

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Emery (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors R Alcock, C J S Atkins, A Banks, G Bond, M Bowen, J Davies, M A Deaville, S Ellis, E Fallows, K Flunder, A Forrester, M Gledhill, D Grocott, T Hall, K Harrison, A Hart, N Hawkins, G Heath, I Herdman, B A Hughes, K J Jackson, P Jackson, C R Jebb, B Johnson, J T Jones, I Lawson, L D Lea, G Lockett, M A Lovatt, M M Lovatt, I J Lucas, L A Malyon, T McNicol, D Ogden, C Pearce, R Plant, N Podmore, S E Ralphs MBE, J Redfern, P Roberts, S Scalise, D Shaw, H Sheldon, D Trigger, E Wain, J Walley, R Ward, A Wilkinson, P Wilkinson, C Wood, P Wood and M Worthington

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Bull, R Done and T Riley

33 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 14 SEPTEMBER 2016 AND 19 OCTOBER 2016.**

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on the 14 September 2016 and 19 October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations were made:-

Agenda Item	Members Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Any site specific matters arising relating to the Local Plan in Biddulph.	Cllr. Hart	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
Any site specific matters arising relating to the Local Plan in Leek.	Cllr. Johnson	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
Any specific matters arising relating to Licensing.	Cllrs. Wain and P. Wilkinson	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

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- 35 **TO CONSIDER AND DEBATE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS AND COMMITTEES, IF ANY.**

Audit and Accounts Committee – 29 September 2016

Treasury Management - Update Report

RESOLVED - That the treasury management position as at 31st August 2016 be noted.

Licensing & Regulatory Committee – 18 November 2016

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2016

- RESOLVED –
- (a) That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy 2016 attached in appendix A, be approved and adopted as the Council's policy.
 - (b) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Regulatory Services to make minor modifications to the policy to reflect any change in legislation or case law or to promote efficient administration of the licensing function without consultation if appropriate.

- 36 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETINGS IN THE INTERIM PERIOD PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING, IF ANY.**

Cabinet - 6 December 2016

- (a) Updated Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2020/21

RESOLVED - That the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan be approved.

- 37 **NOTICES OF MOTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE NO. 8, IF ANY.**

- (a) **Councillor L. Malyon**

NM: "That this Council will continue to send planning application information out to parish and town councils, as they always have done, as it is impossible for town and parish clerks to be able to print all the information off."

A named vote having been called, voting was as follows:-

Those voting **FOR:**

Councillors Alcock, Atkins, Banks, Bond, Bowen, Davies, Deaville, Ellis, Emery, Fallows, Flunder, Forrester, Gledhill, Grocott, Hall, Harrison, Hart, Hawkins, Heath, Herdman, Hughes, K. Jackson, P. Jackson, Jebb, Johnson, Jones, Lawson, Lea, Lockett, M.M. Lovatt, M.A. Lovatt, Lucas, Malyon, McNicol, Ogden, Pearce, Plant, Podmore, Ralphs, Redfern, Roberts, Scalise,

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Shaw, Sheldon, Trigger, Wain, Walley, Ward, A. Wilkinson, P. Wilkinson, C. Wood, P. Wood, Worthington. **(53)**

There were no votes **AGAINST**.

There were no **ABSTENTIONS**.

Therefore the **PROPOSAL** was declared **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED - That this Council will continue to send planning application information out to parish and town councils, as they always have done, as it is impossible for town and parish clerks to be able to print all the information off.

(b) **Councillor L. Malyon**

NM: "That this Council sends a strong objection to the County Council with regard to the new charges for waste, this will cause more fly tipping which the District Council will have to pick up and incur the costs for, putting more pressure on services."

A named vote having been called, voting was as follows:-

Those voting **FOR:**

Councillors Alcock, Atkins, Gledhill, K. Jackson, Jebb, M.M. Lovatt, M.A. Lovatt, Lucas, Malyon, McNicol, Redfern, Walley, A. Wilkinson, P. Wilkinson, C. Wood, P. Wood. **(16)**

Those voting **AGAINST:**

Councillors Banks, Bond, Bowen, Davies, Deaville, Ellis, Emery, Fallows, Flunder, Forrester, Grocott, Hall, Harrison, Hart, Hawkins, Heath, Herdman, Hughes, P. Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lawson, Lea, Lockett, Ogden, Pearce, Plant, Podmore, Ralphs, Scalise, Shaw, Trigger, Wain, Ward, Worthington. **(35)**

Those voting to **ABSTAIN:**

Councillor Sheldon **(1)**

Therefore, the **PROPOSAL** was declared **LOST**.

(c) **Councillor C. Atkins**

NM: "That this Council calls upon the Government to reconsider the published transitional pension arrangements for women born on or after 6 April 1951 and to offer revised and fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6 April 1951 so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes which they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements."

Having been **SECONDED**, upon being put to the vote, the **MOTION** was declared **CARRIED**.

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RESOLVED - "That this Council calls upon the Government to reconsider the published transitional pension arrangements for women born on or after 6 April 1951 and to offer revised and fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6 April 1951 so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes which they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements."

(d) **Councillor K. Jackson**

NM: "That Staffordshire Moorlands District Council views with concern the injustice whereby the Treasury receives 50% of surpluses from the Mineworkers Pension Scheme, accumulating over £3 billion to date. This is taken from people and communities least able to afford it, particularly former coal mining areas in the Staffordshire Moorlands. The money taken out is out of proportion to the risk covered. This Council requests that the Public Accounts Committee conduct an independent scrutiny to address this unfair arrangement and calls on its MPs to take up the case for further action in parliament."

A named vote having been called, voting was as follows:-

Those voting **FOR:**

Councillors Alcock, Atkins, Davies, Gledhill, K. Jackson, Jebb, Jones, M.M. Lovatt, M.A. Lovatt, Lucas, Malyon, Redfern, Walley, A. Wilkinson, P. Wilkinson, C. Wood, P. Wood. **(17)**

Those voting **AGAINST.**

Councillors Banks, Bowen, Ellis, Emery, Fallows, Flunder, Forrester, Grocott, Hall, Harrison, Hart, Hawkins, Herdman, Hughes, Johnson, Lockett, McNicol, Ogden, Pearce, Plant, Podmore, Ralphs, Roberts, Scalise, Shaw, Trigger, Wain, Ward, Worthington. **(29)**

Those voting to **ABSTAIN**

Councillors Bond, Lea, Sheldon **(3)**

Therefore, the **PROPOSAL** was declared **LOST**.

38 **QUESTIONS RAISED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

(a) **Question to the Leader received from Councillor Malyon:**

Q: "When will the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Bull be vacating the chairmanship of the District Council?"

A: *It was stated that Councillor Bull's term of office would run to the next Annual Meeting of the Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972. In response to supplementary questions the Leader clarified that the letter issued to the Department for Communities and Local Government questioned the rule*

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with regards to the ability for a council to appoint/remove its Chairman and that the justification for this did not need to be given. The Leader reminded Councillor Malyon that the Council has the right to appoint the Chairman but not to remove the Chairman and that there would be one more scheduled meeting of the Council before the Annual meeting in May.

(b) Question to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment received from Councillor Malyon:

Q: **“Would the portfolio holder for Environmental health confirm as he has done previously that the waste collection service will stay In House at the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council?”**

A: *“As the Councillor knows Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has to achieve significant revenue savings in order to balance its budgets. All activities delivered by the Council are therefore under scrutiny, to determine if savings can be found or income increased in order to balance our budgets. It is a very important part of this Council’s role to ensure residents have access to reliable, high performing and cost effective services.*

We are reviewing options for the delivery of our much valued waste collection service, together with street cleaning and horticultural activities. In doing so we need to keep an open mind, to find a long term sustainable option that protects services, is affordable for the Council and its taxpayers, and looks after our employees. We do not know what the solution will be just yet and so it would not be appropriate for me to give a cast iron guarantee. But I will reiterate, I shall be working with colleagues to find the best possible solution that is good for the Council, good for its taxpayers and good for its employees.”

In response to supplementary questions the Portfolio Holder stated that the Council would support the workforce who do a tremendous job and that the Waste Working Group was doing an excellent job to widen councillors’ knowledge. It was important to obtain all the necessary information before a decision was taken.

(c) Question to the Leader received from Cllr C. Wood

Q: **“Would the Leader agree with me that the only way this Council can move forward with the Julie Bull situation is for a full external investigation to be carried out?”**

A: *The Leader reported that Councillor Wood and other group leaders were being kept up to date of the situation by the Chief Executive and herself. An external investigation was taking place. In response to supplementary questions the Leader stated that she did not wish to say or do anything that may pre-empt or affect the external investigation taking place. With regards to the standards complaints process the Leader explained that she would be happy to work with councillors to put in place a remedy to avoid similar situations arising again.*

(d) Question to the Leader received from Cllr P. Wilkinson

Q: **“Will the officers of this Council be publishing an edited version of the webcast from the Extraordinary Meeting of Wednesday 19th October and if so, when will this be available?”**

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A: *The webcast would be transmitted following the conclusion of the external enquiry. In response to supplementary questions the Leader repeated that she did not wish the transmission of the webcast to compromise or prejudice the external enquiry, confirmed that group leaders were being kept informed and that external legal advice had been sought.*

39 **TO CONSIDER ANY POLITICAL GROUP APPOINTMENTS OR CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP, IF ANY.**

RESOLVED: (a) That the following amendments to committee membership be noted subsequent to changes to political group membership:-

Appeals Board

Delete: Councillor Bull

Add: Councillor A. Hart

Audit and Accounts Committee:

Add: Councillor K. Flunder (*seat vacant*)

Licensing and Regulatory Committee:

Delete: Councillor Bull

Add: Councillor G. Lockett

Local Plan Steering Group:

Delete: Councillor Bull

Add: Councillor J. Jones

Standards Committee:

Delete: Councillor Bull

Add: Councillor A. Banks

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Add: Councillor J. Bull (*seat vacant*)

(b) That Councillor L. Lea be nominated as Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

_____ Chairman _____ Date