

## COUNCIL

12 December 2007

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor

(Councillor D Clarke) in the Chair

### COUNCILLORS

Astle, Mrs Margaret, CC	Jones, William Nigel
Becket, David William	Maskery, Philip
Blake, Mrs Elaine Elizabeth	Matthews, Ian John
Bowyer, Mrs Sandra Phyllis	Maxfield, Mrs Mary Cynthia
Burgess, Mrs Silvia	Morris, Mrs Helen Mary
Burnett, Mrs Gillian	Moss, Mrs Mary, MBE
Chrzanowski, Edmund	Naylon, Mrs Wenslie
Cooley, Andrew Robin	Olszewski, Mark Joseph, JP
Cooper, Miss Julie Margaret	Reddish, Miss Marion Lynne
Cooper, John	Shenton, Mrs Elizabeth A R
Cornes, Mrs Catherine Dylis, JP	Simpson, Mrs Sandra Jean
Daniels, David	Simpson, William Thomas
Dolman, Michael John	Slater, Raymond André
Evans, John Stanley	Speed, Mrs Olwyn Mary
Finnemore, Victor Clifford	Studd, Robin
Foy, Michael	Sweeney, Stephen John McLean
Gorton, Richard Lloyd, CC	Tagg, Simon John
Hailstones, Mrs Linda	Tatton, John Arthur
Hailstones, Peter James, JP	Tomkins, Brian Ronald
Hambleton, Trevor	Walklate, Miss June
Heames, Mrs Ann	Williams Mrs Gill
Heesom, John	Williams, John
Holland, Stephen Alan	

524. **COUNCILLOR MRS MAVIS LENCH  
FORMER COUNCILLOR AND MAYOR MRS BETTY BLAISE AND CONSORT  
MR ERIC BLAISE**

The Mayor referred to the recent deaths of Councillor Mrs Mavis Lench and former Councillor and Mayor Mrs Betty Blaise and her husband Mr Eric Blaise.

Following a minute's silence, Members paid tribute to the work and service undertaken by Mrs Lench and Mrs Blaise on behalf of the Council and the wards that they served and in particular Mrs Lench's service as a longstanding Member of the Kidsgrove Town Council.

525. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Braithwaite, Mrs Butler, Howells, Huckfield and Mrs Taylor.

**526. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2007 be approved as a correct record.

**527. PRESENTATION – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Members received a presentation by Ms Debbie Owen, the Council's Domestic Violence Co-ordinator on the work of the section and progress towards meeting the corporate aims and objectives of the Council.

**Resolved:-** That Ms Owen be thanked for the presentation.

**528. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2006/07 (88/08)**

Further to the above resolution a report was submitted detailing changes to the Statement of Accounts as a result of the audit process.

**Resolved:-** (a) That the amended Statement of Accounts for 2006/07 be approved.

(b) That the thanks of Members be extended to all staff involved in the production of the Accounts.

**529. LICENSING ACT 2003 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

A report was submitted seeking adoption of the draft Statement of Licensing Policy for the next three years.

The document had been the subject of a consultation process following which amendments to the proposed Statement had been considered by the Licensing Committee.

**Resolved:-** That the Council adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy as its Statement of Licensing Policy for the next three years.

**530. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 151  
APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER**

**Resolved:-** (a) That the Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer.

(b) That the Finance Manager be appointed as the Deputy Section 151 Officer.

**531. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2007/2010**

**Resolved:-** That consideration of this matter be deferred to an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 23 January 2008 at 7pm.

**532. STANDING ORDERS**

A report was submitted indicating that a review of the Council's Standing Orders had been undertaken and seeking Members approval to the proposed changes as detailed in the Appendix D to the Executive Management Team's report.

**Resolved:-** That the Council adopts the revised Standing Orders in Relation to Contracts to come into effect immediately following this meeting.

533. **NEWCASTLE TOWN CENTRE AREA ACTION PLAN**

A report was submitted outlining the current situation concerning the Area Action Plan for the Town Centre and requesting consideration to be given to a request being made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to issue a direction for its withdrawal, the reasons for which were detailed.

**Resolved:-** (a) That the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government be requested to issue a direction to the Council to withdraw the Area Action Plan for the Town Centre.

(b) That the Council continue to pursue the use of Supplementary Planning Documents to move the ideas included in the Area Action Plan forward to realise the potential of the Town Centre.

534. **REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Consideration was given to a report outlining revised Financial Regulations for the Council. The proposed changes followed a regular review and reflected the current structure and requirements of the Council.

**Resolved:-** That the revised Financial Regulations and Procedures be approved.

535. **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES**

It was reported that the Electoral Administration Act 2006 had placed a duty on the Council to undertake a review of all polling districts and places in its area before 31 December 2007.

This had now been undertaken and the results and proposed changes were submitted for consideration.

**Resolved:-** (a) That the polling place for all polling districts be defined as the polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly out of the district.

(b) That the changes to existing polling districts as outlined in Appendix F to the Executive Management Team report be approved subject to the following amendments:

Moss Cottages  
Bedford Road 22-2 (even)  
Bedford Road 27 – 1 (odd)

Move to Maryhill Primary School  
Remain at Kidsgrove Central Youth Club  
Remain at Kidsgrove Central Youth Club

Mount Road, Vinebank Road  
Wellington Road, Waterloo Grove  
Wesley Gardens, Attwood Street  
Gilbert Close, Napier Gardens  
Higherland Court, Peel Court  
Victoria Court and Bank Court

} Move to Kidsgrove Town Hall

**536. CUSTOMER ACCESS STRATEGY (445/08)**

The Leader of the Council updated Members on the present situation in respect of the Customer Contact Centre and in particular on the recent appointment of a Customer Contact Manager and further Customer Services Agents and moves in respect of a 'One Stop Shop'.

**537. SPORTS VILLAGE (418/08)**

The Leader of the Council updated Members on the current situation in respect of Sports Village and the proposed outline planning application.

**538. PETITIONS**

Pursuant to Standing Order No 17, the Mayor received petitions as follows:

- (i) From residents of Stubbsfield Road and Fosbrooke Place, Newcastle requesting traffic management measures to alleviate parking problems caused by staff and visitors to the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.
- (ii) From residents of Prospect Terrace, Newcastle requesting traffic management measures to alleviate parking problems by students and the road being used as a 'drop off' and collection point for school children.

**539. IAN JENKINSON – CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF ASSETS AND OPERATIONS**

The Mayor referred to the fact that this would be the last meeting of the Council to be attended by Ian Jenkinson before his retirement on 20 December 2007.

Members paid tribute to his work on behalf of the Council since his appointment in September 1998.

Mr Jenkinson responded accordingly.

**D CLARKE**  
**Chair**