

Chairman - Councillor P M M Farrington

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

Councillors:

F Beatty - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
J M Pert - Community and Health Portfolio
J K Price - Environment Portfolio
R M Smith - Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio
C V Trowbridge - Leisure Portfolio

Also present - Councillors C A Baron, A T A Godfrey, M Phillips

Officers in attendance:-

Mrs T Redpath - Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr R J Simpson - Interim Head of Operations
Mr J Dean - Democratic Services Officer

CAB25 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2019 were submitted and signed.

CAB26 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr T Clegg, Chief Executive.

CAB27 Councillors' Question Time

Councillor C A Baron had submitted the following item in accordance with paragraph 2.9(b) of the Cabinet Procedure Rules:-

“Will Cabinet consider implementing a ban on balloons and sky lanterns being released into the environment on council owned land and property for the following reasons:

Members of the Community are passionate about the environment and animal welfare.

At present, only 66 (of 354) councils within England have bans on the release of both sky lanterns and balloons on all council owned land and property A ban would help prevent the individual and mass release of sky lanterns and balloons on council land to prevent the

unnecessary suffering to animals and the devastating impact they can have on the environment.

It's estimated that 200,000 sky lanterns are sold in the UK each year, along with many thousands of balloons also being sold with a number of them intended for release. While these releases can look mesmerising, many people are unaware of the deadly consequences fallen lanterns and deflated balloons can have for animals and the environment.

Wildlife can easily become entangled in lantern frames and balloon strings- not to mention the fatal effect these parts can have on an animal if they ingest any component of these items. Deflated and fragments of balloons are commonly mistaken for food by marine life, and the strings used to tether balloons have been known to cause animals to become entangled or choke and suffer from internal blockages which ultimately leads to their death.

In March, a report was released stating that balloons are the highest-risk debris item to seabirds, they're 32 times more likely to result in death than ingesting hard plastic.

Both balloons and sky lanterns have the potential to travel miles from their original release site before returning back to land.

The RSPCA and many other organisations including the Marine Conservation Society, the British Veterinary Association and the National Farmers Union all support the ban of balloon and sky lantern releases.

I repeat my request that the cabinet considers implementing such a ban in Stafford Borough”

Councillor Baron attended the meeting and confirmed the question as set out.

Councillor Farrington referred the matter to Councillor Price who responded as follows:-

“Thank you to Councillor Baron for raising this issue. As portfolio holder for Environmental matters affecting the Borough I can confirm that the Terms and Conditions for the hiring of Council owned land will be amended to prohibit the release of said balloons / lanterns, details of which to be published on the Council’s website.”

RESOLVED:- that the response of the Cabinet Member - Environment Portfolio be noted.

CAB28 New Local Plan 2020-2040: Updated Programme

Considered a report recommending that the new local plan programme be updated (with the latest revision of the Local Development Scheme brought into effect from 17 September 2019) replacing the existing scheme, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 259 of 6 September 2019.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, be approved as follows:-

that from 17 September 2019 the Local Development Scheme be brought into effect as an update for the New Local Plan 2020-2040.

CAB29 Government Grant Funding Stafford Borough Garden Community Proposals

Considered a report recommending approval to spend a Government grant of up to £750,000 during the financial year 2019/20 on initial feasibility studies and programme management of proposals for a new Garden Community, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 259 of 6 September 2019.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio highlighted the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendations.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, be approved as follows:-

that:- (a) for the financial year 2019/20 authority to spend the MHCLG Garden Communities grant of £750,000 be delegated to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Meecebrook Programme Board);

(b) for subsequent financial years the delegation be reviewed by Cabinet.

The Leader of the Council noted that it was a significant matter of progress that said funding had been granted, and although proposals were at an early stage it was pleasing that further work could continue in this area through the quality of hard work of the Officers concerned.

CAB30 Performance Reporting 2019 - 2020 - Resources

Considered a report providing an update regarding performance (Resources) for Quarter 1 of 2019-2020, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 259 of 6 September 2019.

The Deputy Leader highlighted narrative updates 3.3.3 and 3.3.4 to which the Interim Head of Operations provided an update regarding said vacancy. Councillor Smith then set out the proposal in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Deputy Leader, be approved as follows:-

that the information as set out in the report be noted.

THIS IS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AS IT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 20 AUGUST 2019.

CAB31 Performance Reporting 2019 - 2020 - Economic Development and Planning

Considered a report providing an update regarding performance (Economic Development and Planning) for Quarter 1 of 2019-2020, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 259 of 6 September 2019.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Deputy Leader, be approved as follows:-

that the information as set out in the report be noted.

The Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning highlighted that retail occupation was improving across the Borough.

THIS IS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AS IT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 27 AUGUST 2019.

CAB32 Performance Reporting 2019 - 2020 - Community Wellbeing

Considered a report providing an update regarding performance (Community Wellbeing) for Quarter 1 of 2019-2020, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 259 of 6 September 2019.

The Deputy Leader referred to indicators LI12 and LI18 before highlighting the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Deputy Leader, be approved as follows:-

that the information as set out in the report be noted.

The Cabinet Member - Community and Health Portfolio praised the content of the report which demonstrated ongoing good work in supporting communities through collaborative working with partners. Councillor Pert confirmed the deadlines for nominations for the Community Awards and applications for small grant awards. Continuing, Councillor Smith noted the successful high profile events held in the Borough as set out on page 41 of the agenda, before Councillor Trowbridge noted the increasing membership of the new Stone Leisure Centre.

THIS IS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2019.

CAB33 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:- that pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting whilst the next following item of business be discussed, on the grounds that it includes the disclosure of exempt information of the type specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Recording of the meeting was suspended at this time.

CAB34 Environmental Services Review - Confidential

Considered a confidential report regarding the Environmental Services Review, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 259 of 6 September 2019.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Deputy Leader, as set out in paragraph 2 of the Confidential Report be approved.

CHAIR