



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL  
HELD ON 7th MARCH 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Oates (Chair), Councillors T Clements, L Bates, B Beale, S Claymore, R Cook, C Cooke, J Faulkner, J Garner, M Greatorex, A James, A Lunn, R McDermid, K Norchi, M Oates, S Peale, R Pritchard, E Rowe, P Seekings and M Thurgood  
County Councillor B Adams

The following officers were present: John Wheatley (Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director (Resources)), Mary Gallagher (Legal and Democratic Services Manager) and Lara Allman (Democratic & Election Services Officer)

**68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Cook, S Doyle, K Gant, M Gant, A Lees, N Oates, G Pinner and S Pritchard and A Goodwin (Chief Executive).

**69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**70 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor K Norchi apologised to everyone for his stupidity that has been reported in the Tamworth Herald. He is not proud of what he has done, he made a stupid mistake and feels he should have known better. He wants to be honest and truthful with everyone and is not a man to keep secrets. He was given good advice why he shouldn't speak to the Herald and good advice why he should but felt he wanted others to be aware of the scam. He asked people to go and speak to him regarding this issue rather than talking about it to others and apologised unreservedly to each and everyone.

Council R Pritchard presented to each member a London 2012 badge. These are extremely limited availability. These badges come with a responsibility to act as an ambassador for the games generally and specifically to promote Tamworth's leg of the Torch Relay on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

He advised that we have 200 badges in total which will go to staff involved in organising and delivering the event, to local people involved in delivering the torch relay event and local organisations involved in organising and delivering the event.

They are not for resale purposes.

Members and staff were advised to wear them with pride and when asked "what's that badge" tell everyone to come to Tamworth on June 30<sup>th</sup> and be part of history.

**71 "VENTURA RETAIL PARK TRAFFIC AND TAMWORTH'S FUTURE RETAIL OFFER"**

The County Councillors for the borough were invited to take part in the debate but had no voting rights.

It was moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor R Cook that Procedure Rules 14.4 and 14.5 be suspended during this item.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Enterprise gave an introduction to all Members of the Council. There then followed a full debate on the Ventura Retail Park Traffic and Tamworth Future Retail Offer.

Following the debate it was:

<b>RESOLVED:</b>		<b>That:</b>
	1	The Assembly Rooms regeneration proposals be endorse;
	2	Staffordshire County Council be praised on their efforts to tackle the traffic at Ventura, and reaffirm it's drive for a second exit by Argos and right turn at Fazeley Road/River Drive Junction;
	3	The Council to work with local letting agents to list, and help market, vacant town centre shops to the widest possible audience;
	4	Our commitment to free town centre events be reaffirmed, and;
	5	Our commitment to the future Gungate development be reaffirmed
<i>(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)</i>		

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The Mayor