



Cannock Chase Council

Council Meeting

Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 6:00pm

Meeting to be Held in the Ballroom, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock

Part 1

Notice is hereby given of the above-mentioned meeting of the Council, which you are summoned to attend for the purpose of transacting the business set out below:

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**

To declare any interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
Members should refer to the guidance included as part of this agenda.
- 3. Local Government Association (LGA) Support to Members**

Councillor Mike Wilcox, LGA Lead Peer for the West Midlands, will be in attendance to provide a short briefing on support available to Members from the LGA.
- 4. Minutes**

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 September 2021, Minute Nos. 31 – 40; Page Nos. 21 – 28.
- 5. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence**

To receive any announcements and correspondence from the Chairman of the Council.

6. The Leader's Announcements and Correspondence

To receive any announcements and correspondence from the Leader of the Council.

7. Changes to Membership of Outside Bodies 2021/22

To consider a request from Councillor Mrs. O. Lyons, Leader of the Conservative Group, to change the Council's appointee on the Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall Committee from Councillor P.M. Hewitt to Councillor M.S. Buttery.

8. Questions Received under Council Procedure Rule 8

(i) The following question has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8 by Councillor J.A.A. Newbury, Environment & Climate Change Shadow Portfolio Leader:

"Can the Portfolio Holder give an update on the progress made on the review, and subsequent report to Cabinet, which featured in a motion submitted by Councillor Newbury and passed unanimously by full council on 25th November 2020? The review concerns the information this Council collects on the gender of residents, tenants and staff as well as the practical implications of allowing for self-identification."

9. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

(i) Council is requested to consider the following recommendation from the Planning Control Committee made at its meeting held on 22 September 2021, in respect of:

Public Speaking on Planning Applications, Tree Preservation Orders and Enforcement Cases (Planning Control Committee 22/08/21, Minute No. 48.)

"That Council be recommended to amend the Local Protocol for Planning Decision Making which forms part of the Constitution, so that the time allowed for speakers to address the Planning Control Committee on planning applications, TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) and enforcement cases be reduced from 10 minutes to 5 minutes."

A copy of the accompanying report for the above recommendation can viewed on the [22 September Planning Control Committee](#) meeting page on the Council's website.

10. Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6

(i) To consider the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor P.T. Witton, Member for Cannock South Ward:

Universal Credit Cut

"This Council is opposed to the Tory cut of £20 a week in Universal Credit.

The chancellor has said that the temporary increase in benefit, made to help the poorest families cope with the affects of the pandemic, will end this year, leaving claimants receiving £1,040 less a year.

The hardest hit regions are those in which more than a third of working-age families with children will be affected. In total, there are 191 Tory seats including 53 won in 2019 or at subsequent by-elections.

This is another example of the Tories pulling the rug from under the most vulnerable in society, and it couldn't have come at a worse time.

We already have unacceptable levels of poverty due to the roll out of UC. But this cruel cut by the Tories will undoubtedly create further inequality and poverty, in which is supposed to be one of the richest countries in the world.

I move that our Managing Director writes to the Secretary of State and our local MP calling for the cut of £20 a week to be reversed, in line with the Prime Ministers levelling up statement that 'austerity is dead and gone'."

The above motion is my own, but the figures were provided by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

11. Comments and Questions on Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

To receive any comments or questions submitted under Rule 9 on Part 1 Minutes of meetings of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees or Panels as included in the Minutes Record circulated alongside this agenda.



**T. Clegg
Chief Executive**

12 October 2021

Guidance on Declaring Personal, Pecuniary, and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests at Meetings

Definition of what is a Personal, Pecuniary and Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

A Personal Interest is one where your well-being or financial position, or those of a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association would be affected to a greater extent than the majority of Council Tax payers, ratepayers, or inhabitants of the electoral ward(s) affected by the decision. You automatically have a personal interest if you have given notice in the Register of Members' Interests, e.g. if you are appointed to an outside body by the Council.

A Pecuniary Interest is a personal interest where the matter

- a) affects your financial position or that of a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association or a body in which you have registered in the Register of Members Interests or
- b) relates to the determining of any consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person with whom you have a close association or a body in which you have registered in the Register of Members Interests

and, in either case, where a member of the public knowing the facts would reasonably regard the interest as so significant it is likely to affect your judgement of the public interest

A Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is an interest of yourself or your partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners) in respect of employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried out for profit or gain; sponsorship; contracts; land; licences; corporate tenancies; or securities, as defined with the Localism Act, 2011.

Please make it clear whether it is a Personal, Pecuniary or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

It would be helpful if, prior to the commencement of the meeting, Members informed the Monitoring Officer of any declarations of interest, of which you are aware. This will help in the recording of the declarations in the Minutes of the meeting.

Declaring Interests at Full Council

The Code of Conduct requires that personal interests where you have a personal interest in any business of the Council, and where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest, and you attend a meeting of the Council at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

Some items will be mentioned in the papers for full Council but are not actually being considered by Full Council. In such circumstances the Monitoring Officer's advice to Members is that there is no need to declare an interest unless the particular matter is mentioned or discussed. As a general rule, Members only need to declare an interest at full Council in the following circumstances:

- Where a matter is before the Council for a decision and/or
- Where the matter in which the Member has an interest is specifically mentioned or discussed at the Council meeting.

Cannock Chase Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
Held in the Ballroom, Civic Centre, Cannock
On Wednesday 8 September 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Part 1

Present: Councillors:

Smith, C.D. (Chairman)

Buttery, M.S. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Jones, Mrs. V.
Allen, F.W.C.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Arduino, L.	Kruskonjic, P.
Beach, A.	Lyons, N.
Boucker, A.S.	Lyons, Mrs. O. (Leader)
Cartwright, Mrs.S.M.	McCall, M.
Crabtree, S.K.	McMahon, J.B.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Molineux, G.N.
Dunnett, Ms. A.J.	Muckley, A.M.
Fisher, P.A.	Newbury, J.A.A.
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Frew, C.L.	Startin, P.D.
Haden, Mrs. P.K.	Sutherland, M.
Hewitt, P.M.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Hoare, M.W.A.	Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
Hughes, R.J.	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.
Johnson, J.P.	Wilson, Mrs. L.J.
Johnson, T.B.	Witton, P.T.
Jones, B.	Woodhead, P.E.
Jones, P.G.C.	

31. Apologies

None received.

32. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

33. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2021 be approved.

34. Presentation of Certificates to Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen

The Chairman reminded Members that at the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 19 May 2021, Council approved that the title of Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman be awarded to four nominated former councillors. The title was in recognition of eminent service rendered to the Council, as a past Member, for at least three terms in office (12 years).

As an Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman of a principal council, a person may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide to host. Unfortunately, over the past 18 months the Council has not been able to host any such ceremonies due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Chairman hoped however to be able to recommence civic events in the coming months.

An invitation was extended to each nominated former councillor to attend today's meeting to collect their awards, and the Chairman was pleased to announce that the following individuals were present:

- Gordon Alcott
- Patricia Ansell
- Zaphne Stretton
- Diane Todd

This was a prestigious award given not only in relation to length of service, but also dedication to the position of ward councillor, and the Chairman considered that each former councillor present was worthy of such an award, having been outstanding councillors and a credit to this Council. The Chairman then invited each former councillor to come forward to collect their awards and asked that all Members join in congratulating them.

35. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

None.

36. Leader's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Covid-19 Update

The Leader advised there had been a concerning increase in confirmed cases across Cannock Chase, with a current average rate of 464.1 cases per 100,000 population. For perspective, the rate in the District was currently the highest in Staffordshire and was above the average rate of both the West Midlands and England as a whole. Most cases were amongst the 11-17 age group.

Despite the increase in cases, there was a lower number of people coming forward for Covid tests. It was therefore more important than ever for residents across the District to undertake regular, free lateral flow tests and register for PCR tests if they felt they may be experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19.

(ii) '999' Day

The Leader advised that Thursday 9 September marked national Emergency Services, or '999' Day. Each and every day, NHS heroes and emergency services workers worked selflessly to serve the nation, this being more evident than ever during the pandemic.

The day was an opportunity for Councillors, and the Council as an organisation, to celebrate the 2 million heroes who worked and volunteered across the NHS and emergency services – including Police, Fire and Rescue, Maritime, and Search and Rescue.

To show our gratitude and to mark the national day, the Council would be raising the official Emergency Services Day flag above the Civic Centre at 9am on Thursday morning.

The Council would also join a two-minute silence to remember and honour the 7,500 members of the UK Emergency Services killed in the line and duty and whilst serving the nation over the past 200 years.

(iii) NATO Decision to Withdraw Troops from Afghanistan

The Leader noted that everyone had seen the harrowing scenes unfold as Afghanistan had fallen back under Taliban Rule.

Afghan locally employed staff who had worked for the United Kingdom for the past 20 years and had put their own lives at risk to support and work alongside our Armed Forces had had to flee the Country and seek safety.

As a Council, our duty to those who had worked alongside our Armed Forces would be fulfilled by supporting and helping to resettle some of those most in need.

(iv) Letter to Professor David Loughton, Chief Executive of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, and Marcus Warnes, CEO of the Local CCGs

The Leader advised that along with Councillor Mrs. V. Jones, Community Engagement, Health & Wellbeing Portfolio Leader, a joint letter had been sent to Professor David Loughton, Chief Executive of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, to lobby for the reopening of the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Cannock Hospital, post pandemic. The hospital served our community well and local provision was greatly lacking with the current closure.

Professor Loughton responded to confirm that discussions with the Southwest Staffordshire Commissioners were ongoing, and an announcement was expected in August.

The Portfolio Leader had since followed up with our local Clinical Commissioning Group as no announcement had been forthcoming. Council would be updated once a response had been received.

(v) Disappearance of Kim Castro

The Leader advised her last announcement was a 'thank you' from, and on behalf of, the family of Kim Castro and her sister, Claire Drury.

Following Kim's disappearance on 9 July, the family were overwhelmed by the warmth and support received from the local community. Hundreds of residents joined the search across Norton Canes, Great Wyrley, and Pelsall. As a result of the local

community's extensive search efforts, Kim was thankfully found alive by a member of the public along Gains Lane, Norton Canes.

(vi) Congratulations to Cllr. P.D. Startin

The Leader congratulated Councillor Startin and his partner on the recent birth of their baby boy.

37. Changes to Membership of Committees etc. 2021/22

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor O. Lyons, notified of a change in membership of the Licensing and Public Protection Committee for approval by Council.

Resolved:

That the appointment of Councillor Kruskonjic to the Licensing and Public Protection Committee in place of Councillor McCall be approved.

38. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

- (i)** Consideration was given to the following recommendations to Council, made by Cabinet at its meeting held on 8 July 2021 in respect of:

Enabling Paperless / Digital Meetings and Revised Start Times for Calendar of Meetings 2021/22 (Minute No. 18):

“That the following be recommended to Council at its meeting to be held on 8 September 2021:

- (A) All Members be provided with a Council laptop or tablet device during the current municipal year, and that in future, new equipment be provided upon election or re-election as a councillor.
- (B) Subject to recommendation (A) being agreed, Members will cease to be entitled to receive a communications allowance.
- (C) An assessment be made of the ongoing costs and practicalities of live streaming meetings and reported back to Members for further consideration.
- (D) The start times of Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees, Audit & Governance Committee and Standards Committee meetings, as detailed in the Calendar of Meetings 2021-22 approved by Council on 21 April 2021, be amended to 6:00p.m. with effect from the September / October cycle of meetings. Further, that the Chairs of these meetings be authorised, in consultation with the Joint Chief Executive, to start a meeting earlier where it is necessary to invite external representatives to attend the meeting.
- (E) The Chairmen, officers, and regular attendees at other Committees, such as Planning Control Committee and the Licensing & Public Protection Committee, be consulted on whether it is practicable to change the start times of these meetings.
- (F) The Joint Chief Executive, as appropriate, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, relevant Chairmen of Committees and / or Leader of the Council, as appropriate, be authorised to amend the Calendar of Meetings, through convening additional meetings, or the postponement / cancellation of meetings, if required.”

Councillor J.A.A. Newbury, Environment and Climate Change Shadow Portfolio Leader, moved the following Amendment to the Recommendation (A), which was duly seconded:

"All Members be **offered** a council laptop or tablet device during the current municipal year, and that in future, new equipment be **offered** upon election or re-election as a councillor. **Members who wish to use their own devices in place of a Council device will be supported by the IT department to do so.**"

A vote was then taken on the Amendment, which was not carried.

A vote was then taken on the Recommendations as presented:

Resolved:

That:

- (A) All Members be provided with a Council laptop or tablet device during the current municipal year, and that in future, new equipment be provided upon election or re-election as a councillor.
 - (B) Subject to recommendation (A) being agreed, Members will cease to be entitled to receive a communications allowance.
 - (C) An assessment be made of the ongoing costs and practicalities of live streaming meetings and reported back to Members for further consideration.
 - (D) The start times of Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees, Audit & Governance Committee and Standards Committee meetings, as detailed in the Calendar of Meetings 2021-22 approved by Council on 21 April 2021, be amended to 6:00p.m. with effect from the September / October cycle of meetings. Further, that the Chairs of these meetings be authorised, in consultation with the Joint Chief Executive, to start a meeting earlier where it is necessary to invite external representatives to attend the meeting.
 - (E) The Chairmen, officers, and regular attendees at other Committees, such as Planning Control Committee and the Licensing & Public Protection Committee, be consulted on whether it is practicable to change the start times of these meetings.
 - (F) The Joint Chief Executive, as appropriate, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, relevant Chairmen of Committees and / or Leader of the Council, as appropriate, be authorised to amend the Calendar of Meetings, through convening additional meetings, or the postponement / cancellation of meetings, if required.
- (ii) Consideration was given to the following recommendations to Council, made by the Standards Committee at its meeting held on 12 July 2021 in respect of:

LGA Model Code of Conduct (Minute No. 4)

"That Council, at its meeting to be held on September 2021, be recommended to adopt the Local Government Association's Model Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report."

Resolved:

That the Local Government Association's Model Code of Conduct, as set out in Appendix 1 of the 12 July 2021 Standards Committee report, be adopted.

39. **Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6**

Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor P.E. Woodhead, Leader of the Chase Community Independents and Green Group:

“At the recent General Assembly of the Local Government Association delegates of all political parties and none from Councils across the Country unanimously supported the following motion at the Annual Conference:

Proposes that:

In light of

- The significant and far-reaching steps that councils across the United Kingdom are taking to combat climate change, cut carbon emissions and protect our environment; including such measures as:
 - o Declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency, action now taken by nearly three-quarters of all local councils;
 - o Announcing extensive commitments often with detailed action plans to reach net-zero carbon by 2030, surpassing the vague government commitments of 2035;
 - o Implementing broad community level action on climate change, such as climate assemblies, green bonds, warmer homes schemes, sourcing electricity demand from renewables, and developing new parks, open spaces, and active travel measures.
- The significance of the ‘Conference of the Parties,’ (COP26) UN Conference on Climate Change taking place this year in Glasgow, hosted by the UK; and its aims to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The response of local councils to the issue of sustainable food, given that food systems account for 1/3 of total greenhouse gas emissions, environmental degradation, food waste and socio-economic and health inequalities; in particular the efforts of councils during the Covid-19 crisis in providing food to local communities, as well as supporting community food growing and assisting food banks.

The Association therefore agrees to:

- Call on national government to ensure the adequate representation of local government at COP26, in order to promote the significant contribution, leadership and efforts of local councils in reducing toxic carbon emissions across the UK, and to champion the innovative and rapid progress being made at a local level to tackle climate change.
- Encourage councils to continue their work to address climate change by:
 - promoting further signatories to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration^[1]. This Declaration confirms the commitment of local and regional authorities to develop sustainable food policy, and calls on national government to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency at COP26

- promoting greater participation from local councils to the UK100^[2]: the network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and switch to clean energy as soon as possible.

^[1] <https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org/>

^[2] <https://www.uk100.org/>

Cannock Chase Council fully endorses the commitment and call from the Local Government Association to addressing the Climate Emergency and undertakes to:

- Accelerate our own plans, initiatives, and commitments from our own declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019.
- Write to our Member of Parliament and relevant Secretary of State to highlight and importance of the efforts of this Council and others across the Country in leading and addressing the actions needed to prevent catastrophic Climate Change and biodiversity collapse.
- To advance membership of this Council to the UK100 and sign up to the Glasgow Declaration.”

The Leader of the Council moved the following amendment to the Motion, which was duly seconded:

“Cannock Chase Council acknowledges the motion agreed by the Local Government Association in respect of local government contributions to national climate action in light of COP26 and undertakes to:

- a) Consider the costed 10-year action plan as soon as available, undertake cross-party analysis to agree and prioritise the most efficient and impactful path forward for the Council;
- b) Once agreed, write to our local Member of Parliament and the relevant Secretary of State to outline the agreed action plan, and highlight the importance of the work undertaken by local Councils in addressing Climate Change; and
- c) Look at the Climate Change and Environment Declarations (including UK100 and the Glasgow Declaration) that local Councils can sign up to, in light our tailored action plan once received, and determine what best suits the ambitions of our own Council and best serves the needs of Cannock Chase residents.”

A vote was then taken on the Amendment, which was approved.

A vote was then taken on the Motion as amended.

Resolved:

That:

“Cannock Chase Council acknowledges the motion agreed by the Local Government Association in respect of local government contributions to national climate action in light of COP26 and undertakes to:

- a) Consider the costed 10-year action plan as soon as available, undertake cross-party analysis to agree and prioritise the most efficient and impactful path forward for the Council;
- b) Once agreed, write to our local Member of Parliament and the relevant Secretary of State to outline the agreed action plan, and highlight the importance of the work undertaken by local Councils in addressing Climate Change; and

- c) Look at the Climate Change and Environment Declarations (including UK100 and the Glasgow Declaration) that local Councils can sign up to, in light our tailored action plan once received, and determine what best suits the ambitions of our own Council and best serves the needs of Cannock Chase residents.”

40. Comments and Questions on Part 1 and Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

None received.

The meeting closed at 7:32 p.m.

CHAIRMAN