

Councillor Aidan T A Godfrey (Mayor)

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

Councillors:

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

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
Mr A Welch	-	Head of Law and Administration
Mr B Kean	-	Head of Finance
Mrs T Redpath	-	Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr W Conaghan	-	Press and Communication Manager
Mr J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

C28 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 were submitted and signed.

C29 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Hood, S P Leighton and R M Smith.

C30 **Announcements**

The Mayor detailed the following forthcoming events for Members to note:-

- Mayor's Charity Appeal - In Store Collection - ASDA, Stafford Friday 1 December 2017 - any assistance would be welcomed;
- Mayor's Charity Race Night - Friday 1 December 2017 - Stafford Polish Club, Riverway, Stafford - invitations had been sent out;
- Mayor's Charity Appeal - In Store Collection - Tesco Extra Stafford - Thursday 7 December 2017 - any assistance would be welcomed;
- Civic Carol Service - Sunday 17 December 2017 - The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Stafford;
- Mayor's Charity Appeal - Quiz Night - Saturday 6 January 2018 - Burton Manor Sports Association - invitations due out shortly;
- Mayor's Charity Appeal - Barn Dance - Stafford Rangers Social Club - Thursday 1 February 2018 - invitations to be sent out soon.

C31 **Corporate Business Plan 2018 - 2021**

Considered the report of the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager (V1 10/11/17).

The Leader of the Council introduced the report by highlighting the Vision as set out on page 4 of the Plan, detailing future investment/developments in the Borough, including that resulting from HS2. He concluded his comments by moving that the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor K S Williamson.

The Council considered the matter as provided for in Paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules, noting the mechanisms for scrutinising the aims of the Plan.

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

RESOLVED:- that the refresh of the organisation business plan 2018 - 2021 be approved.

C32 **Fees and Charges Review 2018**

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V3 11/10/17).

The Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out

in paragraph 2 be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor J M Pert.

The Mayor asked Members to consider the Fees and Charges booklet by Portfolio, during which Cabinet Members addressed those points raised during the debate, including:-

- Glover Street Itinerant site fees
- Pest control - domestic premises
- Blue/Brown bin replacement charge
- Special refuse collections charge
- Use of screen for display of photographs during funerals
- Grave maintenance - per annum
- Recording of Committee meetings

Arising from the debate, Councillor R P Cooke moved and Councillor A M Loughran seconded an amendment that Paragraph 2.1 of the report be amended to read as follows:-

“The Full Council to agree Fees and Charges increases from Freedom Leisure in accordance with the contract”

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared to have fallen.

Following continuation of the debate, Members voted on the original proposal, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that (a) the proposed Fees and Charges be approved;

(b) delegated approval be given to the Head of Environment to agree fees and charges increases from Freedom Leisure, in accordance with the contract.

C33 **Petitioning Parliament on the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill**

Considered the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning (V1 10/11/17).

The Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio introduced the report noting that although the Council would work closely with Staffordshire County Council on this matter, some issues were unique to Stafford Borough, before concluding her comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor J M Pert.

Members then voted on the proposals as set out, which were declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:- that
- (a) petitioning of Parliament on the High Speed Rail (West Midlands to Crewe) Bill be agreed;
 - (b) the likely costs involved in petitioning be noted and a budget of £65,000 to cover these costs be approved;
 - (c) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning, the Head of Economic Development and Planning and the Head of Law and Administration) to approve the contents of the petition and make arrangements for petitioning Parliament on the Hybrid Bill.

C34 New Partnering Arrangements with Stafford and Rural Homes

Considered the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning (V1 10/11/17).

The Cabinet Member - Community Portfolio introduced the report by paying tribute to the work done by Stafford and Rural Homes across the Borough, noting investment in existing and new housing stock. He concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor F Beatty.

Arising from the debate, Councillor W J Kemp moved and Councillor R P Cooke seconded an amendment that Paragraph 5.16 of the report be amended to read as follows:-

“That the Council be represented by two elected Members on the Board”.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared to be carried.

Members then voted on the proposals as amended, which were declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:- that
- (a) the Head of Law and Administration be authorised to draw up a new Partnering Agreement between the Council and Stafford and Rural Homes setting out a new relationship between the two organisations to include:-
 - two voting representatives from the Council on Stafford and Rural Homes board;
 - payment of a fee of £1.8M inclusive of funds already received for financial year 2016/17 in lieu of further Right to Buy receipts;

- an undertaking from Stafford and Rural Homes that any proceeds raised from the disposal of any assets transferred on the date of the Transfer Agreement be re-invested within the boundaries of the Borough Council;
 - an agreement that any warranties previously provided by the Council be waived;
 - an agreement that the Council's guarantee in relation to pension rights be terminated if Stafford and Rural Homes does not exist as a stand alone organisation (as reflected in the existing Transfer agreement);
 - continued nomination rights for the Borough Council to Stafford and Rural Homes properties;
 - the Council and Stafford and Rural Homes agree to give fair consideration to the other for future partnerships including, but not limited to, housing development and grounds maintenance;
- (b) upon receipt of the payment of the balance £1,800,000 minus funds already received for financial year 2016/17 from Stafford and Rural Homes, and conditional upon the new Partnership Agreement being in place, the Head of Law and Administration be authorised to terminate the existing Transfer Agreement between Stafford and Rural Homes.

MAYOR