



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 30th JANUARY 2024

PRESENT: Councillor J Harper (Mayor), Councillors D Maycock, P Turner, T Jay, C Adams, C Bain, B Clarke, L Clarke, G Coates, C Dean, L Wood, D Cook, R Claymore, T Clements, A Cooper, S Daniels, S Doyle, R Kingstone, B Price, L Smith, S Smith, M Summers, P Thurgood and J Wade

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Nicola Hesketh (Monitoring Officer), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer)

69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Bailey, P Thompson, J Jones J Oates , R Pritchard and J Wadrup.

70 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor L Wood and seconded by Councillor T Jay)

71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

The Mayor reminded council members of the Tony Christie Charity Concert on Saturday 10th February to raise funds for Dementia Charities in Tamworth.

Also, an invitation has been sent for the Mayors Civic Ball on Friday 8th March to raise funds for the Mayors chosen charities.

The Leader made the following announcement.

Firstly, I would like to update the council that we are moving to an exciting new phase on the future High Street fund delivery. We are due to have some new graphics put on the hoardings in the town centre so that any one passing by can see what I happening or due to happen. And form the old Christophers down to the Pound Bakery demolition is imminent so people will start to see some positive action in the Town Centre.

In the council before Christmas, I announced it was my intention to look to form a coalition with Tamworth Independent Futures Group. Cllr Cook and I have had some very good conversations with a lot of good will and a lot of common ground between us, but we have not been able to reach an agreement. There is no ill will at all, and we will both continue to deliver for Tamworth. No ill will but no agreement reached.

Councillor Tina Clements made the following announcement

I think we all agree it would be remiss if one of us didn't stand up and mention Ben Newman, Ben AKA Spudman the TikTok sensation that he is. As we all know he held an event in the town centre on Saturday and I think those of us that visited the Town centre could certainly see the appeal of Spudman and his band of spud army not just in Tamworth across the world it would seem there were visitors from Malaysia and Dubai and I think we can certainly say that he is a smash hit through all of his TikTok videos. I think we can all agree that the event was a great attraction for Tamworth it wasn't a council initiative, but it certainly bought people into the Town centre. He also set up a go fund me page for kidney research and most of us will know that Ben as had kidney surgery, so I am hoping he as raised quite a bit. The town centre was full the pubs were brimming the traders were selling out. If you walked down market street although they said there was a bit of a que at first it soon moved so that people could get through. The Castle Hotel was fully booked, Christophers fully booked so again it bought a lot of people into the town and behalf of everyone here we would like to wish him all the best in his recovery because we know he's been doing things that he shouldn't be doing, and he needs now to rest and recuperate. And who knows Mr Mayor perhaps you could be the next Tik Tok sensation.

Councillor A Cooper made the following announcement:

I would like to announce that are a few changes in Portfolio in Cabinet, the events are going to be handed over to my colleague Cllr T Clements. that then leaves me to focus on Leisure Strategy for our amazing town. Part of that will be building a strategy ready for the Tamworth of tomorrow to give a nice strategy review to look at needs and requirements for this town and its people so we can deliver a leisure strategy for the people of today and tomorrow. This as to be fit for the town it as to be fit for what is required for the town it as to be affordable, we don't want to fall into the trap of some neighbouring authorities where we overspend and we end up in a bit of sticky situation. We are going to make it affordable and the prime example of this is what already going to be kicking off with the new 3G football pitch in amington it is a fantastic addition to our town, spike in funding as been met by the FA we haven't had to dig into our own pockets. Majority of the funding is coming through the FA we should be seeing external funding coming into our town to give us some great facilities this

will allow us to expand out football reach to allow more teams the ability to come and play at some fantastic facilities in Amington.

Councillor M Summers made the following announcement:

We along with other organisations in Tamworth put in a bid to the County Council for a fund called Covid Outbreak Management Fund all bids submitted to the County Council for that fund have been approved, which is absolutely great news and the total approved is £251,342.00 and some of the projects that Tamworth Borough council will be delivering with the money are

Funding for an empty homes officer to inform the council approach around bringing empty homes back into use. Obviously, we hear rumblings that we have empty properties lying around that we should be utilizing for people who need them and that is funded up to September 2024

Cooking lessons within supported housing for vulnerable tenants

De-humidifiers for private sector housing to assist damp, mould concerns reported

Contribution to expand the current free holiday activities managed by Tamworth Borough Council

Restart of a move on support budget for rough sleepers

Top up funding for the eco flex scheme to ensure vulnerable applicants can be assisted where the grant provided does not quite meet the full cost of home energy upgrade efficiency measures.

So, all the projects listed there must be completed by 30th September 2024. There are others that partners have put in for example Belgrave allotments got a composting toilet and that's some good news as my colleague said bringing external funding into our town is important at times like this to get some good projects on the go and that's just a selection of what we are doing with the money.

73 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 10, Mr Ron Brown, will ask the Portfolio Holder Entertainment and Leisure, Councillor A Cooper, the following question:-

What were the legal and organisational explanations, given at the time, for the expense of the addition of concrete bollards and a padlocked gate at the top of Moor Lane Bolehall?"

Answer:

As the legal landowner the council is within its right to protect the site from any illegal encampments. The Council has had previous experience and cost of the gates being vandalised.

The council have been keen to protect the access to the green open space and this has not been compromised.

Supplementary

Quiet simply what changed since then because despite the Council's obligations under the relevant act of parliament the gate is no longer padlocked and is now left perpetually open to vehicular traffic which wasn't allowed before and which is already been taken advantage of many times in that new open always situation.

Answer

So what has changed the council obviously had a bit of damage to the gate it is an historical issue with some of damage done to the gate and land and so they have decided to act and be proactive and put some protective measures in place to stop that damage happening again.

In terms of the gate being unpadlocked thank you for bringing to our attention and I will ensure I will take that up with street scene and make sure that gate gets secured and I will make a plea to the public that should we have any gates that are unsecure and unpadlocked and they belong or they believe they belong to the council please get in touch use the facilities on line and make the report and will ensure we get someone down to investigate.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 10, Mr Mark Hopkins, will ask the Portfolio Holder Housing and Planning, Councillor S Smith, the following question:-

Are Tamworth council and/or its councillors turning a blind eye to breaches of planning and/or false declarations to obtain planning permission?

Answer:

I am not aware of any instances where council or Councillors have ignored breaches of planning or false declarations.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 3

Under Procedure Rule No 10, Mr Mark Hopkins, will ask the Portfolio Holder Housing and Planning, Councillor S Smith, the following question:

Can anyone now create a road on public land like what seems to have happened on the Warwickshire Moors?

Answer:

The Planning teams as been looking into the issue raised by residents regarding the track and vehicles used on it. Planning officers and the Planning enforcement

officer have conducted several site visits. Currently the landowner as submitted an application to regularize the situation, however, this does not guarantee approval. The Officers will not be able to proceed until they have consulted with various statutory bodies among others and complete the necessary consultations.

Supplementary

Why does it seem that the planning department apply different rules or law to different people.

Answer

I am not aware of that but what I would say just on this issue in general is if you believe there is any unfairness or deviation of the regulations let us know and be as specific as you on the situation.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 4

Under Procedure Rule No 10, Mrs Vicky Dickenson, will ask The Leader of the Council, Councillor T Jay, the following question:

What performance measurements does the Council employ and publish, to ensure that questions asked by Residents, and commitments made by Councillors in their replies, are completed in a timely manner?

Answer:

The answer is there is no set measure for councillor performance, what I will say is that if a councillor hasn't replied to you go back to them in the first instance if they then don't get back to you there are three councillors per ward try another councillor and if you are not getting what you want in here you will see there are several group leaders you can always contact the group Leader.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 5

Under Procedure Rule No 10, Mr Simon Thompson, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, the following question:

What steps can I take to be certain that I can see, online, every single Planning Application, including those determined as "Prior Approved", so that I have as much time as every other person to review them all?

Answer:

All prior approvals can be accessed with the other planning applications via the following weblink:
<https://planning.tamworth.gov.uk/northgate/planningexplorer/generalsearch.aspx>

If you know the application number, you can insert this or go to 'prior approval notification' in the Application type dropdown.

We will forward you the link after the meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor R Pritchard will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor T Jay, the following question:

When care leavers move into independent accommodation, they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. Research has found that care leavers can find this extremely challenging. With no family to support them and little financial education, some care leavers are falling into debt and financial difficulty. A number of local authorities have introduced a council tax exemption or discount for care leavers up to the age of 25.

Will the leader consider introducing a council tax exemption or discount for care leavers up to the age of 25.

Answer:

This has been considered in the past but has not implemented because it is a very sensitive subject for care leavers.

Some prefer to forget about their previous circumstances and start a new life as it were. Many do not share their past with new partners and do not want it highlighting on their Council Tax Invoice.

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) have a representative who can assist care leavers if they request financial support in paying their Council Tax. If so, SCC will make a contribution of up to 100% towards the persons Council Tax, meaning that those who feel they need assistance in this area can get the help that they need without having it identified on their Council Tax Invoice.

This approach is in line with other Staffordshire Local Authorities.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor J Wade will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, Councillor S Smith, the following question:-

In the wake of the Council Increasing leaseholders' insurance by 100 percent, has the time arrived now to stop the monopolisation of leaseholders?

Answer

I don't believe that is the case if we look at the last tow years premium it was lower that years prior to that the new premium will be more aligned with what it was 3, 4 or five years ago.

Supplementary

He says that it is line, how can 100% be in line?

Answer

If you average out what it was 3, 4, 5 years ago it's in line that is the general average of what it is this year. The last two years were almost half of what it was prior to that and what it's going to be for this year. I don't think it's necessarily a huge increase based on historical data.

74 UPDATE TO APPOINTMENT OF CABINET AND ALLOCATION OF CABINET RESPONSIBILITIES

The Leader confirmed the changes to Cabinet

CLLR THOMAS JAY	
Leader of the Council, Finance and Governance	
Portfolio	A.D.
Medium Term Financial Strategy	A.D. Finance
Organisational Development inc HR & Payroll	A.D. People
Corporate Assessments	C.E.O.
WMCA Member	A.D. Growth
Performance	A.D. People
Organisational Financial Sustainability	Executive Management Team
Communication and engagement	A.D. People
Audit & Governance	C.E.O./Section 151 Officer
Procurement	A.D. Finance
Land Charges/Legal/Right To Buy	E.D. Organisation
Customer Services and insight	A.D. People
TIC	A.D. People
Information Mgt/GDPR/Ombudsman	A.D. People

Revenues & Benefits	A.D. Finance
Treasury Management	A.D. Finance
Finance inc revs/bens/C-tax/business rates	A.D. Finance
Corporate Risk Management	A.D. Finance

CLLR SAMUEL SMITH	
Housing and Planning	
Portfolio	A.D.
Disabled Facilities Grants and Disabled Facilities Adaptations	A.D. Assets
Planning: Development Control, Building Control and Conservation	A.D. Growth
Local Plan Development/Implementation	A.D. Growth
HRA Repairs standards /performance	A.D. Assets
HRA Regeneration and Communcal Buildings	A.D. Assets
HRA Business Planning	ED Communities
Tenant Regulation / enforcement	A.D. Neighbourhoods
HRA Community contribution	A.D. Neighbourhoods
Homelessness Prevention	A.D. Neighbourhoods
Private Rental Sector (including private sector enforcement)	A.D. Partnerships
Social Landlord Providers	A.D. Neighbourhoods
HRA Strategy	A.D. Neighbourhoods
Housing and Homelessness Advisory Board	A.D. Neighbourhoods

CLLR JEREMY OATES	
Strategic Projects	
Portfolio	A.D.
Future High Street Fund	AD Growth
Town Centre Regeneration	A.D. Growth

Town Centre Master-planning	A.D. Growth
General Regeneration opportunity	A.D. Growth
Marmion House Future	A.D. Growth
Gungate Regeneration	A.D. Growth

CLLR TINA CLEMENTS	
Engagement, Leisure and Events	
Portfolio	A.D
Entertainment - Assembly Rooms, Castle Operations, Outdoor events, Arts, Culture, Heritage experience, Street Markets	A.D. Environment & Culture/AD Growth for castle & Markets
Member Communications	ED organisation
Public consultation	AD People
Citizens Panel	AD People
Democratic Services inc Member Development	ED organisation
Member Development program	
Memberzone	ED Organisation
Civic Pride	ED organisation
Pride in place -.Community Pride Awards / New Honours Scheme	ED Organisation
Mayoralty	ED Organisation
Armed Forces Covenant	AD Partberships
Community Leisure / Sport	A.D. Environment & Culture
Parks and Play	A.D. Environment & Culture
Sports Development	A.D. Environment & Culture

CLLR PAUL THOMPSON	
Town Centre and Assets	
Portfolio	A.D.
Property Management Investment	A.D. Assets

GF Repairs	A.D. Assets
Commercial Property Portfolio	A.D. Assets
Asset Management	A.D. Assets
Evening economy	AD Growth
Town Centre Relationships	A.D. Growth
Heritage Assets - maintenance, upkeep	A.D. Assets
Town Centre Strategy	A.D. Growth
Tourism / Destination Tamworth	A.D. Growth
Town Centre Car Parks	A.D. Growth
Economic & Business Development	A.D. Growth
Public Toilets	A.D. Assets

CLLR MARTIN SUMMERS	
Environmental Health and Community Partnerships	
Portfolio	A.D.
Partnerships and Voluntary Sector	A.D. Partnerships
Environmental Health (all disciplines)	AD Growth
Community Safety and ASB	A.D. Partnerships, A.D. Neighbourhoods
Safeguarding	A.D. Partnerships
neighbourhood resilience	AD Neighbourhoods
CCTV	AD neighbourhoods
Car parking Enforcement	A.D. Partnerships
Emergency Planning	A.D. Neighbourhoods
Partnership Development	A.D. Partnerships
Litter Enforcement	A.D. Partnerships
Education and Aspiration	Executive Management Team
Business Continuity	AD Assets

CLLR ANDREW COOPER
Waste, Recycling and Environment

Portfolio	A.D.
Street Scene & environmental management	A.D. Environment & Culture
Flower Arrangements (previously Tamworth in Bloom)	A.D. Environment & Culture
Cemeteries	A.D. Environment & Culture
Nature Reserves	A.D. Environment & Culture
HRA Green Spaces and Neighbourhoods	A.D. Environment & Culture
Climate change & Green Agenda Lead	AD Growth
Electric vehicle strategy	AD Growth
Waste Management	C.E.O
Joint Waste Board with LDC.	C.E.O

75 UPDATE TO APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Leader Councillor T Jay updated on the membership of committees following changes to Cabinet members.

Appointments and Staffing Committee.	Infrastructure Safety and Growth Scrutiny,	Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny,	Corporate Scrutiny,	Planning Committee,
Paul Turner	Paul Turner	Daniel Maycock	Daniel Maycock	Marie Bailey
Samuel Smith	John Harper	Stephen Doyle	Marie Bailey	Andrew Cooper
D Cook	Robert Pritchard	Jason Jones	Stephen Doyle	Jeremy Oates
Sarah Daniels	Jason Jones	Marie Bailey	D Cook	John Harper
Carol Dean	B Price	D Cook	B Price	Martin Summers
	R Claymore	R Claymore	R Claymore	P Thurgood
	Ben Clarke	Carol Dean	Lewis Smith	D Cook
	Carol Dean	Chris Bain	Gareth Coates	R Claymore
	Lewis Smith	Sarah Daniels	Chris Bain	Gareth Coates
				Craig Adams
				Lee Wood
				INDEPENDENT
				Jan Wadrup

Licensing Committee	Audit and Governance,	Nominations and Grants	Statutory Officer Conduct Committee,
Tina Clements	Daniel Maycock	Thomas Jay	Robert Pritchard
Paul Turner	Stephen Doyle	Daniel Maycock	Jeremy Oates
Jason Jones	Robert Pritchard	Tina Clements	Paul Thompson
Andrew Cooper	B Price	Carol Dean	Lee Clarke
Paul Thompson	P Thurgood	Chris Bain	Chris Bain
B Price	Sarah Daniels	Richard Kingstone	
P Thurgood	Ben Clarke	J Wade	
J Wade			
Lee Clarke			
Lee Wood			
Gareth Coates			
Richard Kingstone			
Jan Wadrup			

Chief Officer Conduct Committee,
Martin Summers
Paul Turner
Jason Jones
Craig Adams
Lee Clarke

76 STREET TRADING POLICY 2024 - 2026

Councillor R Kingstone and J Wade left the meeting at 18.39pm and did not vote on the Street Trading Policy 2024 -2026

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Community Partnerships to create a street trading environment which ensures fair trading, protects the amenity of residents, ensures the safety of those trading, promotes diversity and consumer choice and provides applicants with advice and guidance on the Council's approach to the administration for street trading consents and licences under Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 ("the Act").

Resolved that Council:

1. Approved the draft Street Trading Policy 2024 – 2026 as set out in Appendix 1;

2. Approved the areas to be considered 'consent' streets suitable for adoption and to advertise the areas for consent once adopted.

(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor B Price)

Council thanked Officers and members for the input in the Policy

The Mayor