



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 16th DECEMBER 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Kingstone (Chair), Councillors M Gant, J Chesworth, M Clarke, S Claymore, T Clements, D Cook, C Cooke, M Couchman, S Doyle, J Faulkner, D Foster, J Goodall, M Greatorex, G Hirons, A James, J Jenkins, A Lunn, T Madge, M McDermid, K Norchi, J Oates, M Oates, S Peple, T Peple, R Pritchard, E Rowe, P Seekings, P Standen and M Thurgood

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), Andrew Barratt (Director - Assets and Environment), Stefan Garner (Director of Finance), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Karen Taylor (Head of Benefits), Ryan Keyte (Senior Legal Officer), Lara Allman (Democratic & Election Services Officer) and Jane Eason (Communications and PR Manager)

### **38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

### **39 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor M Gant and seconded by Councillor S Peple)*

### **40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **41 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **Announcement by the Mayor**

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and I hope that 2015 is a good year for everyone.

We will be losing two members of staff, I wish Lara all the very best. Jane Eason has been a help to many of us in a variety of different ways. I hope she enjoys her new role with the fire service.

A long standing ex Councillor Chippie Lees is unwell and in Sunningdale Nursing Home.

### **Announcement by Councillor D Cook**

I'd like to re-iterate the email that I've already sent. I advised back in August that I would review the Cabinet structure. The structure that was emailed became effective from Wednesday 10 December as per the notice given to the Chief Executive. According to the rules in the constitution, I have also the following champions:

Councillor J Chesworth – Digital Champion  
 Councillor J Goodall – Skills Champion  
 Councillor M Greatorex – Heritage Champion

<b>Leader of the Council</b> <b>Cllr Daniel Cook</b>	<b>Operations and Assets</b> <b>Cllr Rob Pritchard (Deputy leader)</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
<b>Corporate Assessments</b>	<b>Corporate Finance &amp; Procurement</b>
<b>Engagement Overview</b>	<b>Audit &amp; Governance</b>
<b>Financial Planning</b>	<b>Service Transformation</b>
<b>Performance Management</b>	<b>Customer Services, HR and ICT</b>
<b>Member Development</b>	<b>GF/HRA Commercial Property &amp; Asset Management</b>
<b>Strategic Overview</b>	<b>Constitution</b>
<b>Strategic Partnerships</b>	<b>Treasury Management</b>
<b>Budget Consultation</b>	<b>Revenues &amp; Benefits</b>
<b>Participatory Budgeting</b>	<b>Community Health &amp; Safety</b>
<b>Tamworth Listens</b>	<b>Corporate Health and Safety</b>
<b>Reputation</b>	<b>PR and Coms Management (GF &amp; HRA)</b>
<b>Organisational Capacity</b>	<b>Graphics and Publications</b>
<b>Corporate Consultation / Engagement (GF &amp; HRA)</b>	<b>Car Parks</b>
<b>Legal and Democratic Services</b>	<b>Civil Parking Enforcement</b>
<b>Third Sector Engagement</b>	<b>Council Tax and NNDR recovery</b>
<b>Voluntary Sector Engagement and Funding</b>	<b>Leisure Services &amp; Sport</b>
<b>Locality / Integrated Commissioning.</b>	<b>Tourism/ Destination Tamworth</b>
	<b>Outdoor Events</b>
<b>Communities &amp; Public Health</b> <b>Cllr Stephen Doyle</b>	<b>Economy and Education</b> <b>Cllr Steve Claymore</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>

<b>Safer &amp; Stronger Communities</b>	<b>Town Centre Development</b>
<b>Community Safety, ASB Reduction &amp; Crime</b>	<b>Town Centre Economy / Cultural Qtr.</b>
<b>Tackling Fear of Crime</b>	<b>Education / Educational Attainment</b>
<b>Integrated Enforcement / Clean Streets Enforcement</b>	<b>Career Skills and Training</b>
<b>CCTV Management</b>	<b>Business Liaison</b>
<b>Community Development and Locality Working</b>	<b>Business Development</b>
<b>Cemeteries</b>	<b>Development Management</b>
<b>Services for Young People / Youth Council</b>	<b>Building Control</b>
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner Panel</b>	<b>Town Centre Market Development</b>
<b>Nature Reserves, Parks and Play</b>	<b>Local Plan / Regeneration</b>
<b>Street Furniture Maintenance</b>	<b>Southern Staffordshire Partnership (SSP)</b>
<b>Streetscene</b>	<b>LEP Board Member</b>
<b>Licensing</b>	<b>Infrastructure / Transport / LTB</b>
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>Planning</b>
<b>CCG / PCT Engagement</b>	<b>Decent &amp; Affordable Housing Development</b>
<b>Healthier Communities / Lifestyles</b>	<b>Gateways Project</b>
<b>Community Wardens.</b>	<b>Heritage Conservation / Promotion</b>
<b>Safeguarding Children &amp; Vulnerable Adults</b>	<b>Housing Regeneration Projects</b>
<b>Child Protection / Every Child Matters Agenda</b>	
<b>Housing and Waste Management</b>	<b>Champions</b>
<b>Cllr Michelle Thurgood</b>	
<b>Portfolio</b>	
<b>Strategic Waste Management</b>	<b>Cllr John Chesworth - Digital Champion</b>
<b>Refuse Collection</b>	<b>Cllr Joy Goodall - Skills Champion</b>
<b>Recycling Services</b>	<b>Cllr Michael Greatorex - Heritage Champion</b>
<b>Waste Minimisation</b>	
<b>Joint Waste Board with LDC.</b>	
<b>Staffordshire Joint Waste Management Board</b>	
<b>Strategic Housing</b>	
<b>Homelessness Prevention</b>	
<b>Housing Advice</b>	
<b>Landlord Services / Council Housing</b>	
<b>Private Rented Sector Housing</b>	
<b>HRA Neighbourhood Renewal</b>	
<b>Healthier Housing</b>	
<b>Public Sector Garages</b>	
<b>HRA Business Planning</b>	
<b>Tenant Engagement</b>	
<b>Decent Homes Standard</b>	
<b>Tamworth in Bloom Operations</b>	

The Mayor invited the petitioner Carol Dean to present her petition to Council. Carol Dean supported by Councillor Garry Hiron presented to Council the petition entitled "Don't let us lose our Loos", it was agreed that it would be debated at Council on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

## 42 QUESTION TIME:

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.1**  
**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor C Cooke will ask the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education, Councillor S Claymore, the following question:-**

"Could the portfolio holder for redevelopment of the Kerria and Tinkers Green redevelopment please tell me how many tenants have been decanted from the Tinkers Green and Kerria redevelopment scheme so far and the breakdown (as far as is known) as to what housing they have decanted into (that is into council housing, registered social landlord housing, or other type of accommodation)."

**Councillor S Claymore gave the following reply:**

Phase 1 (bungalows at Cottage & Leisure Walk)  
14 affected tenants who were all decanted to Council properties

Phase 2 (Hastings Close)  
33 affected tenants of which 26 have been decanted to other council properties and 7 decanted to Registered Provider properties. All have therefore been provided with a alternative Social Housing.

### **Supplementary Question**

41 people decanted in total, putting a strain on available housing and useable Council stock. Would it have been better done as a phased development to reduce the strain on the housing stock?

**Councillor S Claymore gave the following reply:**

The simple answer is no it wouldn't.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.2**  
**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor C Cooke will ask the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor S People, the following question:-**

"1100 houses are set to be built on the Golf Course and this has been integrated into the New Draft Local Plan – apparently done so well before any decision was due to be taken on closing the Golf Course. Like the Anker Valley site, the Golf Course is even being labelled as a "strategic" housing development site. So, once

it is accepted and established within the Local Plan, it will bind planning councillors and be virtually impossible to change even if Labour do take power in Tamworth next year. How will this affect the Labour Group's declared policy of using the Golf Course land for leisure purposes?"

**Councillor S Peale gave the following reply:**

The policy of the Labour Group remains unchanged. We voted to remove the golf course from the local plan and continue to believe that the housing that might be built there does not serve the needs of the residents of Tamworth but rather the demands of the National House Builders Federation and other powerful interest groups driven by the motive of profit. Given his views on the Amington development, I believe that Councillor Cooke was mistaken in voting for Councillor Daniel Cook to be Leader of the Council in 2013 and 2014.

**Supplementary Question**

Isn't it true that if Labour accepts figures of housing needs in Tamworth then they are accepting the policy.

**Councillor S Peale gave the following reply:**

I appreciate and hope you are enjoying your final year as an independent conservative. The serious point is that you have decided you can't do anything about it and it is fair to say that unless your group grows enormously that will remain so. Labour are looking to take control in May, we have stated our policy aims and we will do it. It is not the case that by accepting the total number of houses to be built we are agreeing to the allocation for them. I understand the process of the Local Plan – You do not therefore I urge you to recognise we are working within the national framework. I will speak at the enquiry to say it is wrong and it is not where it should be, plan is driven by the NHBF. Can't stop the framework, there you have it. I wish you well in your future retirement.

**43 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2015/16**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets to advise Members of the results and feedback from the recently undertaken consultation on the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 2015/16 and that the Scheme for working age customers for 2015/16 should include an uprating to Applicable Amounts was considered.

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

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

A motion was made to make the following amendments:

- a) That recommendation 4 be deleted and replaced with a new recommendation 4 with the inclusion of child maintenance.

*(Moved by Councillor M Couchman and seconded by Councillor S Peaple)*

This motion was not carried.

**44 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2014/15**

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets presenting to Members the Mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That  
Council endorsed the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy.

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

**45 TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL REVISED STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2015-2020 (LICENSING ACT 2003)**

The Report of the Portfolio Holder Environment and Waste Management seeking consideration of the Revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2015-2020 and refer to Council for adoption on 16 December 2014 was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That the policy be adopted.

*(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor A Lunn)*

**46 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT**

The Report of the Solicitor & Monitoring Officer seeking to inform Members of the outcome of the visit from the Office of Surveillance Commissioner on 6th October 2014 and to advise Members of the proposed changes to the RIPA policy was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That

1. the outcomes arising from the visit of the Office of Surveillance Commissioner be endorsed and;
2. the changes to the RIPA Policy be approved.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Peaple)*

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The Mayor