

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillor T Holmes (Chair)

Councillors C Atkins, G Bentley, M Bowen, C Brady, B Cawley, J Davies, B Emery, E Fallows, K Flunder, T Hall, A Hart, N Hawkins, I Herdman, K Hoptroff, B A Hughes, A Hulme, K J Jackson, B Johnson, L A Malyon, K Mills, L Page, I Plant, H Plimley, J Porter, D Price, T Riley, P Roberts, P Routledge, J Salt, S Scalise, D Shaw, L Swindlehurst, P Taylor, E Wain, R Ward, P Wilkinson, P Wood, M Worthington and N Yates

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Aberley, G Bond, S Coleman, S Ellis, M Deaville, M Gledhill, G Heath, P Jackson, J Jones, L Lea, T McNicol, S E Ralphs MBE and J Redfern

31 **COUNCILLOR IAN LAWSON**

Tributes were paid to and members observed a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Ian Lawson.

32 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations were made:-

Agenda Item	Members Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
General - Matters relating to Licensing	Cllr. Wain	Other Interest – Current Licensee

34 **CHAIRMAN'S OR LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE, IF ANY.**

The Chairman referred to recent and upcoming fundraising events. The Kathryn of Aragon event took place on 5 October 2022 and a fashion show would take place on 26 October 2022.

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

35a **AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

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

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

37a **THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

Councillor C. Atkins

NM: "Bearing in mind the powers afforded to councils in the Local Government Act of 1972 (section 137), this council will commit to a range of urgent actions that will support vulnerable people in our community to cope with the unprecedented increases in the costs of energy and the serious fall in living standards."

Councillors debated the motion in detail. This included a need to secure real outcomes. A number of initiatives already in place were referred to. These included the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, hardship policies and the Business Rate Relief Policy. A cost of living hub had been published on the Council's website and funding was in place for organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Beat The Cold.

The need to ensure that information was available for people that did not use the internet was also highlighted. This should be addressed using other methods such as telephone, face to face and printed media. The District Council was a prime source of information and should make funding and officer resources available. There was a need to identify people at risk and a mechanism to issue funds to partner organisations quickly.

It was proposed that a steering group should be set up via the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel to determine priorities.

Having been **PROPOSED** and **SECONDED**, upon being put to the vote, the **MOTION** was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

37b **BUS TRANSPORT - MOTION WITHDRAWN**

The motion was withdrawn by Councillor Aberley prior to the commencement of the meeting.

38 **TO CONSIDER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, REQUESTS FOR A GRANT OF DISPENSATION TO COUNCILLORS FROM ATTENDING MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS CONSTITUENT BODIES DUE TO THEIR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.**

RESOLVED:

Dispensations were granted in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Finance Act 1972 for Councillors L Lea, T McNicol and S Ralphs.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm

_____ Chairman _____ Date