

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, 2006

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Meaden, R.G. (Chairman)
Bennett, K.L. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Grocott, M.R.
Allen, F.W.C.	Hewitt, S.M.
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Hodges, E.J.
Ball, G.D.	Jones, Mrs. A.E.
Beddows, J.	Jones, R.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Martin, G.R.
Bullock, L.W.	Mitchell, C.
Burnett, J.	Molineux, G.N.
Butler, R.D.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Carr, I.R.	Stanley, N.K.
Collis, C.	Stretton, M.C.
Daly, K.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Davies, D.N.	Thomas, D.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Toth, J.
Dixon, D.I.	Turville, R.C.
Easton, R.	Whitehouse, Mrs. G.M.
Freeman, M.P.	Williams, A.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Williams, B.

67. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Grocott, M.R.	Minute 143 of the Minutes of the Planning Control Committee held on 26 October, 2005 and Minute 167 of the Minutes of the Planning Control Committee held on 16 November, 2005 – the Applicant is a close friend.	Personal
Bullock, L.W.	Employee of Street Cleansing Company	Personal
Bullock, L.W.	Member of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Bullock, L.W.	Member of RELATE	Personal

Allen, F.W.C.	Eligible for Concessionary Fares	Personal
Williams, B.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Williams, B.	Member of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Williams, B.	Eligible for Concessionary Fares	Personal
Alcott, G.	Member of Unison	Personal
Alcott, G.	Eligible for Concessionary Fares	Personal
Alcott, G.	Holder of a Leisure Pass	Personal
Whitehouse, Mrs. G.M.	Eligible for Concessionary Fares	Personal
Thomas, D.	Redundancy Policy Update – Minute 72 refers – Member of GMB Union	Personal
Dixon, D.I.	Council Tenant	Personal
Grice, Mrs. D.	Member of Cannock Citizens Advice Bureau	Personal
Easton, R.	Eligible for Concessionary Fares	Personal
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Eligible for Concessionary Fares	Personal
Davies, D.N.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Council's CCTV/Social Alarms Section – Family Connection	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Partnership	Personal
Beddows, J.	Norton Canes Community Centre Committee member	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Health Centre Steering Group	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Relative Employed by the Council's Streetscene Contractor	Personal
Jones, R.	Member of Rugeley Citizens Advice Bureau	Personal

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Member of Norton Canes Partnership	Personal
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Member of Unison	Personal
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Member of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Morgan, C.W.J.	Council Tenant	Personal

68. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 23 November, 2005 and 7 December, 2005 be approved as a correct record.

69. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

Chairman's Ball – 24 February, 2006

The Chairman reported that tickets for the Masquerade Ball had sold well and that over 320 guests would be attending the fundraising event.

Amendments to the Order of Items on the Agenda

Due to the likelihood of there being a lengthy debate in relation to items 7 and 8 on the Agenda, the Chairman moved that items 9 and 10 be considered prior to items 7 and 8.

Electronic Equipment

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23, the Chairman granted permission to allow electronic equipment to be used during the meeting.

70. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

It was reported by the Chairman that no questions had been received in accordance with Rule 8.

71. Reports of Cabinet, Committees and Other Bodies

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 Minutes of the following Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and other bodies be adopted and any recommendations be approved and decisions implemented following the expiry of any call-in period:-

- (a) Scrutiny Committee – 27 June, 2005 and 20 September, 2005
- (b) Standards Committee – 12 September, 2005 and 22 November, 2005
- (c) Planning Control Committee – 26 October, 2005, 16 and 30 November, 2005, 14 December, 2005 and 4 January, 2006

- (d) Cabinet – 3 November, 2005, 1 and 15 December, 2005
- (e) Appeals & Complaints Panel – 16 November, 2005, 2 and 14 December, 2005
- (f) Licensing/Public Protection Committee – 21 November, 2005
- (g) Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee – 5 December, 2005
- (h) Culture & Sport Select Committee – 9 September, 2005
- (i) Environment Select Committee – 11 and 20 October, 2005 and 22 November, 2005
- (j) Health Select Committee – 17 October, 2005, 3, 10 and 28 November, 2005
- (k) Social Inclusion & Housing Select Committee – 7 November, 2005
- (l) Access to Skills & Economic Development Select Committee – 8 November, 2005

72. Redundancy Policy Update

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the revised version of the Redundancy Policy as set out at Annex 1 of the report be adopted with immediate effect.

73. Auditor's Statutory Report on the Best Value Performance Plan

Consideration was given to the Auditor's Report on the Council's Best Value Performance Plan for 2005-06.

RESOLVED:

That the Auditor's report on the Council's Best Value Performance Plan for 2005-06 be noted.

74. Recommendations from the Housing Transfer Committee held on 22 February, 2006

Consideration was given to the following recommendations of the Housing Transfer Committee held on 22 February, 2006 in relation to "Outcome of Formal Consultation and Ballot Proposals":

That Council be recommended to:-

- (a) Issue a Stage 2 Notice and ballot tenants on its transfer proposals as set out in the Council's Formal Offer Document, amended to reflect the Council's decision regarding the investment shortfall of £2,425,000 in the event of the Council retaining its housing stock.

- (b) Authorise the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Chairman of the Housing Transfer Committee, to agree the wording of the Stage 2 Notice and the dates for, and the calling of the ballot of tenants.
- (c) Resolve that should a majority of tenants who vote in the ballot, vote in favour of transfer, the Council's housing stock be transferred to Your Chase Homes, subject to the consent of the Secretary of State and the agreement of terms and conditions.
- (d) Approve the schedule of post-ballot activities as set out in Section 7 of the report.

Councillor J. Toth then moved the following amendment to recommendation (b) which was seconded:

Authorise the Chief Executive, following consultation with the three Political Group Leaders, to agree the wording of the Stage 2 Notice and the dates for, and the calling of the ballot of tenants.

Following a vote the amendment was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations as set out in paragraphs (a) to (d) above be approved.

(The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes.)

75. Recommendations from Cabinet held on 16 February, 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Cabinet held on 16 February, 2006 in respect of the Budget for 2006-07.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(4) the Chairman waived the ten minute rule in relation to the length of speeches .

The Leader, Councillor N. K. Stanley, moved the following motion:-

1. **That in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, the Council approves the following options dependent upon the outcome of the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer Ballot:**

Housing Stock Transfer

- 1.1 Approves increases in garage rents by 25p per week from 3 April 2006.
- 1.2 In all other respects, approves the standstill HRA budget for 2006-07 as set out in Table 6 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07. The budget to be adjusted pro-rata to the actual date of Stock Transfer.
- 1.3 Delegates to the Head of Financial Services the authority to amend this budget pro-rata to cover the period to the actual date of transfer as necessary.

Housing Stock Retention

- 1.4 Approves increases in garage rents by 25p per week from 3 April 2006.
- 1.5 Approves a minimum level of Working Balances as at 31 March 2009 of 5.0% (£671,770).
- 1.6 Approves a reduction in the revenue contributions to Capital Programme of £112,000 per annum.
- 1.7 Reflects the reduction in the minor works budget of £100,000 per annum arising from the Capital Programme Investment Deficit (see Recommendation 2.3)
- 1.8 In all other respects, approves the standstill HRA budget for 2006-07 and subsequent years as set out in Table 6 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.
- 1.9 Approves the relevant Prudential Indicators for HRA capital financing as set out in Table 22 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.
2. **That in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2006-07 to 2008-09, the Council approves the following options dependent upon the outcome of the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer Ballot:**

Housing Stock Transfer

- 2.1 Approves the proposed HRA Capital Programme for the period to 30 September 2006.
- 2.2 Delegates to the Head of Financial Services the authority to amend this budget pro-rata to cover the period to the actual date of transfer as necessary.

Housing Stock Retention

- 2.3 Approves the available HRA Capital Resources and the existing commitments against these sums subject to:
 - a) the deferring of the PRC Dwelling schemes for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 pending capital grant allocations, and
 - b) the removal of the shower option from the bathroom replacement programme to meet the Decent Homes investment deficit.(A reduction in the minor works budget of £100,000 per annum will also be required to fully meet the deficit)

(This is summarised at Tables 13 and 14 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07).
3. **That in respect of the General Fund Capital Programme 2006-07 to 2008-09, the Council:**

- 3.1 Approves the available General Fund Resources and the existing commitments against these sums, including the schedule of schemes subject to slippage from 2005-06 to 2006-07. (This is summarised at Tables 7 to 11 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07).
- 3.2 Approves a supplementary estimate for £34,280 for North End Park to be financed from additional Section 106 funds.
- 3.3 Approves the following new starts to be added to the 2006-07 programme:
 - 1) Ravenhill Park Tennis Courts (£41,000) to be funded by s106 contribution (£25,000) and Revenue Contribution to Capital (£16,000).
 - 2) Cannock Park Tennis Courts refurbishment (£65,000) to be funded by Revenue Contribution to Capital.
- 3.4 Notes the significant capital receipt that will be generated from the sale of the land currently used for the Cannock Stadium, which will be available for developments at Cannock Park and Chase Leisure Centre.
- 4. That in respect of the proposed Section 106 Capital Programme, the Council:**
 - 4.1 Approves the Section 106 Schemes Programme for 2006-07 to 2008-09 as set out in Table 12 of the Leader's Budget statement 2006-07.
- 5. That in respect of the General Fund Reserves and Balances, the Council:**
 - 5.1 Approves a minimum level of Working Balances equal to 5.5% of Net Operating Expenditure for Stock Retention increasing to 6% in the advent of Stock Transfer.
 - 5.2 Notes that the Section 151 Officer considers that the level of Working Balances, as reflected in Table 2, and the General Fund Specified Reserves, Table 21, remains adequate based upon the stated General Fund Budget and the circumstances in place at the time of preparing it.
- 6. In respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2006-07 to 2008-09, the Council:**
 - 6.1 Sets a 2006-07 Council Tax for District Council purposes of £171.71, (Band D property), an increase of £4.60 (2.75%) over the current year.
 - 6.2 Supports the proposals for service development set out in Table 2a in the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.
 - 6.3 Supports the proposals for savings set out at Table 2b of the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.
 - 6.4 Supports the use of Section 106 Funds for Economic Development purposes as set out at Table 2d in the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.
 - 6.5 Supports the use of Planning Delivery Grant as set out at Table 2e in the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.

- 6.6 Notes the fees and charges, reflecting the above proposals, as detailed in the Fees and Charges Booklet.

That subject to the outcome of the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer Ballot the Council approves the following alternative proposals.

Housing Stock Transfer

- 6.7 Approves indicative Council Tax increases of 2.75% in 2007-08 and 2.75 % in 2008-09.
- 6.8 Approves the three year budget set out at Table 2 in the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.
- 6.9 Approves the relevant Prudential Indicators for General Fund capital financing as set out in Table 22 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.

Housing Stock Retention

- 6.10 Approves indicative Council Tax increases of 4.6% in 2007-08 and 4.6 % in 2008-09.
- 6.11 Approves the three year budget set out at Table 2 in the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.
- 6.12 Approves the relevant Prudential Indicators for General Fund capital financing as set out in Table 22 of the Leader's Budget Statement 2006-07.

7. **That it be noted that at its meeting on 7 December 2005, the Council agreed the following amounts for the year 2006-07 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**

- a. **£29,604.37** (equivalent Band D properties) being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year.

- b. Part of the Council's Area

Parish of Brereton & Ravenhill	1,953.52
Parish of Bridgtown	291.30
Parish of Brindley Heath	248.28
Parish of Cannock Wood	403.30
Parish of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	3,964.21
Parish of Norton Canes	2,298.88
Parish of Rugeley	5,550.03
Parish of Hednesford	5,097.65

being the amounts (equivalent Band D properties) calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

8. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2006-07 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- a. **£59,646,070** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) and 32 (6) (a) of the Act.
- b. **£46,221,128** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
- c. **£13,424,942** being the amount by which the aggregate at 8(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 8(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- d. **£7,891,955** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant, reduced by the amount of the sum which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and increased by the amount of the sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, both estimates having been made on 12 January 2006.
- e. **£186.90** being the amount at 8(c) above less the amount at 8(d) above, all divided by the amount at 7(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- f. **£449,622** being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- g. **£171.71** being the amount at 8(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 8(f) above by the amount at 7(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

h. Part of the Council's Area

	£. p.
Parish of Brereton & Ravenhill	196.29
Parish of Bridgtown	188.87
Parish of Brindley Heath	189.43
Parish of Cannock Wood	192.14

Parish of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	186.72
Parish of Norton Canes	199.36
Parish of Rugeley	206.11
Parish of Hednesford	185.44

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 8(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 7(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

i. Part of the Council's Area

	Valuation Bands								
	A (disabled) £. p	A £. p	B £. p	C £. p	D £. p	E £. p	F £. P	G £. p	H £. p
Brereton & Ravenhill	109.05	130.86	152.67	174.48	196.29	239.91	283.53	327.15	392.58
Bridgtown	104.93	125.91	146.90	167.88	188.87	230.84	272.81	314.78	377.74
Brindley Heath	105.24	126.29	147.33	168.38	189.43	231.53	273.62	315.72	378.86
Cannock Wood	106.74	128.09	149.44	170.79	192.14	234.84	277.54	320.23	384.28
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	103.73	124.48	145.23	165.97	186.72	228.21	269.71	311.20	373.44
Norton Canes	110.76	132.91	155.06	177.21	199.36	243.66	287.96	332.27	398.72
Rugeley	114.51	137.41	160.31	183.21	206.11	251.91	297.71	343.52	412.22
Hednesford	103.02	123.63	144.23	164.84	185.44	226.65	267.86	309.07	370.88
All other parts of Council's area	95.39	114.47	133.55	152.63	171.71	209.87	248.03	286.18	343.42

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 8(g) and 8(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

9. That it be noted that, for the year 2006-07, the Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police Authority and the Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	Valuation Bands								
	A (disabled) £. p	A £. p	B £. p	C £. p	D £. p	E £. p	F £. p	G £. p	H £. p
Staffordshire County Council	501.58	601.90	702.22	802.53	902.85	1,103.4 8	1,304.1 2	1,504.7 5	1,805.7 0
Staffordshire Police Authority	84.74	101.69	118.63	135.58	152.53	186.43	220.32	254.22	305.06
Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire	31.89	38.27	44.64	51.02	57.40	70.16	82.91	95.67	114.80

10. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 8(i) and 9 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2006-07 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Part of the Council's Area	Valuation Bands								
	A (disabled) £. p	A £. p	B £. p	C £. p	D £. p	E £. p	F £. p	G £. p	H £. p
Brereton & Ravenhill	727.26	872.72	1,018.16	1,163.61	1,309.07	1,599.98	1,890.88	2,181.79	2,618.14
Bridgtown	723.14	867.77	1,012.39	1,157.01	1,301.65	1,590.91	1,880.16	2,169.42	2,603.30
Brindley Heath	723.45	868.15	1,012.82	1,157.51	1,302.21	1,591.60	1,880.97	2,170.36	2,604.42
Cannock Wood	724.95	869.95	1,014.93	1,159.92	1,304.92	1,594.91	1,884.89	2,174.87	2,609.84
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	721.94	866.34	1,010.72	1,155.10	1,299.50	1,588.28	1,877.06	2,165.84	2,599.00
Norton Canes	728.97	874.77	1,020.55	1,166.34	1,312.14	1,603.73	1,895.31	2,186.91	2,624.28
Rugeley	732.72	879.27	1,025.80	1,172.34	1,318.89	1,611.98	1,905.06	2,198.16	2,637.78
Hednesford	721.23	865.49	1,009.72	1,153.97	1,298.22	1,586.72	1,875.21	2,163.71	2,596.44
All Other Parts of the Area	713.60	856.33	999.04	1,141.76	1,284.49	1,569.94	1,855.38	2,140.82	2,568.98

11. That the Council authorises:

- 11.1 Mr. William Leslie Trigg, the Deputy Chief Executive of the Council, appointed to the said office under Section 112 of the Local Government Act, 1972,;
- a. to collect and recover any Council Tax payable on dates previously determined;
 - b. in the event of a Council Taxpayer defaulting, to implement the appropriate recovery proceedings for the recovery of the amounts due.
- 11.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the said Deputy Chief Executive, or such other Officers authorised by them to take all such proceedings as maybe necessary to secure the recovery of sums due and appear on behalf of the Council at any hearing of any legal proceedings in respect thereof.
- 11.3 The Deputy Chief Executive, or other officer authorised by him in writing, to implement the appropriate budget, referenced Housing Stock Transfer or Housing Stock Retention, following the outcome of the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer ballot.

Councillor D. Thomas proposed objections to the recommendations of the Cabinet, identifying a number of areas to be reconsidered. This was seconded by Councillor F.W.C. Allen.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4), the following votes were recorded in respect of the motion being Cabinet's recommendations as set out above:-

FOR

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.
Beddows, J.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.
Bennett, K.L.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.
Butler, R.D.
Collis, C.
Davies, D.N.
Easton, R.
Freeman, M.P.
Grocott, M.R.
Hewitt, S.M.
Hodges, E.J.
Jones, R.
Martin, G.R.
Meaden, R.G.
Molineux, G.N.
Stanley, N.K.
Turville, R.C.
Whitehouse, Mrs. G.M.
Williams, A.
Williams, B.

(22)

AGAINST

Alcott, G.
Allen, F.W.C.
Ball, G.D.
Bullock, L.W.
Carr, I.R.
Daly, K.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.
Dixon, D.I.
Grice, Mrs. D.
Jones, Mrs. A.E.
Kraujalis, J.T.
Mitchell, C.
Morgan, C.W.J.
Stretton, M.C.
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Thomas, D.
Toth, J. (17)

RESOLVED:

That the motion as set out in paragraphs 1 to 11 above be approved.

76. 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 paragraphs 4, 7, 9 and 12, Part I, 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, 22 FEBRUARY, 2006

PART 2

77. 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 – 3 November, 2005
- (b) Appeals & Complaints Panel – 16 November, 2005, 2 and 14 December, 2005
- (c) Licensing/Public Protection Committee – 21 November, 2005
- (d) Culture & Sport Select Committee – 9 September, 2005

CHAIRMAN