

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4.00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY, 2015
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Pearson, A. (Chairman)
 Freeman, Miss M.A. (Vice Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Holder, M.J.
Alcott, G.	Johnson, J.P.
Allen, F.W.C.	Jones, R.
Anslow, C.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Ball, G.D.	Lovell, A.
Bennett, C.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Molineux, G.N.
Bernard, J.D.	Preece, J.
Bottomer, B.	Snape, P.A.
Buttery, M.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Dixon, D.I.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Dudson, A.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Gamble, B.	Todd, R.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Toth, J.
Grocott, M.R.	Witton, P.
Hardman, W.	

77. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; Mrs. J.L. Burley; Mrs. S.M. Cartwright; A. Dean; P. Fisher; and Ms. S. Whitehouse.

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
J.T. Kraujalis	Volunteer for Chase Advice Centre	Personal

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

79. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 January, 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed.

80. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) John O'Leary

The Chairman advised Members that former Councillor John O'Leary had passed away on Monday morning. The Chairman reminded Members that Mr. O'Leary had been elected as a Councillor for Cannock Chase in 1973 and remained a Member for 15 years. He had also served as a County Councillor for Staffordshire and a Town Councillor for Hednesford. He would be sadly missed and the Council's thoughts were with his family at this sad time.

The Chairman advised that he had also received confirmation that the funeral service would take place at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday 19th February at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford.

The Chairman then asked Members to stand and join him in a minute's silence to remember Mr. O'Leary.

(ii) Chairman's Charity Collection Box

The Chairman advised that the charity collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation. He reported that at the meeting held on 14 January, 2015, a total of £29.00 was collected, and he thanked Members for their donations.

(iii) Annual Dinner

The Chairman advised Members that he would be hosting the Annual Dinner on Friday, 24 April, 2015. Further information would be sent to Members in due course, and he looked forward to welcoming them there on the night.

81. Question(s) in Accordance with Rule 8

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 8.

82. Motion(s) Received under Rule 6

No Motions had been submitted under Rule 6.

83. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2014-15 to 2017-18: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader introduced the Housing Revenue Account Budget and consideration was given to recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 29 January, 2015, in respect of: (A named vote was also called for and supported.)

- (i) Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2014-15 to 2017-18
- (ii) Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2015-16 to 2017-18

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Adamson, G.		
Alcott, G		
Allen, F.W.C.		
Anslow, C.		
Ball, G.D		
Bennett, C.		
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.		
Bernard, J.D.		
Bottomer, B.		
Buttery, M.		
Davis, Mrs. M.A.		
Dixon, D.I.		
Dudson, A.		
Freeman, Miss M.A.		
Gamble, B.		
Grice, Mrs. D.		
Grocott, M.R.		
Hardman, W.		
Holder, M.J.		
Johnson, J.P.		
Jones, R.		
Kraujalis, J.T.		
Lovell, A.		
Mitchell, Mrs. C.		
Molineux, G.N.		
Pearson, A.		
Preece, J.		

Snape, P.A.
Spicer, Mrs. A.
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Todd, R.
Toth, J.
Witton, P.

35 (Unanimous)

0

0

In addition, Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; Mrs. J.L. Burley; Mrs. S.M. Cartwright; A. Dean; P. Fisher; and Ms. S. Whitehouse were absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

(A) HRA Budgets 2014-15 to 2017-18

- (i) A minimum level of working balances of £1,551,180 for 2015-16 and indicative working balances of £1,559,630 and £1,705,770 for 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively, be determined.
- (ii) Not to implement any rent increase for 2015-16.
- (iii) The base three-year Housing Revenue Account budgets be enhanced through the provision of:-
 - (a) £400,000 for interest and loan repayment charges for additional potential borrowing approval;
 - (b) An additional £1,940,000 Revenue Contribution to Capital outlay.
- (iv) The Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 as summarised in Appendix 2 of the report be approved, and the estimated outturn for 2014-15 be noted.

(B) Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2015-16 to 2017-18

- (i) The base three year Housing Revenue Capital Programme be enhanced through:-
 - (a) A further £1,940,000 for the provision of additional Council housing;
 - (b) Re-phasing the double glazing and window refurbishment programme for completion in September 2017.
- (ii) The resultant Capital Programme, as summarised in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.

Members of all Parties wished to record their thanks to Officers of the Council for their work on housing projects. Particular thanks were given to the Head of Housing and Waste Management and the Head of Finance.

84. Budget Timetable – Procedural Issues

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Council Solicitor (Item 8.1 – 8.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council). The Council Solicitor advised that there some legal ambiguity as to the absolute requirement for a named vote in setting the Budget. In accordance with the 2014 Regulations, a named voted was a strict requirement only in the context of setting the Council Tax, rather than the budget itself; however, it was accepted that this was the intention. Therefore, it was recommended that a named vote be called for when considering the budget.

RESOLVED:

That the timetable and procedure be noted, and that the overall level of Council Tax would be set at Council's meeting on the 25 February, 2015 following determination of Cannock Chase's Council Tax requirement in accordance with the procedural rules, attached as Appendix A to the report.

85. Budget 2015-16 to 2017-18: Cabinet Resolutions

The Leader introduced the Budget 2015-16 to 2017-18, and consideration was given to recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 29 January, 2015, in respect of: (A named vote was also called for and supported.)

- (i) General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2015-16 to 2017-18
- (ii) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investments Strategy, 2015-16

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Adamson, G.		
Alcott, G		
Allen, F.W.C.		
Anslow, C.		
Ball, G.D		
Bennett, C.		
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.		
Bernard, J.D.		
Bottomer, B.		
Buttery, M.		

Davis, Mrs. M.A.
Dixon, D.I.
Dudson, A.
Freeman, Miss M.A.
Gamble, B.
Grice, Mrs. D.
Grocott, M.R.
Hardman, W.
Holder, M.J.
Johnson, J.P.
Jones, R.
Kraujalis, J.T.
Lovell, A.
Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Molineux, G.N.
Pearson, A.
Preece, J.
Snape, P.A.
Spicer, Mrs. A.
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Todd, R.
Toth, J.
Witton, P.

35 (Unanimous)

0

0

In addition, Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; Mrs. J.L. Burley; Mrs. S.M. Cartwright; A. Dean; P. Fisher; and Ms. S. Whitehouse were absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of:

(A) General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2015-16 to 2017-18

- (i) The level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2015-16 be set at £12.702 million; with indicative net spending for 2016-17 and 2017-18 of £12.769million and £13.085 million respectively;

- (ii) The detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet held on 29 January, 2015, be approved;
- (iii) The forecast outturn net budget of £14.391 million including a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay of £1.5 million be approved;
- (iv) The use of Government Grants in 2015-16 of £1.347 million be approved with indicative figures of £1.512 million and £1.661 million for 2016-17 and 2017-18, respectively;
- (v) The working balances be set at £0.698 million; £0.879 million and £1.040 million for 2015-16 to 2017-18, respectively;
- (vi) A Council Tax freeze for 2015-16 be approved; with indicative increases of 1.95% to the level of Council Tax for 2016-17 and 2017-18;
- (vii) The Council's Tax base be set at 26,902.88;
- (viii) The revised capital programme, including new schemes, be approved, as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 of the report to Cabinet.

(B) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investments Strategy, 2015-16

- (i) The Prudential and Treasury Indicators be approved;
- (ii) The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement be approved;
- (iii) The Treasury Management Policy be approved;
- (iv) The Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16 be approved.

Members of all Parties again wished to record their thanks to Officers of the Council for their ongoing efforts to maintain services in the face of funding adversity. Particular thanks were given to the Head of Finance.

The meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN