

Chairman - Councillor E G R Jones

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

Councillors:

I E Davies	J Hood
M G Dodson	R A James
R J Draper	A J Perkins
A T A Godfrey	P Roycroft
A S Harp	

Cabinet Member - Councillor K S Williamson - Resources Portfolio
Cabinet Member - Councillor F A Finlay - Environment and Health Portfolio
Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Leisure Portfolio

Also Present - Councillors J M Pert and D B Price
Local residents and representatives from Swynnerton
Parish Council

Officers in attendance:-

Mr A Welch	-	Head of Law and Administration
Mr B Kean	-	Head of Finance
Mr P Kendrick	-	Head of Technology
Mr N Raby	-	Head of Human Resources
Mrs T Redpath	-	Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr R Simpson	-	Customer Services Group Manager
Mr R Wolfe	-	Revenues and Benefits Manager
Mrs J Peat	-	Democratic and Corporate Services Manager
Mr J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer
Mrs J Pickering	-	Electoral Services Assistant
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

RSC16 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meetings held on 20 September and 27 September 2018, having been published in Digest No 247, were submitted and signed.

RSC17 Community Governance Review: Parish of Swynnerton

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V4 29/10/18) that presented details of further representations received following the publication of its initial recommendations.

The Chairman invited the views of the local Ward Members and County Council representative who outlined the following:-

Councillor R A James - Swynnerton and Outlon Ward Member

- Agreed with all of the proposals outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report with the exception of those related to Swynnerton Parish Council
- Believed that Swynnerton Parish Council should comprise of 9 Parish Councillors
- Believed that 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Trentham Ward, 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Tittensor Ward and 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Swynnerton Ward

Councillor D B Price - Swynnerton and Outlon Ward Member

- Agreed with all of the proposals outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report with the exception of those related to Swynnerton Parish Council
- Believed that Swynnerton Parish Council should comprise of 9 Parish Councillors
- Believed that 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Trentham Ward, 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Tittensor Ward and 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Swynnerton Ward

Councillor J M Pert - Staffordshire County Council Eccleshall Ward Member

- Welcomed the report and the thoroughness of its contents
- Believed that it was correct that Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish should be divided into two Wards, Yarnfield Ward and Cold Meece Ward
- Did not agree that the proposed Cold Meece Ward should be represented by 2 Parish Councillors as this was believed to be disproportionate
- Believed that the Cold Meece Ward should instead be represented by 1 Parish Councillor

In response, the Head of Law and Administration explained that the proposals for 3 Parish Councillors to represent the Trentham Ward, 3 Parish Councillors to represent the Tittensor Ward and 3 Parish Councillors to represent the Swynnerton Ward could not reflect electoral equality and although this was not the only factor to be considered it should be taken into account.

The Committee then discussed the following aspects of the report:-

- A more proportionate split for the Swynnerton Ward was for 4 Parish Councillors to represent the Trentham Ward, 3 Parish Councillors to represent the Tittensor Ward and 2 Parish Councillors to represent the Swynnerton Ward
- The number of comments contained in Appendix 3 of the report in support of the recommendations were very positive
- It was hoped that this exercise would encourage potential candidates for the Parish Councils in these areas

During the discussion of the recommendations, it was moved by Councillor R A James and seconded by Councillor I E Davies that 2 Parish Councillors should represent the Cold Meece Ward and 5 Parish Councillors should represent the Yarnfield Ward.

On being put to the vote, the proposal was declared to be carried.

Continuing, a further motion was moved by Councillor R J Draper and seconded by Councillor R A James that 4 Parish Councillors should represent the Trentham Ward, 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Tittensor Ward and 2 Parish Councillors should represent the Swynnerton Ward.

An amendment to the motion was then moved by Councillor P Roycroft and seconded by Councillor A S Harp that 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Trentham Ward, 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Tittensor Ward and 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Swynnerton Ward.

The amendment to the motion was put to the vote first.

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

The original motion was then put to the vote.

On being put to the vote, the original motion was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the following final recommendations of this Committee be submitted to Council due to be held on 20 November 2018:-

- (a) a new Parish comprising the Yarnfield Ward of Swynnerton Parish be created;
- (b) the boundaries of the existing parish of Swynnerton be altered to exclude the Yarnfield Ward;
- (c) the new Parish be called "Yarnfield and Cold Meece";

- (d) the new Parish should have a Parish Council;
- (e) the new Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council should have 7 Parish Councillors;
- (f) Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish should be divided into two Wards, Yarnfield Ward and Cold Meece Ward;
- (g) 2 Parish Councillors should represent the Cold Meece Ward and 5 Parish Councillors should represent the Yarnfield Ward;
- (h) Swynnerton Parish should retain its present name;
- (i) Swynnerton Parish should have a Parish Council;
- (j) Swynnerton Parish Council should have 9 Parish Councillors;
- (k) Swynnerton Parish Council should be split into three Wards, Trentham Ward, Tittensor Ward and Swynnerton Ward;
- (l) 4 Parish Councillors should represent the Trentham Ward, 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Tittensor Ward and 2 Parish Councillors should represent the Swynnerton Ward.

The recording of the meeting was paused whilst local residents and representatives from Swynnerton Parish Council left the room.

The recording of the meeting was then restarted.

RSC18 Financial Plan 2018-19 - 2021-22

This matter had been considered by Cabinet meeting at its meeting on 1 November 2018 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 30/10/18) which presented an updated financial forecast for the Council for the next three years together with a forecast outturn for 2018-19.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Resources Portfolio) and the Head of Finance:-

- Praise to officers in the preparation of the report under very uncertain circumstances
- The Council should be prepared to lose funding in favour of those Authorities with a health and social care function

- Concern that Central Government were unfairly restricting Local Government funding
- Clarification of what the Council was doing to communicate the uncertainty and inequality of Local Government funding to both Central Government and the Local Government Association

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) the Committee express their concern over the long term future of Local Government funding and that every representation be made where possible to gain greater certainty for future years;
- (b) the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute no CAB29/18, regarding the Financial Plan 2018-19 - 2021-22, be noted.

RSC19 **Fees and Charges Review 2019**

This matter had been submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting held on 1 November 2018 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 30/10/18) which proposed to the Council the Fees and Charges for 2019.

Clarification was provided in respect of the charges related to the provision of the recordings of Committee meetings.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute no CAB30/18, regarding the proposed Fees and Charges Review for 2019, be noted.

RSC20 **Performance Report**

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 2 period up to 30 September 2018.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Environment and Health Portfolio), the Head of Finance, the Head of Human Resources, the Customer Services Group Manager, the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager and the Revenues and Benefits Manager:-

- LI33 - % of calls abandoned - an explanation that the low performance related to the Waste Contract
- LI37 - % of compliance with the delivery of key outcomes and key performance targets within individual contracts - an explanation that performance was expected to improve following the completion of a contracts register

- LI38 - Days taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax new claims and change events - an explanation of the relevant targets and clarification that the Citizens Advice Bureau would be providing support for Universal Credits from 1 April 2019
- LBV12 - Sickness Rates - an explanation of the increase in long term sickness absence
- An explanation of the £135,000 favourable variance of the Resources Portfolio

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the performance management data relating to areas of activity within this Committee's remit be noted.

RSC21 **Review of the Constitution**

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V1 30/10/18) relating to the need to review the Council's present Constitution and a mechanism with which to undertake such a review.

The Committee confirmed the following the following dates and times of the meetings in which to undertake the Review of the Constitution:-

- 5.30 pm on Monday 28 January 2019
- 5.30 pm on Monday 25 February 2019
- 5.30 pm on Tuesday 26 March 2019 (Followed by a Special Resources Scrutiny Committee on that evening to confirm the amendments)

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, a Task and Finish Review Working Group be established in order to undertake a review of the Council's Constitution.

RSC22 **Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee**

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration, which presented the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme (V1 30/10/18) for the forthcoming meetings up to February 2019.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme (V1 30/10/18) be approved.

CHAIRMAN