

COUNCIL

23 March 2011

Present:-

The Worshipful the Mayor

(Councillor Mrs Ann Heames) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Bannister, James MacKenzie
Barber, Christian Stephen
Becket, David William
Bishop, Mrs Elizabeth Ellen
Blair, Stephen Paul
Boden, Edward Michael
Braithwaite, Mrs Eileen
Burgess, Mrs Silvia
Burke, Mrs Yvonne Carmel
Cairns, George O'Kane
Clarke, David
Clarke, Michael Ross
Cooper, John, CC
Cooper, Miss Julie Margaret
Daniels, David Ephraim
Fear, Andrew Thomas
Gilmore, Ian David
Hailstones, Mrs Linda
Hailstones, Peter James, JP
Hambleton, Mrs Sandra
Hambleton, Trevor
Heesom, Mrs Gillian Mary
Howells, Robert Ashley, JP
Johnson, Mrs Hilda

Lewis, Mrs Barbara Mary
Matthews, Ian John
Morris, Mrs Helen Mary JP
Myatt, Mrs Freda Dorothea
Naylon, Mrs Wenslie
Olszewski, Mark Joseph, JP
Reddish, Marion Lynne
Richards, Dennis John
Robinson, Kyle
Simpson, Mrs Sandra Jean
Slater, Raymond André
Snell, Gareth Craig
Studd, Robin
Sweeney, Stephen J M, CC
Tagg, John Henry
Tagg, Simon John, CC
Taylor, Kyle-Noel
Tomkins, Brian Ronald
Walklate, Miss June
Welsh, Billy
Wemyss, Andrew Robert
Williams, Mrs Gill
Williams, John
Woolley, David Anthony

631. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Beech, Mrs Cornes, Huckfield, Jones, Nixon, Mrs Shenton and Miss Short.

632. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 23 February 2011 be approved as a correct record.

633. **AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE – REDUCTION IN SIZE AND CO-OPTION OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER (576/11)**

Consideration was given to resolutions of the Audit and Risk Committee recommending that the Committee be reduced in size to 6 elected Members with effect from the new Municipal Year, together with the co-option of one independent Member on to the Committee.

It was intended that these measures would strengthen the Committee and demonstrate best practice and good governance.

Resolved:- (a) That the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee that it be reduced in size to 6 elected Members for the new Municipal Year be accepted.

(b) That the co-option of one independent Member on to the Committee be noted.

634. **STRATEGIC SITE ACQUISITION AND TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP (153/11)**

Further to the above resolution, consideration was given to a report seeking approval to entering into a partnership with Staffordshire County Council for the purpose of land assembly in particular the acquisition of Nos.10-16 Liverpool Road, Newcastle to facilitate the longer-term regeneration of the town centre.

The report had previously been considered and approved by the Cabinet.

Resolved:- (a) That the Council reaffirms its resolution that officers continue with the negotiations for the freehold acquisition of a site at Liverpool Road, Newcastle.

(b) That subject to (a) above being agreed an agreement be entered into with Staffordshire County Council which will enable the cost of this purchase (and its associated holding and marketing costs) to be shared by the Borough Council at a level of up to 50% of total costs.

(c) That a further report be prepared setting out both the outcome of the negotiations with the site owner and a project plan summarising the critical tasks to take the project forward.

635. **STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to the Council Leader's statement that detailed the activity and recent decisions of the Cabinet and referred to items in the Forward Plan.

Questions were put and responses were received from the Leader and other Cabinet Members.

Resolved:- That the statement of the Leader of the Council be received.

636. **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees referred to the various activities that had been undertaken since the last Council meeting.

Resolved:- That the reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs be received.

637. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That minute number 576 of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 31 January 2011 be approved.

638. PETITION

Pursuant to Standing Order No.17 the Mayor received details of a petition received from residents opposed to the sale of Council owned green spaces.

639. COUNCIL MEETING – 6 APRIL 2011

Resolved:- That the meeting of the Council due to be held on 6 April 2011 be cancelled.

MRS A HEAMES
Chair