

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER, 2009

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Beddows, J. (Chairman)
Mawle, D.L. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Grocott, M.R.
Allen, F.W.C.	Holder, M.J.
Ansell, Mrs. P.A	Jillings, J.
Ball, G.D.	Jones, R.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bennett, K.L.	Meaden, R.G.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Molineux, G.N.
Bernard, J.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Burnett, G.	Pearce, Mrs. L.J.
Burnett, J.	Stanley, N.K.
Collis, C.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Davies, D.N.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Thomas, D.
Dixon, D.I.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Easton, Mrs. D.M.	Williams, A.
Easton, R.	Williams, B.
Freeman, M.P.	Williams, Mrs. P.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Yates, Ms. W.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L.W. Bullock, M. Green, and Mrs. C. Mitchell).

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

No Declarations of Interests in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests were made.

53. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30 September, 2009 be approved as a correct record.

54. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Councillor Chris Collis

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Chris Collis to the meeting, following the recent by-election for the Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury Ward.

(ii) Alistair Welch

The Chairman introduced Alistair Welch, Head of Law and Administration at Stafford Borough Council, who had agreed to take on interim Monitoring Officer responsibilities for the Council.

(iii) Chairman's Charity Box

The Chairman advised Members that his Charity Collection Box was circulating for Members to make a donation to his chosen Charities.

He reported that at the meeting held on 30 September, 2009, a total of £54.00 was donated.

(iv) Civic Sunday

The Chairman thanked those Members who had attended his Civic Service on Sunday, 11 October, 2009, at St. James Church, Norton Canes.

A total of £184.30 was raised during the afternoon which had been donated to the Chairman's Charity Fund.

A number of Members who had attended the Service commented on what an enjoyable afternoon it had been, but also noted that it was disappointing that a greater number had not been able to attend.

(v) Museum of Cannock Chase

The Chairman announced that the Museum of Cannock Chase had, on 24 September, 2009, been awarded Full Accreditation by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, and had also been awarded a Special Commendation for its work on consultation with users.

The Chairman presented an award to Adrienne Whitehouse, Leisure Development Manager and, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Adrienne and the Museum staff for the good work which had gone into securing the awards.

(vi) CorpComms Award

The Chairman advised that the Council's PR and Marketing Team had been shortlisted, alongside Thomson Reuters and Visit Scotland, in the Best In-House Team category at the CorpComms awards on 25 November, 2009.

(vii) Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman reminded Members that Remembrance Sunday parades would be held throughout the District on Sunday, 8 November, 2009, and the Council would be represented by Members and Officers at each of the ceremonies.

(viii) Chairman's Notes

The Chairman spoke about some of the projects he had become involved with during his time as Chairman. He made particular mention of the Street Warden service and their involvement in various schemes with local schools; the Bridgtown Memorial Garden, Local Democracy Week; and work with Special Needs children, all of which had given him great pleasure.

The Chairman encouraged all Members to get involved wherever possible with the schools and, in particular, mentioned the opportunity afforded by the lantern making project, running between 9 and 11 December, 2009.

(ix) Urgent Report

The Chairman advised that he had agreed to consider, as a matter of urgency, a report of the Chief Executive in relation to the Electoral Cycle, copies of which had been circulated to Members.

The Chairman further advised that the reason for the urgency was so that Members were informed of the legal position regarding the requirement to hold an election by a third in May, 2010. The Chairman agreed that the matter be taken as item 7A on the agenda.

55. Questions in Accordance with Rule 8

The Chairman reported that no questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

56. Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Forums and Panels

RESOLVED:

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

- (a) Cabinet – 17 September, 2009
- (b) Planning Control Committee – 9 September and 23 September, 2009
- (c) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 30 July, 2009
- (d) Standards Committee – 14 July, 2009
- (e) Audit and Governance Committee – 17 August, 2009
- (f) Rate Relief Committee – 6 July, 2009
- (g) Cannock Community Forum – 17 June, 2009
- (h) Hednesford Community Forum – 11 June, 2009
- (i) Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee

The interim Monitoring Officer reported that, ultimately, there had been no matter to investigate. A final meeting of the Chairman of the Council's Civic Committee would be arranged as soon as practicably possible and a final set of minutes would be submitted to the next Council meeting.

57. Allocation of Seats to Committees and Other Bodies

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor M.P. Freeman, advised that a proposed change of membership on the Environmental Sustainability Policy Development Committee would affect the position of Vice Chairmam, which required Council approval.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the allocation of seats to the different political groups to the Council's Committees and other bodies as set out in Annex 1 to the report be approved.
- (B) That the allocation of seats approved at (A) take effect forthwith.
- (C) That, if they had not already done so, each of the Group Leaders would notify the Chief Executive, within five working days of the names of those Members to be added to / removed from the Council's Committees and Other Bodies.
- (D) That, the appointment of Councillor J. Burnett to the position of Vice Chairman of the Environmental Sustainability Policy Development Committee be approved.

58. Electoral Cycle

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 7A.1 – 7A.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the legal position and subsequent financial implications regarding the requirement to hold an election by third in May, 2010, as detailed in the report, be noted.
- (B) That the action being taken by the Chief Executive in respect of securing advice on any redress the Council may have be noted.

59. 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 1, 2, 3 and 4 Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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PART 2

60. Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees and Panels

RESOLVED:

That the Part 2 Minutes of the following Cabinet, Committees and Panels be adopted and any recommendations be approved and decisions implemented following the expiry of any call-in period:-

- (a) Cabinet – 17 September, 2009
- (b) Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 30 July, 2009

61. Equal Pay Claim – Supplementary Estimate

Consideration was given to a Not for Publication report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Council's position concerning the equal pay claims issued against the Council be noted.
- (B) That the supplemental estimate amounting to £75,200.00 necessary to discharge the Council's obligations arising from the agreed settlement reached in respect of the current equal pay claims issued against the Council be approved.

CHAIRMAN