



Councillor Ray Barron (Mayor)

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

Councillors:

L B Bakker-Collier

C A Baron

J A Baron

F Beatty

G R Collier

R P Cooke

B M Cross

I E Davies

M G Dodson

R J Draper

A P Edgeller

J W Farnham

P M M Farrington

F A Finlay

A T A Godfrey

A S Harp

J Hood

R A James

V E M Jenkinson

M E Jennings

E G R Jones

P W Jones

A M Loughran

L Nixon

A J Perkins

J M Pert

D B Price

J K Price

G O Rowlands

R M Smith

R M Sutherland

C V Trowbridge

K S Williamson

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg - Chief Executive

Mr A Welch - Head of Law and Administration

Mrs T Redpath - Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager

Mr W Conaghan - Press and Communications Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

C46 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2019 were submitted and signed.

C47 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M R Goodall, W J Kemp, S Learoyd, S P Leighton, P Roycroft and W S J Taylor.

C48 **Announcements**

The Mayor thanked all those who supported the two Mayoral Charity Lunches held on 1 March and 22 March 2019. The lunches raised in the region of £750 for the Mayor's Charity Appeal.

The Mayor thanked those who would be supporting the Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot that was due to be held on Wednesday 24 April 2019.

The Mayor then invited all Members to join him following the meeting for a celebration of his year as Mayor.

C49 **Councillor Session**

- (a) Councillor R J Draper had submitted the following items under Paragraph 12.3(a) of the Council Procedure Rules:-

Cabinet Member for Community

“Is the Cabinet Member aware that the Community Security Trust (CST) works closely with the police to protect Jewish communities against, and to monitor, antisemitism? Is he also aware that in 2016 the CST reported that there were 1309 incidents of anti-Semitism within the UK?

Can he tell me what work he has been involved with, and with key agencies like the CST and Staffordshire Police, to ensure that Jewish residents from our communities are safe and secure from hatred?

Will he, and all members of the Council, join me in opposing anti-Semitism and racism both in thought and deed? Being prepared to challenge those who continue to pervade the oldest sickness in the world?”

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

The Cabinet Member - Community Portfolio responded as provided for in Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules, during which he explained:-

- Yes he was aware that the Community Security Trust (CST) worked closely with the police to protect Jewish communities against, and to monitor, antisemitism and yes he was aware that in 2016 the CST reported that there were 1309 incidents of anti-Semitism within the UK
- Yes he had been involved with key agencies like the CST and Staffordshire Police and paid tribute to the work that they undertook

- The Council had a duty to ensure that public protection was co-ordinated across the Borough and there was no duplication of effort. In 2018, the Community Security Trust registered 73% of reported hate crime incidents in the London and Greater Manchester areas, 1 of which was in Staffordshire
 - The Council was working with schools in Staffordshire to provide advice and support about tolerance and feedback showed that such sessions were valuable
 - Had learned a lot from the recent visit to the Singers Hill Synagogue in Birmingham, which was an outstanding building and invited other Members to see it
 - The whole Council had a duty to ensure that all residents were not treated unfairly, but were safe as demonstrated through the recently approved Equality Policy
- (b) Councillor R J Draper had submitted the following item under Paragraph 12.3(b) of the Council Procedure Rules:-

Member Development Committee

“During the 2018/2019 municipal year the Member Development Working Group has made significant progress, and as Chair of that working group, I request that the Leader of the Council confirm that, under his leadership, Member Development will remain a priority and that he will constitute it as a full committee for the 2019/2020 municipal year.”

Members of the Council considered the item as provided for in Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules, during which the Leader of the Council explained that he was unable to provide such a commitment to a future Council. However, he thanked the Member Development Working Group for their achievements and acknowledged the importance of continued training.

C50 Notice of Motion

Councillors R J Draper and J Hood had given the following Notice of Motion in pursuant of Paragraph 13.1 of the Council Procedure Rules:-

“International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Antisemitism Stafford Borough Council agrees on April 18th 2019 to demonstrate its support and recognition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism, and pledges to combat antisemitism and all forms of racism and intolerance in their various forms on behalf of all citizens within the Borough.”

The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor R J Draper and Seconded by Councillor J Hood.

The Cabinet Member - Community Portfolio responded to the Notice of Motion as provided for in Paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules, during which he proposed the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey:-

“Stafford Borough Council agrees on April 18th 2019 to reconfirm its commitment to:-

- eliminate any unlawful discrimination
- to advance equality of opportunity and
- to foster good relations between all in our communities

Opposing all forms of racism and intolerance in their various forms on behalf of all citizens within the Borough.”

Councillor R J Draper proposed a modification to the amended motion in order to include “Opposing all forms of racism, antisemitism and intolerance in their various forms on behalf of all citizens within the Borough”.

The modification was not accepted by the proposer of the amended motion.

On being put to the vote, the amended Notice of Motion was carried as the substantive motion.

The substantive amended Notice of Motion was then put to the vote and was carried.

RESOLVED:- that Stafford Borough Council agrees to reconfirm its commitment to:-

- eliminate any unlawful discrimination
- to advance equality of opportunity and
- to foster good relations between all in our communities

Opposing all forms of racism and intolerance in their various forms on behalf of all citizens within the Borough.

C51 Review of the Constitution

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V2 27/3/19).

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 A T A Godfrey.

Members of the Council then considered the report as provided for in the Council Procedure Rules, after which they 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.

C52 Retiring Councillors and Officers

The Leader of the Council led congratulations to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor on their achievements throughout the last year. He congratulated the Chief Executive on taking control part way through the Municipal Cycle and praised the Head of Law and Administration on all of his achievements and wished him a long and happy retirement. The Leader also thanked the 9 Members that were not standing for re-election, in particular the great loss of experience of Councillors J W Farnham, F A Finlay, D B Price, G O Rowlands and K S Williamson. Finally he wished all of the remaining Members good luck for the forthcoming Election.

Councillors C A Baron and A T A Godfrey echoed the aforementioned tributes.

MAYOR