

Councillor A T A Godfrey (Mayor)

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

L Bakker-Collier	M E Jennings
C A Baron	E G R Jones
J A Baron	P W Jones
R J Barron	W J Kemp
F Beatty	S Learoyd
G R Collier	S P Leighton
R P Cooke	A M Loughran
I E Davies	L Nixon
M G Dodson	A J Perkins
R J Draper	J M Pert
A P Edgeller	D B Price
P M M Farrington	J K Price
F A Finlay	G O Rowlands
M R Goodall	R M Smith
A S Harp	R M Sutherland
R A James	C V Trowbridge
V E M Jenkinson	K S Williamson

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	- Chief Executive
Mr A Welch	- Head of Law and Administration
Mr W Conaghan	- Press and Communication Manager
Mr A Bailey	- Scrutiny Officer
Mr J Beacham	- Corporate Administrative Assistant

C47 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018 as published in Digest No 240 of 2 March 2018, were submitted and signed.

C48 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B M Cross, J W Farnham, J Hood, P Roycroft and W S J Taylor.

C49 **The Late Former Councillor and Mayor Hugh Lowry**

All stood in silence for one minute in respect for the late former Councillor and Mayor Hugh Lowry.

C50 **Announcements**

The Mayor thanked those who were supporting the Mayor's Dinner that was due to be held on Wednesday 2 May 2018 in the Collegiate Church of St Mary in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal 2017/18, which was sold out.

The Mayor then invited all Members and Officers of the Council to join him for drinks following the Meeting.

C51 **Councillor Session**

Councillor R J Draper submitted the following question in accordance with Paragraph 12.3(a) of the Council Procedure Rules:-

Cabinet Member for Environment and Health

"In November 2017 I asked the Cabinet Member, during the Fees and Charges Review, why residents would be charged £10 or £40 for replacement bins when it is not their fault their bin has been lost, damaged or stolen. In his reply the member said that the Council lost £200,000 annually because of lost, damaged or stolen bins. He also said that it was the personal responsibility of homeowners and didn't think it was "unreasonable for them to make that contribution".

Replying to this answer I then asked about whether the Council would lead a campaign to inform local ratepayers of this issue, as the Council had done with litter, and he said that with the new contractor incoming they would look at reducing the cost involved.

Will the Cabinet Member:

1. Provide an update on the performance of Veolia and the status of lost, damaged, replacement bins to date?
2. Develop a strategy to prevent the authority from losing £200,000 per annum?
3. Lead a campaign to inform local residents about this issue and the pressures it puts on the Council?"

Members of the Council considered the item as provided for in Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules.

The Cabinet Member - Environment and Health provided the following response as provided for in Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules:-

“I would like to thank Councillor Draper for his question which has given me the opportunity to clarify the position with regard to the cost of providing and replacing bins to our residents.

I will answer the questions in order as set out in his question to me.

- 1 He asks about the performance of Veolia and the status of lost, damaged and replacement bins to date. I think we have to recognise that the new contractor became operative in the first week of February of this year and I am sure he will appreciate it is early days to try and make an assessment of performance in this particular aspect of the service. I'm very confident from what I have seen so far that our new contractor will continue to provide an excellent standard of service and I am sure they are keen to innovate and maintain the high quality of operation to our residents.
- 2 With regard to the authority having a strategy to mitigate the cost of bin replacement and provision I would like to clarify the position between the provision of bins to new properties as distinct from the replacement of lost or damaged bins.

The following breakdown of costs over the past three years shows a consistent pattern and is determined to some extent by the successful rate of new homes being built in the borough.

The cost for replacement bins was £88,006 in 2016/17. A further £74,670 was for bins for new properties. And there was also around £12,410 for Euro bins which are communal bins. Therefore the actual figure was just over £175,000.

In total less than 2% of the 175,000 bins in circulation are replaced through loss or damaged annually – against a comparison of around 5% from other authorities.

And it must also be borne in mind that the initial provision of green bins took place around 1990 and despite the age of the bins, many of which are coming to the end of their useful life, this figure is surprisingly low.

This demonstrates that the strategy we have in place in encouraging our residents to look after the bins – for example marking their bin with their own house number – is working.

- 3 I have to say at this particular point that the campaigns that we have run over a few years now on recycling have been very well received by our residents and this is evidenced by the cooperation we have had in reducing contamination of dry recycling materials to around 1% from a

starting point of around 4%. This demonstrates very clearly how well informed our residents are and how keen they are to cooperate with us in our efforts to improve the quality of recycling and thereby reducing the cost to the council.

We continue to liaise with our residents through our various initiatives through the contact centre where good advice is given to residents with queries, information of the website, and other promotional literature."

Members of the Council considered the item as provided for in Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules, during which the Cabinet Member - Environment and Health answered a number of questions in relation to the clarification of items that could be recycled and missing caddies.

C52 **Notice of Motion**

Councillors R J Draper and G O Rowlands had given the following Notice of Motion in pursuant of Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules:-

Member Development Charter

"The environment in which we work is ever changing and if we're to continue to meet our residents' expectations we've got to keep pace with it. That means recognising that the role of the councillor is different to what it was five, 10 or even 20 years ago. The Member Development Charter and Charter Plus has provided councils with a robust framework and has encouraged member development across the sector. The Member Development Charter and Charter Plus supports this continuing professional development for councillors by being a contract between the council and its councillors that commits to invest in councillors' growth and development."

- Lord Gary Porter, Local Government Association (LGA) Chairman

Stafford Borough Council resolves to:

1. Support the LGA Member Development Charter.
2. Establish a cross party councillor development task group to:
 - a. Develop a councillor development strategy
 - b. Ensure political and managerial leadership committed to the development of councillors
 - c. Ensure equal access to learning and development
 - d. Review the designated budget for councillor development to ensure it is adequate to meet priority development needs.

The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor R J Draper and Seconded by Councillor G O Rowlands.

Councillor K S Williamson responded to the Notice of Motion as provided for in Paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules, during which he proposed the following amendment:-

“Delete the whole motion and substitute:

The Council resolves to establish a cross-party working group of 5 members (3 Conservative, 1 Labour and 1 Independent) to consider and make recommendations on a member development strategy taking into account the principles of the LGA Member Development Charter. Nominations for the working group are to be received at the Council Meeting on 21 May 2018 when appointments are made for next year.”

The amendment was both accepted and seconded by the proposer of the motion.

On being put to the vote the amended Notice of Motion was carried.

RESOLVED:- that this Council establishes a cross-party working group of 5 members (3 Conservative, 1 Labour and 1 Independent) to consider and make recommendations on a member development strategy taking into account the principles of the LGA Member Development Charter. Nominations for the working group are to be received at the Council Meeting on 21 May 2018 when appointments are made for next year

C53 Plan for Stafford Borough Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents

Considered the report of the Head of Development (V5 16/4/18).

The Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio introduced the report and concluded her comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor J M Pert.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that (a) The following Supplementary Planning Documents be adopted:-

- Design
- Shopfronts and Advertisements

(b) The responses to the consultation as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

C54 Draft Asset Management Plan 2018 - 2021

Considered the report of the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager (V1 12/4/18).

The Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor P M M Farrington.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the Draft Asset Management Plan 2018 - 2021 be approved.

C55 Review of the Constitution

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V1 16/4/18).

Councillor E G R Jones introduced the report, thanking both Members and Officers for their work in undertaking the Review of the Constitution and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor R M Sutherland.

During consideration of the item, an amendment was proposed by Councillor R J Draper and Seconded by Councillor G O Rowlands that "Reference to the current provision in the Constitution for a supporter and objector to make a presentation to a Special Planning Committee as part of a major planning application be removed."

On being out to the vote, the amendment was declared to be lost.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the amendments to the Constitution detailed in the report be approved for implementation in the new Municipal Year.

MAYOR