



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13th DECEMBER 2011

PRESENT: Councillor J Oates (Chair), Councillors T Clements, L Bates, B Beale, S Claymore, D Cook, R Cook, C Cooke, S Doyle, J Faulkner, K Gant, M Gant, J Garner, M Greatorex, A James, A Lees, A Lunn, R McDermid, K Norchi, M Oates, N Oates, S People, G Pinner, R Pritchard, S Pritchard, E Rowe, P Seekings and M Thurgood

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director (Resources)), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Stefan Garner (Deputy Director (Finance Exchequer and Revenues)), Matthew Bowers (Head of Strategic Planning and Development), Bernadette Flanagan (Elections Officer), Linda Street (Democratic & Elections Officer), Lara Allman (Democratic & Election Services Officer) and Natalie Missenden (Public Relations Officer)

42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Foster.

43 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

45 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

None

46 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**NO. 1**

Under Procedure Rule No 10, Mr K Forest, 64a Foxglove, Amington Tamworth will ask the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise, Cllr Steve Claymore, the following question:-

"The Council recently offered to help and support (excluding financing) to Tamworth Football Club.

During July/August this year I undertook a trading survey of the small businesses in Tamworth. The conclusions at the time were that 15% would go out of business within 12 months. Would the Council publicly offer the same help and support to the small businesses and encourage them to form a small business organisation to enable both the small traders and others to work together for the mutual benefit of all?"

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise gave the following reply:

The Council is fully committed to supporting local businesses and in particular small businesses and retailers in the town centre. We are very conscious of the tough trading times for small businesses and are actively supporting them to work together and with us.

We recognise that local traders need to support each other and that they can provide the ideas and in some cases resources needed to help themselves. We have already set up a number of schemes whereby small businesses can join together these include the TownSafe Scheme, the Tamworth District Tourism Association, the Business and Enterprise Partnership, and Place Group. All of which are supported by the Council. Further to this there is the Federation of Small Business and Chamber of Commerce.

Officers of the Council work through these forums and directly with traders to encourage positive relations and to implement initiatives to improve the vitality of the town centre.

It is worth taking this opportunity to thank Local businesses for their support such as Martin Smith from the SnowDome who chairs the Place Group, John Hill from Strykers who chairs the TDTA and the many small businesses involved in the TownSafe scheme. I would also like to promote business engagement with the new Town website established by the TDTA which seeks to promote the town to residents and visitors alike.

Supplementary Question

"I am aware that the Council is working hard to revitalise the town centre. But small businesses still blame the Council and the Council blames small businesses. Both have justification caused by the lack of understanding of the other's problems. Small businesses are important to the town centre. But they must change attitudes to survive. An important key to that survival is for these small businesses to get organised, work together and promote each other in an informal way, and not just be individual businesses.

My supplementary therefore is this. Would the Council support and publicise this group approach, perhaps also publishing, via the press, the provision of the TBC officer contact with officer support?"

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise gave the following reply:

Given the economic situation we would encourage local businesses to work positively to improve and promote their businesses and to work with us. Should local business wish to join any of the forums we would recommend that they contact myself, Robert Mitchell Deputy Director for Communities Planning and Partnerships or go through our website.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 10, Mr K Forest, 64a Foxglove, Amington Tamworth will ask the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise, Cllr Steve Claymore, the following question:-

"Public Open Space is important to the people of Tamworth and their wellbeing. Early in 2005 Council-funded consultants made recommendations to increase public open space provision for new developments in line with PPG17. Could you please supply the following breakdown of the recommendations?"

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise gave the following reply:

Recommended Quantity Provision Standards for Tamworth Borough

Typology	Quantity Provision Standard
Parks and public gardens	0.5 hectares per 1000 population
Natural/semi-natural space	2.7 hectares per 1000 population
Outdoor sports facilities	1.5 hectares per 1000 population (excluding golf course)
Amenity greenspace	1.15 hectares per 1000 population
Provision for children & young people	0.5 play space per 1000 population
Allotments	0.05 hectares per 1000 population
Cemeteries/churchyards	No quantity standards set.
Green corridors	No quantity standards set.

Supplementary Question

"The current standard at 2.43 hectares per 1000 of the population (the old six acre guide) is almost 80 years old and out of date with modern requirements, Tamworth needs to update its requirements for the 21st century and to implement new standards and will need to consult on this.

The legislation to enable reports to be given the title "Contains exempt information" can be found in Paragraphs 1 to 7 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended and is publicly available.

I share your want for open government Councillor Cooke, but not to the cost or loss of benefit to the tax-payer whose interests come first.

Supplementary Question

I accept that we must have regard to the Chief Executive and the Council's Solicitor but would it be fair to say that Councillors have a right to see all reports?

The Leader of the Council gave the following reply:

We as 30 Councillors set the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation and gave power to the Chief Executive and officers. I regularly discuss agendas with the Chief Executive and officers and although we sometimes add reports or sometimes we remove reports, I have never found a reason to question the Chief Executive's decisions.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor C Cooke will ask the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Assets , the following question:-

"What checks are in place and how satisfied is the Portfolio Holder that every department of this council is doing all it can to minimise energy costs and use?"

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Assets gave the following reply:

Very satisfied, I will e-mail the member directly to provide him with details of reasonable steps the council has taken to reduce energy use – as it would take too long to list.

47 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2011/12

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Assets presenting Members with the Mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and annual Investment Strategy was considered.

- RESOLVED:** That:
- 1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2011/12 be accepted, and;
 - 2 The revision to the Prudential and Treasury indicators and limits for 2011/12 to 2013/14 contained within the report

and at Appendix 1, as a result of the new Housing Finance System be approved, and;

- 3 The Inclusion of additional capital expenditure of £45.148m (subject to finalisation) in the 2011/12 Capital programme, to facilitate the capital financing implications of the new Housing Finance system and authorise the Corporate Director Resources to make the payment to DCLG be approved.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

48 TAMWORTH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY - REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Report of the Electoral Registration Officer informing Members of the comments received from the recent consultation in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places undertaken in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and to make recommendations relating to polling places within the Parliamentary Constituency that fall within the Borough of Tamworth was considered.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1 The results from the review process and the officer recommendations were endorsed together with motions:
 - (a) To move the polling station in TLL to a more localised polling station, creating a new polling district if required;
 - (b) To seek a more central location for the temporary TL polling station that better serves both current housing estates, and;
 - (c) Retain an active review at TW polling station;
- 2 Such information as prescribed in compliance with the legislation be published, and;
- 3 The appropriate recommendations for consideration by the Budget Review Group be made where required.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

49 BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise informing Members of the proposal to extend the current Building Control Partnership, the benefits and risks to the Council and seeking approval to amend the existing legal agreement was considered.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations as contained in the report be approved.

(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor M Greatorex)

The Mayor