.E. (L)	
Etching Hill Village Hall Committee (1)	Johnson, J.P. (C)	
Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee (1)	Johnson, T. (L)	
Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee - Substitute Member (1)	Dudson, A. (L)	
Landor Society (2)	Bennett, C. (L) Startin, P.D. (C)	
Longdon (Colton) Almshouses (2)	Martin, Mrs. C.E. (L) Johnson, J.P. (C)	
National Association of Councillors (2)	Jones, B. (C) Kraujalis, J.T. (L)	
Norton Canes Community Centre (1)	Preece, J.P.T.L. (L)	
Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee (7)	Woodhead, P.E. (G) (Chmn of Community Scrutiny Committee) Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A. (C) Snape, D.J. (C) Newbury, J.A.A. (L) Kraujalis, J.T. (L) Stretton, Mrs. P.Z. (L) Witton, P.T. (L)	
Shoal Hill Common Joint Committee (Must be Councillors) (2)	Kraujalis, J.T. (L) Smith, C.D. (C)	
Slitting Mill Village Hall Committee (1)	Dudson, A. (L)	
Staffordshire County Council – Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – Co-opted Member (1)	Freeman, Miss. M.A. (L) Sub: Todd, Mrs. D.M. (L)	
Staffordshire County Council – Corporate Parenting Panel (1)	Pearson, A.R. (L)	
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association (2: 1 appointed by Council; 1 appointed by Cabinet*)	Buttery, M. (C) [*Mrs. C. Mitchell (L) (Culture & Sport Portfolio Leader)]	
West Midlands Combined Authority (voting non-constituent Member) (1)	Adamson, G. (L)	
West Midlands Combined Authority (voting non-constituent Member) – Substitute Member 1 (1)	Alcott, G. (L)	
West Midlands Combined Authority (voting non-constituent Member) – Substitute Member 2 (1)	Kraujalis, J.T. (L)	

- (B) The Managing Director, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, be authorised to make additional appointments and amendments, to any new or existing outside bodies, as necessary, throughout the municipal year.
- (C) In the event of the Political Group Leaders failing to agree on a nomination(s) to an outside body (as referred to in (B) above) the appointment be a matter

for determination by the Council.

- (D) Subject to (B) above, the Managing Director when appointing representatives to Outside Bodies, be authorised to determine which of the appointments should be classed as an 'approved duty' for the purposes of claiming travelling and subsistence expenses.

20. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

Consideration was given to the following recommendations to Council agreed by the Planning Control Committee at its meeting held on 15 May, 2019, in respect of:

Proposed Amendment to the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making for Officers to Request Site Visits on Planning Applications, Tree Preservation Orders and Enforcement Cases (Draft Minute No. 160)

"That Council be recommended to amend the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making as follows:

7.8 Inspections can be made to sites which are the subject of planning applications, TPOs or enforcement cases in the following circumstances:

- (i) When Officers recommend an inspection in advance of producing a report so that if the Chairman, or in their absence, the Vice-Chairman, of the Committee agrees the inspection can take place on the day the Committee meets to consider the report on the application."

RESOLVED:

Proposed Amendment to the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making for Officers to Request Site Visits on Planning Applications, Tree Preservation Orders and Enforcement Cases (Draft Minute No. 160)

That the following amendment be made to the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making:

7.8 Inspections can be made to sites which are the subject of planning applications, TPOs or enforcement cases in the following circumstances:

- (i) When Officers recommend an inspection in advance of producing a report so that if the Chairman, or in their absence, the Vice-Chairman, of the Committee agrees the inspection can take place on the day the Committee meets to consider the report on the application."

21. Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer

Consideration was given to the Report of the Leader of the Council (Item 16.1 – 16.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That Ian Curran, Interim Head of Law and Administration at Stafford Borough Council, be appointed as the Monitoring Officer for Cannock Chase District Council.

The meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN