

COUNCIL

14 September 2011

Present:-

The Worshipful the Mayor

(Councillor Trevor Hambleton) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Allport, David	Lawton, Thomas
Bailey, Reginald	Lewis, Mrs Barbara Mary
Beech, Mrs Ann Elizabeth	Loades, David
Blair, Stephen Paul	Matthews, Ian John
Boden, Edward Michael	Myatt, Mrs Freda Dorothea
Burke, Mrs Yvonne Carmel	Nixon, David Ernest, CC
Burnett, Mrs Gillian	Olszewski, Mark Joseph, JP
Cairns, George O'Kane	Olszewski, Miss Sophie
Clarke, David	Reddish, Marion Lynne
Clarke, Michael Ross	Richards, Dennis John
Cooper, John, CC	Robinson, Kyle-Noel
Cooper, Miss Julie Margaret	Shenton, Mrs Elizabeth A R
Cornes, Mrs C Dylis, JP CC	Simpson, Mrs Sandra Jean
Eagles, Tony	Sinnott, William
Fear, Andrew Thomas	Snell, Gareth Craig
Gilmore, Ian David	Studd, Robin
Hailstones, Mrs Linda	Sweeney, Stephen J M, CC
Hailstones, Peter James, JP	Tagg, John Henry
Hambleton, Mrs Sandra	Tagg, Simon John, CC
Heames, Mrs Ann	Taylor, John
Heesom, Mrs Gillian Mary	Walklate, Miss June
Holland, Mark	Waring, Paul
Howells, Robert Ashley, JP	Welsh, Billy
Johnson, Mrs Hilda	Wemyss, Andrew Robert
Jones, William Nigel	Wilkes, Ian Frank
Kearon, Anthony	Williams, John

239. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. Astle, Bannister, Clarke D, Mrs Hailstones, Hailstones, Nixon, Miss Reddish, Slater and Mrs Williams

240. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 July 2011 be approved as a correct record.

241. **QUESTION RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 21(2)**

A question was put to the Council Leader under Standing Order 21(2)

Resolved:- It was confirmed that the number of members of the Labour Group was 25 unchanged since the last election.

242. STATEMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Consideration was given to the Council Leader's statement on the activities and decisions of the Cabinet, together with the Forward Plan.

The Leader was asked about the Newcastle Development Programme. He responded that the matter had been considered at Cabinet on 7 September and would form part of the Leader's Statement at the next Council.

The Leader was asked about the management arrangements for the Jubilee 2 Centre. He responded that for the foreseeable future the centre would be managed in-house. The other options would be put on hold for future consideration. The Leader was asked whether the cost effectiveness of the Jubilee 2 needed to be looked at. He responded that our facility will be better from the competition. The Leader was asked to respond to concerns over the success of the Sainsbury's regeneration project given the number of vacant premises in the town. County Scrutiny members had not been kept informed. The Leader responded that the role of county scrutiny in these issues was a matter for the County. As regards vacancies, the rate of vacancy here is in line with national figures.

The Leader was asked whether the works at the Midway Car Park would go into Christmas. The Leader responded that he was not aware that would be the case.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning was asked about the timing of the Town Centre Public Realm works. He responded that works would commence in the New Year with Phase 1 to be completed around March and later Phases to follow on so that the project should be completed in the summer of 2012.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning was asked when the Sainsbury's site car park would re-open and what loss of revenue there was on the meantime. He responded that the intention was to open sooner rather than later, discussions were ongoing and there would be a report.

The Leader was congratulated on the securing of £400,000 for the Jubilee 2, but asked whether the facility came at the expense of resources to other facilities. The Leader responded that there was no change in Kidsgrove, there would be an effect on Knutton Leisure Centre as had been previously discussed.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning was asked what was happening with disabled parking in the Town, was it being moved to the outskirts. He responded that such parking had been extended with a whole floor of the Midway being provided.

The Leader was asked whether the previous administration had mishandled the issue of cemetery memorial safety to the distress of the public. The Leader responded that he did not know.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning was asked for an assurance that the consultation in relation to the Batewood Park review would be overseen by the appropriate scrutiny committee. He responded that the consultation would be thorough and widespread.

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

243. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO THE PEER REVIEW OF SCRUTINY**

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee had discussed the findings of the Peer Review of Scrutiny at its meeting on 26 July 2011. The recommendations of the peer review were recommended with the amendments that the Council would act on the appointment of a scrutiny officer and the removal of 'and not Political Proportionality' from para 2.3.

Members expressed views that proportionality of Task and Finish groups would be important, that training was best delivered internally and that Members IT would need to be considered.

Resolved:- That the recommendations be agreed as amended.

244. **ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11**

The Annual Report was presented to Members.

Resolved:- The Annual Report was noted.

245. **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRS**

The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees presented reports on the various activities that had been undertaken since the last Council meeting.

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

246. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Resolved:- That the reports of committees were noted.

T HAMBLETON
Chair