



Minutes of the Council held at the County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford on Tuesday 24 November 2015

Councillor P W Jones (Mayor)

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

Councillors:

L Bakker-Collier	J Hood
C A Baron	R A James
F Beatty	M E Jennings
M Bowen	E G R Jones
G R Collier	W J Kemp
R P Cooke	S Learoyd
B M Cross	S P Leighton
I E Davies	A M Loughran
M G Dodson	L Nixon
R J Draper	S O'Connor
A P Edgeller	A J Perkins
J W Farnham	J M Pert
P M M Farrington	D B Price
F A Finlay	R M Smith
A T A Godfrey	R M Sutherland
M R Goodall	C V Trowbridge
A S Harp	K S Williamson

Officers in attendance:-

Mr I Thompson - Chief Executive
Mr A Welch - Head of Law and Administration
Mr B Kean - Head of Finance
Mr W Conaghan - Press and Communication Manager
Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

C36 One Minute Silence

The Mayor called for one Minute Silence to remember all the victims of the recent tragic incidents in Paris, France.

All stood in silence as a mark of respect.

C37 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2015 were submitted and signed.

C38 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J A Barron, R J Barron, J K Price, G Rowlands and P Roycroft.

C39 Declarations of Interest

Councillor P M M Farrington declared a pecuniary interest in respect of Item 12 on the Agenda and left during the discussion thereon.

Councillors M Bowen, R J Draper and M E Jennings declared a personal interest in respect of Item 7(a) on the Agenda.

Councillors R P Cooke, I E Davies and R J Draper declared a personal interest in respect of Item 8 on the Agenda.

C40 Announcements

The Mayor confirmed that a letter has been sent from the Council to the twin town of Belfort, France to send condolences following the recent incident in Paris.

The Mayor then thanked those who attended the Chinese Buffet at the Golden Orient, which raised just under £700.

The Mayor then highlighted the following forthcoming events:-

- Mayor's Winter Wonderland Ball - County Showground - Friday 4 December 2015;
- Civic Carol Service - St Mary's Church, Stafford - Sunday 20 December 2015;
- Holocaust Memorial Church Service - St Mary's Church, Stafford - Wednesday 27 January 2016.

Councillor P M M Farrington, Leader of the Council provided an update on recent discussions concerning growth and enterprise zones.

C41 Notice of Motion

Councillors M Bowen and R J Draper had given Notice of Motion pursuant to Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules:-

"Stafford Borough Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our authority. We value the constructive relationship that we have with trade unions and we recognise their commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of good quality public services. We are happy with the arrangements we currently have in place for deducting trade union membership subscriptions through our payroll. We see this as an important part of our positive industrial relations and a cheap and easy to administer system that supports our staff".

"This Council further resolves to seek to continue its own locally agreed industrial relations strategy and will take every measure possible to maintain its autonomy with regard to facility time."

The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor M Bowen and Seconded by Councillor R J Draper.

Members of the Council considered the item as provided for in Paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules.

On being put to the vote the Notice of Motion was lost.

C42 Notice of Motion

Councillors W J Kemp and M Bowen had given Notice of Motion pursuant to Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules:-

"Stafford Borough Council is totally opposed to the plans being put forward by Stafford and Surround Clinical Commissioning Group to involve the private sector in the Transformation of Cancer Care and End of Life programme."

"This Council is opposed to the privatisation of NHS services and calls on Stafford and Surround CCG to listen to the clearly expressed views of local residents opposing the plans."

"Stafford Borough Council calls on Stafford and Surround CCG to bring forward plans that do not involve the private sector."

The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor W J Kemp and Seconded by Councillor M Bowen.

Members of the Council considered the item as provided for in Paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules.

On being put to the vote the Notice of Motion was lost.

C43 Fees and Charges Review 2016

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V2 16/11/15).

The Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio, introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor J M Pert.

The Cabinet Member - Environment and Health Portfolio and the Cabinet Member Leisure and Culture Portfolio addressed a number of points relating to the proposed fees and charges for the Environment and Health Portfolio and the Leisure and Culture Portfolio respectively.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposed Fees and Charges for 2016 be approved.

C44 Financial Plan 2015/16 - 2018/19

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V2 16/11/15).

The Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio, introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor P M M Farrington.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that

- (a) The Financial Plan 2015/16 - 2018/19 be noted;
- (b) The forecast outturn for 2015 - 16 be approved;
- (c) The draft Capital Programme 2015/16 - 2018/19 be noted;
- (d) The General fund working balance be set at a minimum of £1.0 million;
- (e) The principles set out in the Council's Financial Plan be adopted in finalising the preparation of the 2016/17 budget;
- (f) an updated Financial Plan be provided once details of the 2015 Spending Review and changes to Local Government Funding Regime became known.

C45 Review of Members' Allowances

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V2 14/10/15) concerning the recommendations of the Independent Panel.

The Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio, introduced the report and moved that the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor J M Pert.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:- that
- (a) the Council accepts the Panel's recommendation to amend the current Scheme of Members Allowances with effect from 1 October 2015 as set out in the report of the Head of Law and Administration;
 - (b) a Scheme of Allowances be made for the period commencing on 1 April 2016 having regard to the Panel's recommendations as set out in the report of the Head of Law and Administration;
 - (c) a Scheme of Members Allowances be made for use by Parish Councils for the period commencing on 1 April 2016 having regard to the Panel's recommendations as set out in the report of the Head of Law and Administration.

In pursuant of Paragraph 17.5 of the Council Procedure Rules, Councillor C A Baron requested to have her vote against the above resolution recorded.

C46 Statement of Licensing Policy

Considered the report of the Head of Environment (V2 16/11/15).

The Cabinet Member - Environment and Health Portfolio, introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor A J Perkins.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the amended draft "Statement of Licensing Policy" be agreed.

C47 The Plan for Stafford Borough - Part 2 Publication

Considered the report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration (V5 16/11/15) concerning the Plan for Stafford Borough - Part 2 Publication.

The Cabinet Member - Planning and Regeneration Portfolio, introduced the report and concluded her comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor R A James.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:- that
- (a) the responses to the document “The Plan for Stafford Borough - Part 2 Proposals and Consultation Stage” within the Summary of Responses be taken account of and changes to the Plan for Stafford Borough - Part 2 Publication be agreed as a result of the responses received;
 - (b) “The Plan for Stafford Borough - Part 2 Publication” be approved;
 - (c) The Cabinet Member - Planning and Regeneration Portfolio be delegated with the responsibility for making any minor amendments of an editorial, conformity or presentational nature that may be necessary to the Publication prior to its submission for the independent Examination.

Councillor P M M Farrington having declared a pecuniary interest in this matter left the room during consideration of the item and voting thereon.

C48 Gnosall Neighbourhood Plan - Adoption

Considered the report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration (V2 16/11/15) concerning the formal adoption of the Gnosall Neighbourhood Plan as part of the statutory development plan for Stafford Borough following a successful referendum held on 22 October 2015.

The Cabinet Member - Planning and Regeneration Portfolio, introduced the report and concluded her comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor R M Smith.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:- that
- (a) the Gnosall Neighbourhood Plan be adopted to form part of the statutory development plan for Stafford Borough and used when determining planning applications in Gnosall Parish;
 - (b) the decision Statement be approved and published with the Gnosall Neighbourhood Plan.

MAYOR