

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 15th July, 2015

Present:- The Mayor. Councillor Sandra Hambleton – in the Chair

Councillors Allport, Astle, Bailey, Baker, Bates, Beech, Braithwaite, Burgess, Cooper, Cooper, Dymond, Eagles, Eastwood, Fear, Frankish, Hailstones, Hailstones, Hambleton, Harper, Heesom, Huckfield, Johnson, Johnson, Kearon, Loades, Matthews, Northcott, Owen, Parker, Pickup, Plant, Proctor, Reddish, Robinson, Rout, Shenton, Simpson, Stringer, Stubbs, Sweeney, Tagg, J Tagg, Turner, Walklate, Wallace, Waring, Welsh, Wemyss, White, Wilkes, Williams, Williams, Winfield, Wing and Woolley

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mancey and Cllr Peers.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Loades declared that he had an interest in the motion regarding the provision of hearing aids as he sat on the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee where a decision had been made regarding the item.

3. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record.

4. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that arrangements were now underway for the Charity Spring Ball to be held in The Ballroom at Keele Hall on Friday 8 April 2016.

Details of the menu and ticket price would be available later.

Discussions were also underway for a number of events to be held to raise money for the Mayor's Charity Fund and these included a charity car wash at Newcastle Fire Station and concert by Newcastle Male Voice Choir. Further details would be released as they become available.

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

A report was submitted regarding the Treasury Management Annual Report. It was a requirement of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and its Prudential Code for Capital Finance that an Annual Report was made to the Council in respect of each year's Treasury Management activities.

Members agreed that it was tremendous news regarding the money that would be reclaimed from the Icelandic Bank.

Resolved:

- (a) That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2014/15 be received.
- (b) That the actual Prudential Indicators contained within the report be approved

6. NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME AND STOKE ON TRENT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Council were required by Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 to have an adopted and up to date Statement of Community Involvement. Cabinet had recommended the adoption of the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Statement of Community Involvement, 2015, and the next stage was to formally adopt the document as part of the Local Development Framework for Newcastle.

Members welcomed the document.

Resolved: That the Council adopt the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Statement of Community Involvement, 2015, as part of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Development Framework.

7. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LGIU MEMBER ASSEMBLY

A report was submitted to inform members of the appointment of Cllr Kyle Robinson as the Council's representative on the Local government Information Unit Member Assembly.

Resolved:

- a) That Council confirms the appointment of Cllr Robinson as the Council's representative on the LGIU Member Assembly.

8. STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

A report was submitted to provide an update to Members on the activities and decisions of Cabinet together with the Forward Plan.

The Leader stated that unfortunately due to ill health she had been unable to attend the LGA Conference and thanked Members for their support and well wishes.

The Leader also stated that improvements were currently being made to the forward plan including the fact that all Members now received a link to the update plan every Friday.

A concern was raised regarding lack of progress with the Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership and the questions was raised as to whether Cllr John Williams could be reinstated as a Director on the Partnership.

The Leader confirmed that a written response would be provided but also that this had been a Cabinet decision which could have been called in if Members had not been satisfied with the decision.

Resolved: That the Report be noted.

9. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Cllr Stringer requested two more nominations for the High Speed 2 working Group.

Cllr Loades thanked Officers for their support on the Audit and Risk Committee and for the clear and concise reports.

Members were also reminded that Planning training was taking place and that it was compulsory for members of the Planning Committee to attend at least 2 thirds of the courses.

Resolved:

That the reports be noted.

10. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Resolved: That the reports be noted.

11. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS.

A question had been submitted by Cllr Sweeney as follows:

The Staff Related Savings target in this year's Budget is £50,000. Can the leader tell me how near we are to achieving that target?

Resolved: The Leader stated that a written response would be provided.

12. MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

A motion had been submitted by Cllr Proctor as follows:

This Council notes that:

- Cuts to NHS hearing aid services are being introduced by North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. This is the first CCG to decommission free NHS hearing aids.
- Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee has decided to support the CCG's introduction of a fee for the issue of hearing aids to patients who suffer from certain forms of hearing loss.

Cllr Proctor moved the motion and it was seconded by Cllr Astle.

Cllr Eastwood as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee stated that this had been discussed at a previous meeting of the Committee and questions still remained unanswered such as why this project had been chosen over all others when all professionals in the field had objected. Cllr Eastwood confirmed that the Newcastle under Lyme Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee had been unable to support the recommendations.

Cllr Loades stated that he did not support the motion and that the Policy had changed since the original meeting and that the motion contained inaccuracies in so far as the decision would not affect people with moderate hearing loss, dementia or hearing related illnesses such as tinnitus, the decision was only applicable to people with mild hearing loss. Cllr Loades also stated that where hardship relating to hearing loss was identified then an individual would be referred to an audiologist. Cllr Loades also confirmed that individuals could still visit their GP regarding hearing loss but that there would be no immediate support if the hearing loss was below 44 decibels unless it could be shown that the hearing loss was causing hardship to the individual or that the individual could not afford treatment. All cases would be looked at on an individual basis.

Cllr Loades proposed an amendment to the motion:

That this Council agree to monitor, in conjunction with the County Council Health Scrutiny Committee, this change to the North Staffs CCG policy and comment further after a review has taken place and that a report be brought back to this Council for further consideration.

The Leader stated that she could not support the amendment and that hearing loss did not just happen and that individuals needed support from the start.

Cllr Mrs Johnson also raised concerns regarding the impact that hearing loss could have on the mental health of patients. Cllr Loades stated that in cases such as this the case would be taken on by the patients GP.

The amendment to the motion was seconded and a named vote requested as follows:

Allport	NO	Heesom	YES	Shenton	NO
Astle	NO	Holland	YES	Simpson	NO
Bailey	NO	Huckfield	YES	Stringer	NO
Baker	NO	Johnson (Mrs)	NO	Stubbs	NO
Bates	NO	Johnson	YES	Sweeney	YES
Beech	NO	Kearon	ABSTAIN	Tagg (John)	YES
Braithwaite	YES	Loades	No Vote	Tagg (Simon)	YES
Burgess	NO	Mancey	Absent	Turner	NO
Cooper	ABSTAIN	Matthews	YES	Wallace	NO
Cooper (Miss)	YES	Naylon	Absent	Walklate	NO
Dymond	NO	Northcott	YES	Waring	YES
Eagles	NO	Owen	NO		
Eastwood	NO	Parker	YES	Welsh	NO
Fear	YES	Peers	Absent	Wemyss	NO
Frankish	YES	Pickup	NO	White	ABSTAIN
Hailstones (Mrs)	ABSTAIN	Plant	NO	Wilkes	ABSTAIN
Hailstones	YES	Proctor	NO	Williams (Mrs)	NO
Hambleton (Mrs)	NO	Reddish	ABSTAIN	Williams	NO
Hambleton	NO	Robinson	NO	Winfield	NO
Harper	ABSTAIN	Rout	NO	Wing	YES
				Woolley	ABSTAIN

In Favour: 17
Against: 31
Abstain: 8

The amendment to the motion fell.

Debate returned to the substantive motion.

Cllr Fear stated that the motion should still be withdrawn as it contained inaccuracies.

Members also questioned what the alternatives were especially considering that this decision had been made by professionals and that this Council did not have all the facts on the table in order to make an informed decision.

Cllr Stubbs stated that loss of hearing could have a big impact on quality of life and action taken early on could help to prevent future illnesses, increase that chance of employment and half the risk of domestic violence.

Other Members expressed concerns that no wholesale review of other services had taken place and that the advice from audiologists had not been taken on board.

Cllr Loades stated that the methods followed by CPAG regarding the decision would be on their website including the other possible choices such as skin cancer care, plastic surgery and dialysis.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion:

Allport	YES	Heesom	NO	Shenton	YES
Astle	YES	Holland	NO	Simpson	YES
Bailey	YES	Huckfield	NO	Stringer	YES
Baker	YES	Johnson (Mrs)	YES	Stubbs	YES
Bates	YES	Johnson	ABSTAIN	Sweeney	ABSTAIN
Beech	YES	Kearon	YES	Tagg (John)	ABSTAIN
Braithwaite	NO	Loades	No Vote	Tagg (Simon)	ABSTAIN
Burgess	YES	Mancey	Absent	Turner	YES
Cooper	ABSTAIN	Matthews	ABSTAIN	Wallace	YES
Cooper (Miss)	ABSTAIN	Naylon	Absent	Walklate	YES
Dymond	YES	Northcott	NO	Waring	ABSTAIN
Eagles	YES	Owen	YES		
Eastwood	YES	Parker	ABSTAIN	Welsh	YES
Fear	NO	Peers	Absent	Wemyss	YES
Frankish	ABSTAIN	Pickup	YES	White	YES
Hailstones (Mrs)	ABSTAIN	Plant	YES	Wilkes	YES
Hailstones	NO	Proctor	YES	Williams (Mrs)	YES
Hambleton (Mrs)	YES	Reddish	ABSTAIN	Williams	YES
Hambleton	YES	Robinson	YES	Winfield	YES
Harper	ABSTAIN	Rout	YES	Wing	ABSTAIN
				Woolley	ABSTAIN

In Favour: 34

Against: 7
Abstain: 15

Resolved:

- That this Council write to the CCG asking them to reverse their proposal to introduce a fee for the issue of hearing aids to mild/moderate hearing loss patients in North Staffordshire.
- That this Council call on Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee to reverse their decision to support the introduction of a fee for the issue of hearing aids to patients who suffer from any form of deafness.

13. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

14. STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

THE MAYOR. COUNCILLOR SANDRA HAMBLETON
Chair