

# CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL, 2006

### PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Meaden, R.G. (Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Grocott, M.R.
Allen, F.W.C.	Hewitt, S.M.
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Jones, Mrs. A.E.
Ball, G.D.	Jones, R.
Beddows, J.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Martin, G.R.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Mitchell, C.
Burnett, J.	Molineux, G.N.
Butler, R.D.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Carr, I.R.	Stretton, M.C.
Collis, C.	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.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K.L. Bennett (Vice-Chairman), L.W. Bullock, K. Daly, E.J. Hodges and N.K. Stanley).

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Allen, F.W.C.	Eligible for concessionary fares	Personal
Allen, F.W.C.	Member of Cannock Chase Arts Council	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Member of Cannock Wood Parish Council	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Member of Cannock Chase Arts Council	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Relative employed by the Council's Street Cleaning Contractor	Personal

Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Partnership	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Association	Personal
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Member of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Member of Norton Canes Community Partnership	Personal
Carr, I.R.	Member of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Collis, C.	Member of Hednesford Town Council	Personal
Collis, C.	Member of Hazel Slade Youth Service Advisory Steering Group	Personal
Davies, D.N.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Davies, D.N.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Eligible for concessionary fares	Personal
Dixon, D.I.	Council tenant	Personal
Dixon, D.I.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Easton, R.	Member of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Easton, R.	Eligible for concessionary fares	Personal
Grice, Mrs. D.	Member of Cannock Citizens Advice Bureau	Personal
Grice, Mrs. D.	Eligible for concessionary fares	Personal
Grocott, M.R.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Grocott, M.R.	Grant Applications and Rate Relief Committee 6 December, 2005 – son had received a grant from Chetwynd Charity to go to university this year	Personal & Prejudicial
Jones, R.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Jones, R.	Member of Rugeley Citizens' Advice Centre	Personal
Kraujalis, J.T.	Member of Bridgtown Parish Council	Personal

Martin, G.R.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Martin, G.R.	Member of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Meaden, R.G.	Access to Skills and Economic Development Select Committee – 7 February, 2006 – Employed by 3663 Food Service	Personal
Molineux, G.N.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Molineux, G.N.	Member of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Morgan, C.W.J.	Council tenant	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Council's CCTV/Social Alarms Section – Family connection with employee	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Turville, R.C.	Member of Hednesford Town Council	Personal
Turville, R.C.	Member of Chase CVS	Personal
Whitehouse, Mrs. G.M.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Whitehouse, Mrs. G.M.	Eligible for concessionary fares	Personal
Williams, A.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Williams, B.	Member of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Williams, B.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Williams, B.	Eligible for concessionary fares	Personal

**79. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February, 2006 be approved as a correct record subject to Councillor Mrs. D. Grice being recorded as having declared a personal interest in being eligible for concessionary fares.

**80. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence**

Beacon Status Award – Transforming Delivery of Services through Partnerships

The Chairman reported that the Council had been successful in gaining a Beacon Status Award for Transforming Delivery of Services through Partnerships. He thanked Members and employees for their hard work in achieving the award.

The Chairman accepted the award from Mr. Charles Malkin of the Staffordshire E-Government Partnership.

Elections

The Chairman expressed his best wishes to Councillor Les Bullock who was not standing in the forthcoming District Elections. He also expressed good luck to everyone else who was standing in the local elections on 4 May, 2006.

Quiz Night

The Chairman reported that a Quiz Night was being held on Friday, 12 May, 2006 at 7.30 p.m. at Cannock Stadium. Further information would be sent to Members in due course. He also reminded Members that his Charity collection box was available for any donations.

Urgent Item

The Chairman reported that Cabinet considered a report on 20 April, 2006 relating to a Casino for the Cannock Chase District. Cabinet resolved to defer consideration of the report to Council. The Chairman agreed to consider this report as a matter of urgency on the grounds that the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) would be determining the Council's submission in the next 6-8 weeks and it would not be appropriate to consider the matter at the Annual Council Meeting.

Cannock Public Recreation and Pleasure Ground Charity

The Chairman reminded Members that at the conclusion of the Council meeting there was a meeting of the Council acting as Trustee of Cannock Public Recreation and Pleasure Ground Charity.

The Council meeting then adjourned to enable the meeting of the Council acting as Trustee of Cannock Public Recreation and Pleasure Ground Charity to be convened. Following completion of the Charity's business, the Council meeting reconvened.

**81. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8**

The following question was submitted by Councillor J.T. Kraujalis in accordance with Procedure Rule 8:-

"Recently, the Council have disclosed the direct cost to the Council of housing transfer consultation with tenants of £560,000 to be paid for by:-

the Council tax payer £330,000  
the rent payer £120,000  
the Harvest Group £110,000

However, I do not believe that this represents the total cost of the process. What I want to know is all the other costs which have not been accounted for in the above figure and how they will be paid for.

The kind of costs that I am asking for are for example;

the cost of Council staff being taken off their normal duties to go out and meet tenants or attend meetings

the cost of senior staff being seconded to transfer duties

the cost of holding transfer steering board/Committee meetings

the cost of ferrying (by taxi or other means) tenants and other persons to the various functions which constitute the process

I am not concerned whether a budget existed for these items or not, I believe costs have been incurred and the people of the District deserve to know what they are.

I believe there are many other items. I would be grateful for a complete list and costing to be presented at the forthcoming full Council meeting."

The Social Inclusion and Housing Leader provided the following response:-

"Mr. Chairman,

May I first point out the error my colleague Councillor Kraujalis has made in suggesting that the additional direct cost to the Council of developing a housing transfer proposal was £560,000.

The correct figure is expected to be slightly over £400,000.

The Council agreed at its meeting on 20 October, 2004, a budget of £450,000 to develop proposals for the transfer of the Council's housing stock including consultation with tenants. This budget has not been spent, and although some bills are still awaited before the figure can be confirmed, the final costs are unlikely to be significantly above £400,000. Had the transfer gone ahead, these direct costs would have been fully reimbursed by Your Chase Homes.

In addition, the Harvest Housing Group contributed £110,000 towards the consultation programme but this, quite clearly, is not a direct cost to this Council.

Yes, certain senior officers were involved in the transfer process, in addition to those whose costs are included in the £400,000. An initial estimate suggests that some £100,000 of "other officer time" was spent on the transfer process. However, this is not an additional cost to the Council as these officers would have been engaged on other priorities.

Where, Councillor Kraujalis is wrong, however, is to suggest that the other costs in his question are additional. All of the other costs he has identified are included within the £400,000.

Whilst the cost of furnishing the two show homes is again included within the £400,000, Council on 17 August, 2005 agreed to increase the HRA Capital Programme by £16,000 to fund the additional improvement works to bring these properties to the Your Chase Homes Standard.

These two properties will be re-let this week and two tenants will be fortunate to benefit from the additional improvements. Regretfully, some 5,700 tenants will not now benefit from homes improved to the same standard.

So, the Council spent around £400,000.

Set against this figure, I would like to remind Members of the potential benefits to the tenants and Cannock Chase community that we were aiming for with transfer:-

- £73 million of additional investment in the Council's housing stock, providing sustainable, modern, quality homes
- £73 million of additional investment for the Cannock Chase community to support regeneration, and sustain local jobs and businesses
- The end of the constant drain on our Housing Revenue Account of having to pay £2.4 million of rent payers' money each year to the ODPM under the Labour Government's scandalous negative subsidy system – a figure that is expected to rise further to reach £3 million per annum within next two years.

My colleagues on the opposite side of the Chamber constantly refer to the so-called "fourth option". Council officers have already met with officials from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to clarify the current situation and have been advised that the Council will not now receive any additional funding.

I would now throw down the gauntlet to my Labour colleagues to persuade their Labour Government to find the £73 million shortfall needed to give our tenants the homes that they deserve".

## **82. Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and Panels**

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 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) Licensing/Public Protection Committee – 30 January, 2006 and 6 February, 2006
- (b) Licensing Sub-Committee – 9 December, 2005
- (c) Scrutiny Committee – 13 December, 2005 and 23 January, 2006

(d) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 16 December, 2005, 10 February, 2006 and 14 February, 2006

(e)(i) Standards Committee – 17 January, 2006

With regard to the recommendation of the Standards Committee contained within Minute 12(A) relating to Member/Officer Relations Protocol, the amended Protocol circulated with the agenda was approved.

(e)(ii) Recommendation from the Standards Committee held on 13 March, 2006.

The following recommendation of the Standards Committee held on 13 March, 2006 was accepted:-

"That Council be recommended to make training for Members of the Council compulsory in the following circumstances:-

- All induction training, whether corporate, on the Codes of Conduct or in respect of service areas, for newly elected and co-opted Members of the Council.
- All training events arranged in relation to the functions of the Planning Control Committee and Licensing/Public Protection Committee and its Sub-Committees for existing Members of these Committees/Sub-Committees.
- All training events arranged in relation to the Planning Control Committee and Licensing/Public Protection Committee and its Sub-Committees for newly appointed Members of these Committees/Sub-Committees."

(f) Cabinet – 19 January, 2006 and 16 February, 2006

(The recommendations contained within the Minutes of the Cabinet held on 16 February, 2006 were determined by Council on 22 February, 2006)

(g) Planning Control Committee – 25 January, 2006, 15 February, 2006 and 8 March, 2006

(h) Culture and Sport Select Committee – 15 November, 2005

(i) Access to Skills and Economic Development Select Committee – 29 November, 2005, 31 January, 2006 and 7 February, 2006.

(j) Social Inclusion and Housing Select Committee – 9 January, 2006, 6 February, 2006, 6 March, 2006 and 22 March, 2006

(k) Health Select Committee – 24 January, 2006 and 20 February, 2006

(l) Environment Select Committee – 8 February, 2006

(m) Grant Applications and Rate Relief Committee – 6 December, 2005

**83. Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee Terms of Reference**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the extension of the remit of the Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee to incorporate the role of assisting the Chairman of the Council, as appropriate, in raising funds for the Chairman's Charity Fund be approved;
- (B) That the Terms of Reference of the Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee as detailed at Annex 1 of the report be approved and their incorporation into the Constitution be authorised.

**84. Terms of Reference of the Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Monitoring Officer (Enclosure 8.1 - 8.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Terms of Reference of the Parish Council's Standards Sub-Committee as set out in Annex 1 of the Report be approved.
- (B) That the Terms of Reference of the Parish Councils Standards Sub-Committee as approved be incorporated in the Council's Constitution in substitution for the current Terms of Reference.

**85. A Casino for Cannock Chase District**

The Chairman had agreed to consider this report as a matter of urgency on the grounds given in Minute 80 above.

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 1-18 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Chairman moved the following recommendation which was seconded:-

- (A) That the Council wishes to pursue further proposals submitted to the Casino Advisory Panel for a casino to be located in Cannock Chase District.
- (B) That the Chief Executive be authorised to carry out the following in the event that the Casino Advisory Panel considers shortlisting the District for detailed examination:-
  - (a) An appraisal of and consultation on potential sites for the location of a casino.
  - (b) An appraisal and consultation to establish the social and economic impacts of establishing a casino within the District.



Councillor D. Thomas then moved the following amendment to the recommendation which was seconded:-

That the Chief Executive be authorised to carry out the following in the event that the Casino Advisory Panel considers shortlisting the district for detailed examination:

- (A) An appraisal of and consultation on potential sites for the location of a Casino.
- (B) An appraisal and public consultation to establish the social and economic impact of establishing a Casino within the district.
- (C) To invite offers of interest from experienced Casino providers.

Following a vote, the amendment was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to carry out the following in the event that the Casino Advisory Panel considers shortlisting the district for detailed examination:-

- (A) An appraisal of and consultation on potential sites for the location of a Casino.
- (B) An appraisal and public consultation to establish the social and economic impact of establishing a Casino within the district.
- (C) To invite offers of interest from experienced Casino providers.

**86. Exclusion of 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 1, 4, 7 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, 26 APRIL, 2006

PART 2

87. 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) Licensing/Public Protection Committee – 30 January, 2006
- (b) Appeals and Complaints Panel – 16 December, 2005, 10 February, 2006 and 14 February, 2006
- (c) Cabinet – 16 February, 2006
- (d) Planning Control Committee – 25 January, 2006

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CHAIRMAN