

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, 14 September 2016

PRESENT: Councillor B. Emery (Vice-Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors M. Bowen, J. Bull, M. Deaville, R. Done, E. Fallows, M. Gledhill, N. Hawkins, P. Jackson, J. Jones, L Lea, C. Pearce and R. Plant.

Prayers were offered by Reverend Nigel Irons.

23. **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 20 JULY 2016**

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 20 July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of the attendance of Councillor Podmore.

24. **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.	Cllrs. Hart and Johnson	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
Any specific matters arising relating to Licensing matters	Cllrs. Wain and P. Wilkinson	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

Agenda Item	Members Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Matters relating to Leek Moorlands Hospital	Cllr P. Wood	Other Interest – Daughter employee at Leek Moorlands Hospital

25. **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Community Pharmacies

A number a community pharmacies were facing closure due to a reduction in Government funding. The number of small chemists was likely to reduce to be replaced by centralised hubs. This would make a significant difference to a lot of people including the district's elderly population and for people who live in rural areas as not everybody would be able to take advantage of on-line services. People had been encouraged to use pharmacies for advice and medication which had helped to alleviate pressure on doctors surgeries and accident and emergency departments. The Leader sought the permission of members to write to the Health Minister with regards to the issue.

RESOLVED – That a letter be issued to the Health Minister by the Leader to convey the views of the Council, as outlined above, with regards to the proposals for community pharmacies.

Community Beds - Cheadle and Leek Hospitals

The Leader announced that a meeting had taken place with North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group with regards to the proposed changes and would provide further detail in response to a question submitted by Councillor Atkins later in the meeting.

West Midlands Ambulance Service - Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV)

Councillor Ralphs explained that the RRV which had been in use in the Leek and surrounding area had been replaced by a new fully functioning 4x4 ambulance based at Leek Moorlands Hospital. However, the Leader expressed the view that an RRV should also be retained in addition to the ambulance given concerns with regards to response times for emergencies. Councillor Ralphs stated that she would be campaigning to retain the RRV and would be meeting with the Accountable Officer of the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to discuss the matter shortly.

26. **RECEIPT OF PETITION**

A petition was received with regards to proposed Housing Allocations in Cheadle South West. This would be passed to the Council's Regeneration Team for consideration.

27. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS AND COMMITTEES**

Audit and Accounts Committee - 28th July 2016

(a) **Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/16**

RESOLVED - That the Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/16 be approved.

(b) **Treasury Management Update Report**

RESOLVED - That the treasury management position as at 30th June 2016 be noted.

28. **COUNCILLOR N. HAWKINS**

RESOLVED - That, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor N. Hawkins be granted a dispensation from attending meetings of the Council and its constituent bodies due to her ongoing treatment for a medical condition until the next meeting of the Council when the situation would be reviewed.

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

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

Q: “After the statement in the paper that Cllr Bull has left the Planning Applications Committee, there lies some confusion around this issue as Cllr Bull said at Cheadle Town Council that she is still a member of the Planning Applications Committee, could you please clarify this matter?”

A: *It was clarified that Councillor Bull was no longer a member of the Planning Applications Committee by the Leader. In response to supplementary questions the Leader explained that meetings could take place after the Council meeting with regards to Councillor Bull’s role of District Council Chairman.*

(b) **Question to the Portfolio holder for Planning, Development and Property submitted by Councillor Atkins:**

(Councillor Hart left the room for the duration of this item)

Q: “What is the present timetable for the determination of SMDC's Local Plan?”

A: *“In December 2015, the Council agreed the following timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan.*

- *Consultation on Preferred Options Local Plan - April-May 2016*
- *Publication and Representations Invited on Local Plan - Nov-Dec 2016*
- *Submission to Secretary of State - Feb 2017*

A further consultation regarding policies was envisaged in August after the Government had issued the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The consultation on the NPPF was launched in December 2015 and it was anticipated that the revised version would have been adopted by now. However the delay in achieving Royal Assent for the Housing and Planning Act has resulted in consequent delays to the revised NPPF and therefore uncertainty regarding policies relating to, among others, affordable housing and brownfield development. The further consultation planned for August did not take place. Further details are expected from the Government in the Autumn. Officers are investigating how the impact on the Local Plan timetable can be addressed and a further Cabinet report will be produced if changes to the timetable are required.”

In response to supplementary questions the Portfolio Holder confirmed that the Council would ensure that full consultation takes place following a government statement. The timetable for the Local Plan may be extended should this be necessary.

(c) Question to the Leader submitted by Councillor Atkins:

Q: **“What representations has the Leader made regarding the proposed closure of Cheadle Hospital?”**

A: *The Leader explained that a meeting had taken place with Marcus Warnes, the Accountable Officer for North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group . It was confirmed that admissions to community beds at Cheadle Hospital would not take place after 30th September 2016. Of the beds at Cheadle only seven were occupied by people from Cheadle. It was reported that research had shown that patients’ preference was to return home for care where possible but care packages needed to be put into place for this to happen.*

In response to supplementary questions the Leader explained that patients would remain in hospital if homecare was not considered appropriate and that more personnel would in place to implement care packages. A meeting would be taking place in October with regards to community beds at Leek Hospital. This decision would be subject to consultation before being implemented. The Council would take part in the consultation process and invite representatives to the Council’s Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

(d) Question received from Councillor P. Wilkinson:

Q: “Can the Leader inform us at what point the matter concerning Councillor Julie Bull’s breach of the code of conduct went before the Standards Committee?”

A: *The Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee confirmed that the Council’s procedures for dealing with complaints had been used for this particular matter and that the next meeting of the Standards Committee would receive a report providing an update on the complaint. In response to supplementary questions it was reiterated that the correct procedure had been followed and that a report would be presented to the next meeting of the Standards Committee. The procedures for dealing with such matters were approved by Council in July 2012 following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011. Councillors were reassured that all complaints were considered in accordance with the legislation and the procedures that the Council had agreed. With regards to Councillor Bull’s other positions within the Council the Leader explained that the Council’s Constitution may be reviewed in order to maintain levels of transparency and accountability and avoid recurrences of such instances.*

30. **CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP**

RESOLVED - That the following changes to membership be noted:-

Planning Applications Committee:

Delete: Councillor J. Bull

Add: Councillor P. Jackson

The Meeting closed at 7.32 p.m.

_____Chairman
Date