



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 Peale, T Peale, 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 26th November 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor M Gant and seconded by Councillor S Peale)

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

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

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

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

The Mayor

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