



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11th JULY 2012

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

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Andrew Barratt (Director - Assets and Environment) and Lara Allman (Democratic & Election Services Officer)

23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Bates, B Beale, D Foster and S People.

24 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor J Faulkner)

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

None

27 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor C Cooke will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing, the following question:-

"I understand 500 of Tamworth Council's 2300 or so garage properties are to be handed over to Registered Social Landlords to be redeveloped for housing. Looking at the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment this figure could be a lot higher. Meanwhile there are 275 people on the Council's garage waiting list. 10%, or 54, of those earmarked for redevelopment are in Chapelon, in Glascote, where on-street parking is already a problem for some residents. Can the portfolio holder advise me of any measures that will be taken to ensure and manage adequate on-street parking in areas that are to lose a sizeable amount of their garage allocations?"

The Portfolio Holder for Housing gave the following reply:

I would like to thank Councillor Cooke for his question. The Council is currently taking forward the disposal of 26 Council owned garage sites for the purpose of developing affordable housing. This activity is consistent with previous Cabinet decisions to disinvest in garage sites that are uneconomical to maintain and utilise these for re-development purposes where this is a practical option.

The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is a snapshot of land which is known to be, or has the potential to be, made available for housing development in Tamworth Borough for the next 15 years based on the information currently available. It identifies sites which have the potential to accommodate housing, estimates their future potential capacity and assesses the status of sites already allocated for housing in the adopted Tamworth Local Plan, as well as sites which have planning permission for housing.

Whilst other garage sites identified in the SHLAA have the potential to be developed for housing, these have currently been identified for retention for continued use as garage units.

Of the 26 sites earmarked for disinvestment and re-development, the first 10 sites located in the Leyfields and Coton Green areas of Tamworth were included in Tranche 1 of the project and have taken some 18 months to progress to a point where planning applications can be submitted hopefully late summer of this year.

With specific reference to the sites in Chapelon, they are included within Tranche 2 and 3 sites. Work on these sites is about to commence and a detailed programme of site evaluation, feasibility assessments and consultation will again be required to determine which of the remaining 16 sites will go forward for re-development. This process will adopt a similar approach as applied to the 10 Tranche 1 sites and should again take approximately 18 months to complete.

With regard to the Tranche 1 sites, parking issues around the proposed developments have been highlighted as a major concern by residents. The production of a Parking Strategy that highlighted key issues and proposed solutions provided a means by which to address those issues. All garage tenants were offered a priority move to an alternative site. In addition, vulnerable tenants were identified and officers visited each of these to seek to resolve any particular

issues that had arisen. Should the sites at Chapelon be taken forward for development of new affordable housing over the next 18 months, a similar course of action and programme of consultation with residents will be undertaken to deal with issues that arise, including those of parking.

Supplementary Question

"I'm not sure that reply answered the question but, as in so many areas of Tamworth's housing programmes, these garage redevelopments will mean more households and even less facilities for those households. So can you assure me that Tamworth Council will not give away more of the town's public assets, as these garages are, without adequate identification of alternative suitable facilities for Tamworth residents?"

The Portfolio Holder for Housing gave the following reply:

I give you the assurance that due regard will be given.

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

"Nearly £1/2 million pounds has been allocated in Tamworth Council's budget for a £2 million pound plus refurbishment and extension plan for Tamworth's Assembly Rooms. If the grants required to make up the £2 million do not materialise can the leader of the Council advise me as to what will happen to this budget allocation?"

The Leader of the Council gave the following reply:

The Council has identified £400,00k as a match funding pot to support the re-development of the Assembly Rooms alongside its wider ambitions to create a Cultural Quarter featuring the Library and Carnegie Centre. This ambition was supported at the Council's Budget meeting on the 28 February with a resolution so I'm pleased to announce that the Council has been successful in a round one pass for our Heritage Lottery Bid which will see £80,000 funding from the HLF go towards more detailed feasibility works to support a round two bid. The Council can draw down £40,000 of its £400,00k pot to match the grant funding from the HLF and support the feasibility work. As the project progresses, further clarity will be available on the exact costs and funding sources available to meet the costs and this will be reported back to Cabinet. This is the same approach, almost exactly, as was taken for the successful Castle Heritage Lottery bid.

The Assembly Rooms project can be divided into two elements one of which requires funding from the HLF and would focus on the conservation works required to sustain the existing building and to bring back some of the original features. It would also support some refitting of the Assembly Rooms. Alongside this element of the work the Council is seeking capital funding from the Arts

Council to support the extension of the Assembly Rooms to provide additional facilities which will support additional income generation.

Should the external bids fail then the capital receipt will return to balances minus the money committed to developing the bids at this stage £40,000.

Please keep in mind that the Council analyses and re-commits its capital budgets on a yearly cycle.

There was no supplementary question.

28 PETITION

Ms Mirza presented her Cemetery Access Petition to Council.

RESOLVED: That the Council accepted the Cemetery Access Petition and referred the issue of locking all cemetery gates at night to Cabinet who will then report back to Council.

(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

29 IMPLEMENTATION OF DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste Management seeking approval for the formal adoption of four Dog Control Orders was considered.

RESOLVED: That the formal adoption of the Dog Control Orders with effect from 1 August 2012 be approved.

(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor R McDermid)

30 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND CODE OF CONDUCT AND APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

The Report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer regarding the proposed changes to the Constitution and Code of Conduct and Appointment of Independent Persons was considered.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1 The amendments to the Constitution be approved, and;
- 2 An Independent Member be appointed on to the Nominations Committee, and;
- 3 The wording of the sanctions relating to failure of a member to comply with the Code of Conduct be approved, and;
- 4 The transitional arrangements for the appointment of Independent Person(s) in terms of the Localism Act 2011 be approved, and;

5 One Independent Member be appointed for 4 years
(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

A motion was made to make the following amendments:

- a) iv) question members of the executive and committees and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area and receive a reply/progress statement from the responsible body or member within 3 calendar months, relating to any recommendations accepted by full Council or Cabinet which have been referred from the scrutiny process;

be replaced by

iv) question members of the executive and committees and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area and receive a reply/progress statement from the responsible body or member within 6 working weeks, relating to any recommendations accepted by full Council or Cabinet which have been referred from the scrutiny process;

- b) point 17j.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Rules restricting the number of call ins per year, be deleted

(Moved by Councillor M Couchman and seconded by Councillor J Faulkner)

This was not carried.

The Mayor

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