



Councillor Gareth Jones (Mayor)

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

Councillors:

C A Baron	P W Jones
R J Barron	W J Kemp
F Beatty	R Kenney
A R G Brown	P A Leason
R P Cooke	A M Loughran
A G Cooper	B Mckeown
B M Cross	A Nixon
M G Dodson	J A Nixon
A P Edgeller	L Nixon
P M M Farrington	G P K Pardesi
I D Fordham	A N Pearce
A T A Godfrey	J M Pert
M Green	M Phillips
A S Harp	J K Price
A D Hobbs	P Roycroft
D Holbrook-Summers	R M Smith
M V Holmes	R M Sutherland
J Hood	C V Trowbridge
R A James	M J Winnington

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	- Chief Executive
Mr I Curran	- Interim Head of Law and Administration
Mrs J Peat	- Democratic and Corporate Services Manager
Mrs B Stott	- Elections Officer
Mr W Conaghan	- Press and Communications Manager
Mr A Bailey	- Scrutiny Officer

C35 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2019 were submitted and signed.

C36 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J A Barron.

C37 The Late Former Alderman and Mayor Mr Trevor Reeves

All stood in silence for one minute in respect for the late former Alderman and Mayor Mr Trevor Reeves.

C38 Announcements

The Mayor thanked those who attended the Remembrance Sunday Open Air Service, wreath laying and Parade on 10 November and the Act of Remembrance Service in Market Square the following day.

The Mayor thanked those who attended the Christmas Lights Switch on 16 November 2019, which he explained was a very enjoyable event with impressive attendance.

The Mayor explained that Invitations would shortly be sent out for the Gala Night performance of Peter Pan, which was being staged at Stafford Gatehouse on Tuesday 17 December 2019. Invitations had also been sent out for the Civic Carol Service which was being held in The Collegiate Church of St Mary on Sunday 22 December 2019.

The Mayor highlighted that there would be a Quiz Night in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal that would take place on Thursday 23 January and invitations would follow.

Invitations have been sent out for the Mayor's Charity Ball taking Place at the Staffordshire County Showground on Friday 7 February 2020

Finally, the Mayor reminded everyone that as the Council was in purdah period, in the run up to the General Election, all speakers should be mindful that the meeting should not be used to debate national party politics, and speeches be confined to the Council business set out in the Agenda only.

C39 Councillor Session

(a) Councillor A D Hobbs had submitted the following items under Paragraph 12.3(a) of the Council Procedure Rules:-

“Further to my recent motion put to the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, regarding a Green Strategy (involving Tree and Orchard Planting, and Wildflower verges and vegetable growing) and in light of recent Climate Change protests that have taken place in the town, I wonder if the Cabinet Member for the Environment Portfolio could inform us if any progress has been made on Stafford Borough Council's Green Strategy.”

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

“At the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 31 July 2019 in your absence, Councillor D Holbrook-Summers asked this question on your behalf.

“I would like to ask the Cabinet Member for Environment if they would consider a green project involving tree and hedge planting to reduce carbon emissions, wildflower patches to increase insects and pollinators, and planting of orchards and vegetables to encourage a more sustainable way of living.”

Please note that Councillor D Holbrook-Summers on behalf of Councillor Hobbs at the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee asked a question and did not formally propose a motion. The question concerned the consideration of a “project” rather than the development of a “strategy”.

In response I made the following comments:

- I welcomed the Members’ Item
- I referred to myself as a Champion for green space in the Borough
- That the Council was proactive in the provision of sustainable habitats
- There were 15 sites of Special Scientific Interest around the Borough
- There were many other sites of biological importance including:
 - Chartley Moss
 - Motley Meadows
 - Crown Local Nature Reserve
 - Ferndown Orchard
 - Stafford Crematorium
- The Council had its own bee hives and produced Mayor’s Honey
- 20 new trees to be planted at Victoria Park as part of the HLF project
- Areas at Holmcroft and Tillington were being planted with wildflowers
- The Council maintained and supported Borough Allotments
- That new housing developments such as Burley Fields and potentially Meecebrook would have high levels of planting
- There were strategies including the Eco Schools Network and the Tree Strategy
- Encouraged Members to visit local nature reserves and explore the information on the Council’s web site

A mere 3 months on from the scrutiny meeting I can re-iterate to Councillor Hobbs that the offer to visit some of these projects was still there to showcase that the Borough Council was already doing a lot of projects in the Borough to support sustainability, biodiversity and

health and wellbeing; and that we are and will continue to review and revise any existing relevant policies and strategies to inform the New Local Plan and to contribute to the emerging Climate Change Action Plan.”

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member - Environment Portfolio confirmed that a Green Strategy was currently being developed for the New Year.

- (b) Councillor A T A Godfrey had submitted the following item under Paragraph 12.3(a) of the Council Procedure Rules:-

“Can the Cabinet Member for Resources, or Environment, please confirm that the proposed £36 annual charge for the collection of household green waste would be equal to a 23% rise in Council Tax, based on a band D property?

I also ask, would this be on top of any other conventional rise in council tax the Conservative administration may want to impose?”

The Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio responded as provided for in Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules and addressed those points arising from the debate, including:-

- Confirmation of the arithmetic
- The voluntary nature of the proposed charge
- The anticipated take up of the scheme
- The need to encourage home composting and fewer refuse vehicle movements
- The cost of a garden waste collection service

C40 **Notice of Motion**

Councillors A N Pearce and M V Holmes had given the following Notice of Motion in pursuant of Paragraph 13.1 of the Council Procedure Rules:-

This Council notes that:

- It had a commitment to double tree cover in the Borough by 2020
- Trees play an extremely important role in reducing air pollution, promoting biodiversity and absorbing carbon emissions.
- At a recent Public Appeals Committee meeting, residents from Eccleshall turned up in large numbers to support the implementation of a tree preservation order

I therefore move that Cabinet consider the development of a Tree Strategy which will:

- (1) Increase the number of trees on Council owned land by direct planting or enabling community - led planting of saplings

- (2) Involve working with other public and private land owners in the Borough with a view to increasing the level of tree cover
- (3) In doing so, aim to get an extra 10,000 trees planted by 2023
- (4) Develop a network of volunteer tree wardens throughout the Borough whose role will be to map the location of existing mature trees and report on and monitor their condition, notifying the Council of any threat to their continued existence

The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor A N Pearce and Seconded by Councillor M V Holmes.

The Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio responded to the Notice of Motion as provided for in Paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules, by explaining that policies relating to trees were being considered as part of the New Local Plan and would be consulted upon in the New Year. Following on from the Local Plan policies, the Council would also be provided with a new Tree Strategy.

In concluding her comments, the Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio proposed an amendment to replace the Motion with "That Cabinet continues to develop a Tree Strategy".

The proposed amendment to the Motion was seconded by Councillor M J Winnington.

Following the debate, a request for a recorded vote on whether to accept the amendment to the Motion was made by the required number of Members in accordance with Paragraph 17.4 of the Council Procedure Rules. Voting on the matter was as follows:-

For	Against	Abstained
R J Barron	R P Cooke	C A Baron
F Beatty	I D Fordham	B Mckeown
A G R Brown	A T A Godfrey	
A Cooper	M Green	
B M Cross	A D Hobbs	
M G Dodson	D Holbrook-Summers	
A P Edgeller	M V Holmes	
P M M Farrington	J Hood	
A S Harp	W J Kemp	
R A James	R Kenney	
P W Jones	P A Leason	
J A Nixon	A M Loughran	
J M Pert	L Nixon	
M Phillips	A Nixon	
J K Price	G P K Pardesi	
P Roycroft	A N Pearce	
R M Smith		
R M Sutherland		
C V Trowbridge		
M J Winnington		

A request for a recorded vote on whether to accept the Motion as amended was then made by the required number of Members in accordance with Paragraph 17.4 of the Council Procedure Rules. Voting on the matter was as follows:-

For	Against	Abstained
C A Baron	R P Cooke	
R J Barron	A T A Godfrey	
F Beatty	A D Hobbs	
A G R Brown	D Holbrook-Summers	
A Cooper	M V Holmes	
B M Cross	W J Kemp	
M G Dodson	A M Loughran	
A P Edgeller	L Nixon	
P M M Farrington	A Nixon	
I D Fordham	G P K Pardesi	
M Green	A N Pearce	
A S Harp		
J Hood		
R A James		
P W Jones		
R Kenney		
P A Leason		
B Mckeown		
J A Nixon		
J M Pert		
M Phillips		
J K Price		
P Roycroft		
R M Smith		
R M Sutherland		
C V Trowbridge		
M J Winnington		

RESOLVED:- that Cabinet continues to develop a Tree Strategy.

C41 Designation of Polling District and Places

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V3 4/11/19).

The Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio introduced the report, drawing Members' attention to the Appendices included in 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 Councillor R M Smith and seconded by Councillor R M Sutherland.

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

- RESOLVED:- (a) that the proposals (highlighted in grey) made as part of the review as detailed in **APPENDIX 1** of the report, be approved;
- (b) that the polling districts and places that remain unchanged be designated, as detailed in **APPENDIX 2** of the report.

C42 **Fees and Charges Review 2020**

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V2 11/11/19).

The Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio introduced the report and concluded his comments be moving the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor R A James.

Members considered the Fees and Charges booklet, during which Cabinet Members addressed those points arising from the debate, including:-

- The increase in car parking charges
- The increase in car parking charges in Stone
- The Sunday car parking charge
- The new charge for a biodegradable urn containing cremated remains

At the conclusion of the debate Members voted on the recommendation which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposed Fees and Charges for 2020 be approved.

C43 **Fees and Charges Review 2020 - Leisure Contractor**

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V2 11/11/19).

The Cabinet Member - Leisure Portfolio introduced the report and concluded his comments be moving the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor R M Smith.

Members considered the proposed Fees and Charges in relation to Freedom Leisure, during which Cabinet Members addressed those points arising from the debate, including:-

- The increase in the Gatehouse Theatre booking fee per ticket
- The increase in shower and change at both Stafford and Stone Leisure Centres

During the debate that ensued, an amendment to the recommendation was proposed by Councillor R P Cooke and seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey that "The Cabinet Member - Leisure Portfolio request Freedom Leisure to defer the proposed increase in the fees and charges detailed in the report until 1 February 2020 in order to allow for further scrutiny by the Resources Scrutiny Committee at its meeting due to be held on 7 January 2020".

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

At the conclusion of the debate Members then voted on the recommendation outlined in the report, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposed Fees and Charges for 2020 for Freedom Leisure be approved.

C44 Section 106 Funding Allocation - Play and Recreation Facilities, Holmcroft

Considered the report of the Head of Development (V1 1/11/19).

The Cabinet Member - Leisure Portfolio introduced the report and concluded her comments be moving the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor A S Harp.

Members then voted on the recommendation which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the allocation of the anticipated Section 106 receipt of £85,577 to deliver play and recreational facilities in Holmcroft, be approved.

C45 Appointment to Head of Service Posts

Considered the report of the Chief Executive (V1 11/11/19).

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey

Members then voted on the recommendation which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- (a) the appointment of Ian Curran as Head of Law and Administration and also as Monitoring Officer, be confirmed;

- (b) the appointment of Robert Simpson to the post of Head of Operations, be confirmed;
- (c) the terms and conditions of each appointment be agreed by those agreed by each Appointment Committee.

MAYOR