

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

I D Fordham	-	Environment Portfolio
J Hood	-	Community Portfolio
R Kenney	-	Deputy Leader
G P K Pardesi	-	Leisure Portfolio
A F Reid	-	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
A N Pearce	-	Climate Change Portfolio

Also present - Councillor J M Pert

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)
G Stott	-	Deputy Chief Executive (Place)
D Piper	-	Head of Economic Development and Planning
J Presland	-	Head of Operations
A Nevin	-	Head of Wellbeing
N Clifton	-	Interim Head of Regulatory Services
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

CAB48 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2024 as published on 5 January 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB49 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R P Cooke.

CAB50 Presentation of Petition - Red Lion Public House, Sutton

Councillor A F Reid read the following statement:-

“On behalf of the Cabinet and the Council I wish to thank local residents for bringing this matter to our attention. Without local resident involvement, we would not have been aware of the particular concerns and we now are.

I have had meetings with Offices, who have looked into the matter, including site visits and collection of evidence. Since the petition was submitted I am aware that some work has been done to address some of the issues raised, and have discussed with Officers what further actions

can and should be enforced to further stabilise the site while the owner considers their next step with their land.

I look forward to the landowner putting forward further plans that can bring this site back into community use. It's the last community asset in the village and can reward investors and residents if managed well. Meanwhile, the Council has a duty to use our powers to enforce on any legitimate issues that arise on the site, and we will continue to work with residents to facilitate this."

RESOLVED:- that the petition be received and passed to the Head of Economic Development and Planning.

CAB51 Proposals for Increasing Fixed Penalty Notice Charges: The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023

Considered a report seeking approval to increase the current Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) in relation to environmental crimes - which included Littering, Graffiti, Fly tipping and Household Duty of Care offences and to introduce early payment provisions in this regard. This related to the Government's increase in the upper limits of such fines, introduced by The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023.

The Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio introduced the report noting the detail as contained within paragraphs 1, 3 and 5.

Councillor Fordham concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A N Pearce noted that appropriate publicity regarding this matter was vital.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio, be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the Government's introduction of increased upper limits for Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to environmental crimes be noted, and those new upper limits in relation to the Council's enforcement actions be approved, for immediate implementation, subject to the following early payment provisions:

- (i) the current fine amount for those caught fly-tipping be increased from £400 to £1000, with an early payment option of £500 if paid within ten days;
 - (ii) the current fine amount for those who litter be increased from £100 to £500, with an early payment option of £150 if paid within ten days;
 - (iii) the current fine amount for those who graffiti be increased from £100 to £500, with an early payment option of £250 if paid within ten days;
 - (iv) the current fine amount of those who breach their household waste duty of care be increased from £200 to £600, with an early payment option of £300 if paid within ten days;
- (b) any increase in revenue derived from payment of such fines continue to be ringfenced and used to support environmental projects;
 - (c) the current Reward Scheme in relation to the reporting of dog fouling be expanded to include the reporting of Fly-tipping (subject to the same provisos).

CAB52 Garden Waste Processing Contract

Considered a report informing Cabinet of future arrangements for the disposal and processing of kerbside garden waste collected by Veolia on behalf of the Council as part of the Recycling and Waste Collection Services contract.

The Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio introduced the report noting the detail as contained within paragraphs 1, 3 and 5.

Councillor Fordham concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A N Pearce noted the difference between 'disposal' and 'composting' of green waste.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio, be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) it be approved that from 4 February 2024, Staffordshire County Council (SCC), as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), take on the contractual management of the disposal (via composting) and management of kerbside garden waste that is collected by Veolia on behalf of the Council as part of the Recycling and Waste Collection Services contract;
- (b) an agreement that will see a transitional payment received by the Council from SCC to fully compensate for the removal of garden waste credits, for a one-year period, after the existing garden waste contractual agreement between the Council and Mill Farm expires be agreed.

CAB53 Allocation of S106 funds - Enson Lane, Stone

Received a report considering the allocation of the agreed S106 funding (Planning Applications 10/14117/OUT and 14/20602/REM) towards the provision of upgrades of existing grass areas, grass pitch construction and the upgrade costs of a new clubhouse and changing rooms.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio introduced the report noting the detail as contained within paragraphs 1, 3 and 5.

Councillor Pardesi noted receipt of representations from a local resident regarding this matter and concluded her comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor Hood was delighted to see the provision of hockey for the residents of Stone, in addition to rugby.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- That subject to the Head of Economic Development and Planning investigating and resolving the comments raised relating to this matter, the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio, be approved as follows:

Authority to allocate and use an existing off-site contribution under the terms of a Section 106 Agreement for £400,000 (Planning Application 10/14117/OUT and 14/20602/REM) be granted to Stone Hockey and Rugby Club.

CAB54 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023-26

Considered a report proposing to the Council the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024-25, the updated Capital Programme 2024-27 and indicative budgets for 2025-26 to 2025-26 and seeking approval of the introduction of new car parking charges as per Appendix 8 of the report.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report on behalf of the Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio, by noting its previous consideration at both Cabinet and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Continuing, Councillor Godfrey highlighted 2 typographical errors contained on page 39 of the agenda:-

Planning and Regeneration Portfolio to read 'Economic Development and Planning Portfolio' and;

Reduced parking income to read 'Reduced planning fee income'.

Councillor Godfrey concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, be approved as follows:

that the following be recommended to Council:

- (a) the Budget Requirement for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024-25 be set at £17.460 million;
- (b) the indicative General Fund Revenue Budgets be set at £17.660 million for 2025-26 and £17.390 million for 2026-27;
- (c) the General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £1.0 million;
- (d) the detailed capital programme as set out in appendix 2 of the report be approved;
- (e) the Council Tax for 2024-25 be increased by 2.99% to £173.56;
- (f) the Council's Tax Base be set at 49,302.73 (as determined by the Head of Finance);
- (g) it be noted that the inflation parameter for fees and charges for 2024-25 was generally set at 6%.

- (h) the new car parking charges contained in appendix 8 of the report be approved.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 30 JANUARY 2024.

CAB55 Revenues and Benefits Collection Report - Quarter 2 - Part Confidential

Considered a report informing Cabinet of the performance of the Revenues and Benefits Service as regards:

- collection of Council Tax during the first half of the 2023/2024 financial year;
- collection of Business Rates during the first half of the 2023/2024 financial year;
- the recovery of overpaid Housing Benefit during the first half of the 2023/2024 financial year;

and seeking approval to write off of the arrears listed in the confidential appendices to the report.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report on behalf of the Cabinet Member- Resources Portfolio, before highlighting the detail contained within Paragraphs 3 and 5, and the associated appendices, and concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the information regarding collections be noted;
- (b) the arrears listed in the confidential appendices to the report be written off.

CHAIR