

COUNCIL

25 June 2008

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor

(Councillor J Cooper) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Bannister, James MacKenzie	MacMillan John
Barber, Christian Stephen	Maskery, Philip
Becket, David William	Matthews, Ian John
Beech, Mrs Ann Elizabeth	Maxfield, Mrs Mary Cynthia
Bishop, Mrs Elizabeth Ellen	Morrey, Mrs Tina
Blake, Mrs Elaine Elizabeth	Morris, Mrs Helen Mary
Bowyer, Mrs Sandra Phyllis	Moss, Mrs Mary, MBE
Braithwaite, Mrs Eileen	Myatt, Mrs Freda Dorothea
Burgess, Mrs Silvia	Naylon, Mrs Wenslie
Burke, Mrs Yvonne Carmel	Nixon, David Ernest
Clarke, David	Richards, Dennis John
Cooley, Andrew Robin	Shenton, Mrs Elizabeth A R
Cooper, Miss Julie Margaret	Simpson, Mrs Sandra Jean
Cornes, Mrs Catherine Dylis, JP	Simpson, William Thomas
Daniels, David Ephraim	Slater, Raymond André
Fear, Andrew Thomas	Studd, Robin
Gorton, Richard Lloyd, CC	Sweeney, Stephen John McLean
Hailstones, Mrs Linda	Tagg, John Henry
Hailstones, Peter James, JP	Tagg, Simon John, CC
Hambleton, Mrs Sandra, CC	Tomkins, Brian Ronald
Hambleton, Trevor	Walklate, Miss June
Heames, Mrs Ann	Wemyss, Andrew Robert
Holland, Stephen Alan	Whieldon, Peter Andrew
Huckfield, Derrick	Wilkes, Ian Frank
Johnson, Mrs Hilda	Williams Mrs Gill
Jones, William Nigel	Williams, John
Lewis, Mrs Barbara Mary	

76. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Foy, Heesom, Miss Myatt, Miss Reddish, Mrs Salt and Mrs Taylor.

77. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2008 be approved as a correct record.

78. **VETERANS DAY PARADE**

The Mayor praised staff for their work in organising the Veterans' Day Parade recently held, which had been very successful.

79. LONG SERVICE AWARD

The Mayor presented a long service award to Councillor Miss June Walklate in recognition of having completed 21 years service.

Members paid tribute to her hard work for the Borough, and in particular, the ward which she represented.

80. PERFORMANCE PLAN

A detailed report, together with a copy of the draft Performance Plan 2008/09, was submitted for approval. Members commented that the Plan gave a clear message that the Council continued to improve. Reference was made to BV199a which had shown considerable improvement and Members wished the Council's gratitude to all employees of the Streetscene division, whose efforts had achieved this, to be placed on record.

Resolved:- (a) That the draft Performance Plan 2008/09 be approved.

(b) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make any further amendments necessary.

81. COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS IN RELATION TO CONTRACTS

A detailed report was submitted which sought approval to revisions to the Council's Standing Orders in relation to Contracts. It was further reported that the revisions were necessary to reflect organisational restructuring and changes in European Union procurement values.

Resolved:- That the revised Standing Orders in relation to Contracts, as submitted as an appendix to the report, be approved subject to the following being added to Section 3 (Executive Director Responsibilities) "(c) Designate in writing one named officer as responsible for securing signature of the contract".

82. DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

A detailed report was submitted which sought approval to the draft Statement of Accounts 2007/08 which were submitted as a separate document. Consideration was given to comments from the Audit and Risk Committee in respect of 'Movement on Reserves', 'Collection Fund Deficit' and 'Business Rate write-offs'. Members also discussed the Annual Governance Statement which replaced the Statement of Internal Control.

Resolved:- (a) That the Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 be approved and signed by the Mayor.

(b) That the financing of capital expenditure incurred during 2007/08, as set out in the annex to the report, be approved.

83. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Council needed to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair to the Standards Committee. Mr D J Wood and Mr Y Mir had indicated they would be

willing to hold the positions. It was further reported that the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association had submitted details of 4 Parish Council representatives to the Committee.

Resolved:- (a) That Mr D Wood be appointed as Chair of the Standards Committee and that Mr Y Mir be appointed as Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

(b) That the following parish councillors be appointed as Parish Council Representatives to the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2008/09; Councillor G Locke (Kidsgrove Town Council), Councillor W Murray (Whitmore Parish Council), Councillor T Sproston (Audley Parish Council) and Councillor W Welsh (Madeley Parish Council).

84. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the following meeting be adopted:-

Planning Committee (Strategic) – 10 June 2008

85. PETITIONS

Pursuant to Standing Order No 17, the Mayor received the following petitions:-

- (i) From the residents of Hall Street, Newcastle in respect of traffic issues.
- (ii) From the residents of Tibb Street, Bignall End in respect of traffic issues.
- (iii) From the residents of the Knutton area requesting action be taken in respect of the poor appearance of 2 vacant properties, the Forge Inn and the Forge Garage.
- (iv) From the residents of the Knutton area seeking the installation of gates to the alleyway between Malham Road and Acacia Grove.

86. STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES IN THE BOROUGH

The Leader outlined the issues in respect of the former Sports Village proposals and emphasised that the Council had done all within its powers to deliver the project. He further outlined plans in respect of options now being considered to deliver an excellent facility which would not only be for leisure, but for health improvement also.

Resolved:- That the Council supports the decision of Cabinet and its proposals for sports provision in the Borough.

87. STATEMENT BY THE CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

The Cabinet Portfolio holder for Safer and Stronger Communities advised Members of a new initiative he was launching to gather evidence of anti-social behaviour. Members were asked to complete and return the forms that would shortly be issued whenever they were made aware of such incidents. The collation of such information would help considerably in tackling this issue.

88. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP

Consideration was given to a motion submitted by the Labour Group in respect of the Audit Commission's report on Strategic Housing.

Members did not feel able to support the motion but considered an amendment as follows:-

"This Council accepts the Audit Commission's findings and welcomes the Improvement Plan put together by officers."

Resolved:- That the amended motion be agreed.

**J COOPER
Chair**