

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, 25 MAY, 2016

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Freeman, Miss M.A. (Chairman)	
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z. (Vice Chairman)	
Adamson, G.	Hoare, M.W.A.
Alcott, G.	Johnson, J.P.
Allen, F.W.C.	Johnson, T.B.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bennett, C.	Lea, C.I.
Bowater, J.	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Burnett, G.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Molineux, G.N.
Christian, Miss J.	Peake, Mrs. C.L.
Cooper, Miss J.	Pearson, A.R.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Dudson, A.	Smith, C.D.
Dudson, Miss M.J.	Sutherland, M.
Foley, D.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Grocott, M.R.	Witton, P.
Hardman, W.T.A.	Woodhead, P.E.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed the newly elected Councillors to the Council – Councillors Mrs. Christine Martin, Doug Smith, Daniel Snape; and Paul Woodhead.

The Chairman gave a valedictory speech thanking all those who had supported her during her term as Chairman. The Chairman advised that she had thoroughly enjoyed her year in the Chair, and had attended a variety of functions supported by her Consort, Sue. It had been a most enjoyable experience and an honour to hold the position. As a token of her appreciation for the support shown, she asked her Consort, Sue, to come forward and receive a Past Consort's badge.

Finally, the outgoing Chairman thanked all elected Members and Officers for their support during the past twelve months, and wished the incoming Chairman every success in the role.

Former Councillors

The Chairman offered her thanks and gratitude to former Members of the Council for their service: Mrs. Ann Bernard (16 years' service); Brian Gamble (4 years); and Andy Lovell (4 years). Unfortunately, none of the former Members had been able to attend to collect their certificates of recognition.

Chairman's Charities

The Chairman referred to the Charities she had supported during her term, which were the Teenage Cancer Trust and the 5th Cannock St. Luke's Brownies. She then invited Charlotte Kendall, Regional Fundraiser for the Teenage Cancer Trust, and Ruby Baker and Jo Carter from 5th St. Luke's Brownies forward to collect their donations.

Youth Endeavour Award

The Chairman then advised that the Youth Endeavour Award was to be presented to Niall Toolan of Kingsmead School who had been nominated by his Head of House, Amanda Evans. Niall had been nominated in recognition of his achievements and activities in and out of school.

Niall is a school prefect acting as a role model to other students in both appearance and attitude. He is also Wimblebury House Charity Ambassador, where he coordinates the work of the house charity representatives. Outside of school, Niall completed the Three Peaks challenge in 2015 to raise money for Go Commando an organisation that helps UK war veterans, and he was hoping to repeat this experience again this year, this time raising funds for the Christie Charity.

He was a Young Leader in the Scouts as well being a first aider with St. John's Ambulance for over 4 years. He also attended martial art classes three evenings a week and spent his free weekends training to compete in triathlons.

The Chairman also advised that when Niall was a year 8 student (12 - 13 years old), his Head of House had had to make a difficult decision to have him brought before the school governors because of poor behaviour and attitude in school. Since then, he had taken the advice he was given at that time and had turned things around to become a reliable and thoughtful ambassador and a positive role model for other young people. All this in spite of his having some mild learning difficulties making study challenging for him, and his transformation all the more positive and worthy of recognition.

The Chairman then asked Niall to come forward to collect his award and asked Members to join with her in congratulating him.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been submitted by Councillors M. Buttery; Miss J. Christian; A. Dean, Mrs. C. Martin; D.J. Snape, P.A. Snape and Miss S. Whitehouse.

2. 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.

3. Election of Chairman of the Council

Councillor P. Witton nominated Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton, MBE, to be the Chairman of the Council, which was seconded by Councillor J.P.T.L. Preece.

RESOLVED:

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

(Councillor Mrs P.Z. Stretton thereupon declared and signed the Acceptance of Office and was invested with the badge of office.)

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

(Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton in the Chair)

4. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council

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

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A. Dudson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office for the ensuing Municipal year.

(Councillor A. Dudson thereupon declared and signed the Acceptance of Office and was invested with the badge of office.)

5. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 April, 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed.

6. 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 would be the cancer unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital and the Royal Voluntary Service in Norton Canes.

At the meeting held on 6 April, 2016 a total of £34.51 was received.

(ii) Armed Forces Day

The Chairman advised that the Council would be hosting a flag raising ceremony on Monday, 20 June, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. at the front of the Civic Building, followed by light refreshments, and she looked forward to seeing Members there.

(iii) Civic Service

The Chairman advised that she would be hosting a Civic Service on Sunday, 17 July, 2016 at 3.00 p.m. at St. James the Great Church, Norton Canes. Invitations would be sent to all Members in due course.

(iv) Group Photo(s)

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

7. Form and Composition of the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Adamson, 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 Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Cllr. J.T. Kraujalis	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Cllr. C. Bennett	Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. C. Mitchell.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Cllr. J.P.T.L. Preece	Environment Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. M.A. Davis	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Cllr. F.W.C. Allen	Housing Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. D.M. Todd	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader

The Leader advised that the Administration remained committed to working towards improving the lot of the citizens of the District, particularly through membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), which would become a legal entity with effect from June, 2016. The Council would lead or support developments or improvements to: leisure facilities; social housing; the Chase Line rail service (electrification); town centres; and the Mill Green Designer Outlet Village. Unfortunately, the confirmed closure of Rugeley Power Station had come as a major blow at a time when local authorities were facing financial pressures brought about by cuts in central Government funding, and the Council was making representations to the Government for assistance through transitional funding.

8. Leader of the Opposition

The Chairman advised that the Leader of the largest opposition group, Councillor P.A. Snape (Conservative), who had apologised, had submitted written confirmation of acceptance of office as the Leader of the Opposition.

9. Form and Composition of the Shadow Cabinet

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor M. Sutherland, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Shadow Cabinet and of the lead Members for each of the Shadow Portfolios.

Cllr. P.A. Snape	Leader of the Opposition and Town Centre Regeneration Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. M. Sutherland	Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Economic Development and Planning Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. C.D. Smith	Corporate Improvement Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. C.I. Lea	Crime and Partnerships Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. J.P. Johnson	Culture and Sport Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. M.W.A. Hoare	Environment Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mrs. H.M. Sutton	Health and Wellbeing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Cllr. G. Burnett	Housing Shadow Portfolio Leader

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

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 10.1 – 10.4 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, in order that the appointment of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Members to Committees and Other Bodies could be considered subsequently on the agenda of the meeting.

11. Appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies 2016-17

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 was circulated in advance of the meeting, which was moved by the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the membership of the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies for the 2016-17 Municipal Year, as set out on the schedule circulated, be agreed.

12. Representatives on Outside Bodies 2016-17

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 12.1 – 12.4 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 (8) 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 2016-17 Municipal Year, or as indicated, should be:

<u>Outside body</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>	
	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Other</u>
Barbara Bird Memorial Fund (1)	Pearson, A.	
Beaudesert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Charity Management Committee (1)		Mrs. S. Holliday, 14 Bradwell Lane, Cannock Wood WS15 4RW
Cannock Advice Centre (3)	Adamson, G. Allen, F.W.C. Freeman, Miss M.A.	

Cannock Bowling Green Trust (4)	Freeman, Miss M.A. Johnson, T. Kraujalis, J.T. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	
Cannock Chase Arts Council (3)	Adamson, G. Mitchell, Mrs. C. Johnson, J.P.	
Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Advisory Partnership (1)	Pearson, A.	
Cannock Conduit Trust (Longest serving Members for Cannock East, Cannock West, Cannock North, Cannock South and the second longest serving Member from the Ward that has the largest number of voters, currently Cannock South) (5)	Alcott, G. Davies, Mrs. M. Kraujalis, J.T. Freeman, Miss, M.A. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	
Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall Management Committee (1)	Hardman, B.	
Charity for the Provision of Allotments for the Labouring Poor of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley (3)	Bennett, C. Foley, D. Grice, Mrs. D.	
Charity for the Provision of a Recreation Ground for Inhabitants of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley (3)	Dudson, A. Grice, Mrs. D. Martin, Mrs. C.	
Chase Sports Council (6)	Cooper, Miss, J. Johnson, T. Mitchell, Mrs. C. Preece, J. Johnson, J.P. Whitehouse, Miss S.	
Chetwynd Charity (4)	Bennett, C. Foley, D. Johnson, J.P.	Mr. T. Anderson, 54 Hagley Road, Rugeley
Community Council of Staffordshire (Councillor or Officer) (1)	Sutherland, M.	
Etching Hill Village Hall Committee (1)	Johnson, J.P.	
Foundation of Clara and Caroline Walhouse (1)	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.	(The Trustees have indicated that they are happy for one appointment to be made to serve on both Charities for a 4 year term to 2020)
John Wood and Walhouse Church of England School Foundation (1)		
Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee (1)	Johnson, T.	
Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee - Substitute Member (1)	Cooper, Miss J.	

Landor Society (2)	Bennett, C. Johnson, J.P.	
Longdon (Colton) Almshouses (2)	Dudson, A. Bowater, J.	
National Association of Councillors (2)	Kraujalis, J.T. Lea, C.	
Norton Canes Community Centre (1)	Preece, J.P.T.L.	
Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee (7)	Buttery, M. Freeman, Miss M.A. Kraujalis, J.T. Pearson, A. Snape, D. Stretton, Mrs. P.Z. Sutherland, M.	
Rugeley Physically Handicapped Association (1)	Johnson, J.P.	
Rugeley and District Senior Citizens' Committee (2)	Bennett, C. Dudson, Miss M.	
Shoal Hill Common Joint Committee (Must be Councillors) (2)	Freeman, Miss M.A. Kraujalis, J.T.	
Slitting Mill Village Hall Committee (1)	Dudson, A.	
St. Giles Hospice (Whittington) – 'Local Government Friends Group' (1)	Cartwright, Mrs. S.	
Staffordshire County Council – Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – Co-opted Member (1)	Freeman, Miss M.A.	
Staffordshire County Council – Corporate Parenting Panel (1)	Pearson, A.	
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association (2)	Mitchell, Mrs. C. Snape, P.A.	(Cabinet Member) (Other Councillor)
West Midlands Combined Authority (voting non-constituent Member)	Adamson, G.	(Leader of the Council)
West Midlands Combined Authority (voting non-constituent Member) – Substitute Member 1	Alcott, G.	
West Midlands Combined Authority (voting non-constituent Member) – Substitute Member 2	Kraujalis, J.T.	
West Midlands Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committees (voting Member)	Witton, P.	
West Midlands Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committees (voting Member) – Sub Member 1	Foley, D.	
West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	Snape, P.A.	

- (B) The Managing Director, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, be authorised to make additional appointments at any 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.

13. Procurement Regulations

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Governance and the Council Solicitor (Item 13.1 – 13.4 + Appendix 1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Procurement Regulations as attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (B) It be noted that until such time as the Financial Regulations are updated, the Procurement Regulations will supersede all references to quotes and tenders contained within the Financial Regulations.

The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN