

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
RATE RELIEF COMMITTEE
17 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 10.00AM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Grocott, M.R. (Chairman)

Alcott, G. Jillings, J.
Easton, R.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M.A. Davis and J.T. Kraujalis).

1. Declaration 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>
Grocott, M.R.	National Non Domestic Rates – Charitable Relief Report - Giraffe Leisure Ltd - Member may know the applicant	Personal
Grocott, M.R.	National Non Domestic Rates – Charitable Relief Report - Member knows the Secretary of Rugeley Open Spaces Association	Personal
Easton, R.	National Non Domestic Rates – Charitable Relief Report - Member knows the Secretary of Rugeley Open Spaces Association	Personal
Easton, R.	National Non Domestic Rates – Charitable Relief Report - Member of the Royal British Legion	Personal
Easton, R.	Non Domestic Rates – Charitable Relief Report - Giraffe Leisure Ltd - Member may know the applicant	Personal

2. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2008 be approved as a correct record.

3. National Non-Domestic Rates – Charitable Relief

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.35 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

(A) That the action of the Head of Financial Management in awarding Mandatory Relief be noted and that the amounts of Discretionary Relief be awarded as follows:

(i) Royal British Legion

That 25% Discretionary Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for one year with effect from 1 April 2008.

(ii) Cannock Ex-Servicemen's Club

That 25% Discretionary Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for one year with effect from 1 April 2008.

(iii) 5C's Training, Ground Floor Front, Kingston Court, Walsall Road, Cannock

That 80% Mandatory and 10% Discretionary Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for one year with effect from 1 April 2008.

(iv) 5C's Training, r/o 8 Walsall Road, Cannock

That 80% Mandatory and 10% Discretionary Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for one year with effect from 1 April 2008.

(v) Rugeley Open Spaces Association

That 80% Mandatory and 10% Discretionary Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for the period 15 January 2008 to 31 March 2008 and for one year from 1 April 2008.

(vi) 5C's Training, Ground Floor Rear, Kingston Court, Walsall Road, Cannock

That 80% Mandatory and 10% Discretionary Relief be granted in respect of the above premises for the period 31 August 2007 to 31 March 2008 and for one year from 1 April 2008.

(Members had concern regarding the sum of money held in the

organisations reserves and discussed whether this was a national figure. The Local Taxation and Benefits Manager undertook to have regard to this issue when presenting future reports).

- (B) That it be noted that 80% Mandatory Relief had been granted in respect Stoke of Trent College for the period 31 August 2007 to 31 March 2008 and for one year from 1 April 2008.
- (C) That 40% Hardship Rate Relief be granted in respect of Giraffe Leisure Ltd for one year with effect from 1 April 2008.

(Members considered that the Committee had offered significant financial assistance to the organisation over the past 18 months by granting 100% Hardship Rate Relief for the period 15 January 2007 to 31 March 2007, 50% for one year from 1 April 2007 and 40% for one year from 1 April 2008. Members also expressed concern regarding the number of hours that the premises appeared to be open for business and considered that Hardship Relief was awarded in order to assist the organisation to increase this service to the public).

4. Business Rate Relief Framework 2009/10

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.18 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Members were advised that as a result of the budget setting process, there was a need to reduce the amount of expenditure on Discretionary Rate Relief with effect from 1 April 2009 by £8,000. Members were presented with a number of options as to how this saving could be made and also discussed a number of other ways in which to achieve the necessary saving.

Members considered that the burden of any saving made should be shared by a large number of organisations so as to limit the increased liability to be faced by each individual organisation.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Cabinet be asked to re-consider the reduction of £8,000 in the budget to pay for Discretionary Rate Relief with effect from 1 April 2009.
- (B) That should Cabinet not agree to this request, the Committee considered that in order to achieve the £8,000 saving, the following framework should be established:-
 - That those organisations currently receiving 10% Top up Rate Relief as outlined in Annex 1 (Enclosure 5.12 of the report) be reduced to 7%.
 - That those organisations currently receiving 25% Discretionary Rate Relief as outlined in Annex 1 (Enclosure 5.12 of the report) be reduced to 15%.

- That the organisation currently receiving 75% Discretionary Rate Relief as outlined in Annex 1 (Enclosure 5.12 of the report) be reduced to 65%.

(Councillor G.A. Alcott requested that his name be recorded as having voted against this decision).

CHAIRMAN