



New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

12 September 2016



SUMMONS

To All Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 12 September 2016, at 6.30 pm



Bob Jackson
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA
www.newforest.gov.uk

This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format

AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2016 as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. REPORT OF THE CABINET (Pages 7 - 10)

To consider the report of the Cabinet dated 3 August 2016.

6. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22

7. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

To ask questions of Portfolio Holders. Members are reminded that questions must be submitted to the Chief Executive or to the Executive Head of Governance and Regulation by not later than noon on Friday 9 September 2016.

8. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

To consider any changes to the membership of Committees or Panels that might be proposed by the political groups.

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

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Agenda Item 1

11 JULY 2016

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 11 July 2016

* Cllr G C Beck (Chairman)

* Cllr Mrs C V Ward (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

- * A R Alvey
- * Mrs D E Andrews
- * W G Andrews
- * P J Armstrong
- * Mrs S V Beeton
- * Ms R Bellows
- * Mrs S M Bennison
- * J E Binns
- * G R Blunden
- * D A Britton
- * Mrs D M Brooks
- * Mrs F Carpenter
- * Mrs L D Cerasoli
- * S J Clarke
- * Mrs J L Cleary
- * I C Coombes
- * Ms K V Crisell
- * S P Davies
- * A H G Davis
- W H Dow
- * Ms L C Ford
- * R L Frampton
- * A T Glass
- * L E Harris
- * M R Harris
- * D Harrison
- * J D Heron
- * E J Heron
- * Mrs A J Hoare

Councillors:

- * Mrs M D Holding
- * Mrs P Jackman
- * M J Kendal
- Mrs E L Lane
- * Mrs P J Lovelace
- * B D Lucas
- Mrs A E McEvoy
- * A D O'Sullivan
- * J M Olliff-Cooper
- * N S Penman
- * A K Penson
- * D M S Poole
- * L R Puttock
- * B Rickman
- * W S Rippon-Swaine
- * Mrs A M Rostand
- D J Russell
- * Miss A Sevier
- M A Steele
- * M H Thierry
- * Mrs B J Thorne
- * D B Tipp
- * D N Tungate
- * A S Wade
- * R A Wappet
- * J G Ward
- * M L White
- * C A Wise
- * Mrs P A Wyeth

*Present

Officers Attending:

R Jackson, K Leach, Miss G O'Rourke and Ms M Stephens

Apologies

Cllrs Dow, Mrs McEvoy, Russell and Steele.

10 MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the special meeting and annual meeting held on 16 May 2016 be signed by the Chairman as correct records.

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kendal in Minute No. 88, Report of Audit Committee dated 28 June 2016.

Cllr Mrs Rostand in Minute No. 90, item 2 of the Report of Cabinet dated 1 June 2016.

12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that he had taken part in numerous events across the New Forest and Hampshire which had been listed in the latest Information Bulletin.

Charity Abseil

On Sunday 12 June, the Chairman abseiled down the Spinnaker Tower as part of his fundraising efforts for his two chosen charities.

Armed Forces Day

On Monday 20 June, the Chairman, along with the Chief Executive, raised the flag in honour of Armed Forces Day.

Centenary Service – New Zealand General Hospital

On Wednesday 29 June, the Chairman had the pleasure of welcoming His Excellency the Rt Hon Sir Lockwood Smith, New Zealand High Commissioner and the Hon Anne Tolley, New Zealand Minister for Social Development for the dedication of the stained glass window at St Nicholas' Church, Brockenhurst.

Civic Service

On Sunday 3 July, the Chairman hosted his Civic Service at St Mary Magdalene Church, New Milton. The Right Hon Sir Desmond Swayne MP led the congregation in prayers, and the Leader of the Council gave a reading.

New Forest Show

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the New Forest Show would take place on 26, 27 and 28 July. He encouraged all councillors to go along and support the event and visit the NFDC display.

Freedom of the District

Members were reminded that the Council would hold a special ceremony for the presentation of the Freedom of the District to the 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC on Sunday 25 September 2016. Members would receive a formal invitation to the event. Members were requested to respond at their earliest convenience, so that the necessary security arrangements could be put in place.

13 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Friday, 1 July 2016, the Leader of the Council, along with Cllrs Mrs Beeton and Binns and the Chief Executive, welcomed several year 6 pupils from William Gilpin CE VA Primary School to Appletree Court. The students spent the day at Appletree Court learning about the work of the Council and were given a tour of the offices including an inspection of a refuse vehicle. Students were able to test their debating skills with a discussion and vote about whether sugary drinks should be taxed.

Following the success of the event, the Leader of the Council had asked officers to coordinate a similar annual event during local democracy week in October. This would allow other schools to be given the opportunity to experience how local democracy worked, and the Leader of the Council asked all members of the Council to support this event.

14 REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Cllr Kendal disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as an Executive Member for Hampshire County Council (with regard to the Treasury Management item within the report). He concluded that there were no grounds under common law to prevent him from remaining in the meeting to speak and to vote.

Cllr O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 28 June 2016.

On the motion that the report be received, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted.

15 REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Cllr Clarke, Chairman of the General Purposes & Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 6 June 2016.

Cllr Wise passed on Dr Julian Lewis' request that the letter to local MPs include specific examples of where the Local Government Boundary Commission for England overlooked key concerns of the Council regarding their proposed changes to electoral boundaries in the New Forest. Cllr Clarke agreed to Cllr Wise's request.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations be adopted, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

16 REPORTS OF THE CABINET

Cllr Mrs Rostand disclosed a pecuniary interest in item 2 of the Report of Cabinet dated 1 June 2016 on the grounds that she owned a beach hut at Milford on Sea. She had received a dispensation to speak from the Council's Monitoring Officer, but did not speak and abstained from voting.

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the meetings held on 1 June and 6 July 2016.

On the motion that the reports be received and recommendations adopted, it was:

Item 2 – Report of the Cabinet dated 1 June 2016 – Milford on Sea Beach Hut Replacement Scheme

Cllr Harrison expressed his concerns regarding the revised cost of the Milford on Sea Beach Hut replacement scheme. He expressed the view that the replacement scheme was too lavish given the current financial climate and that value for money should be sought for the benefit of all tax payers' within the District. As such he had contacted the Council's auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, to investigate the matter. Cllr Harrison did not support the recommendation.

Other members expressed the view that the restoration of the seafront and promenade would attract more tourists and would bring revenue to the area. The environmental enhancements also included strengthening the foundations of the replacement beach huts, which would improve flood defences for the village and along the coast.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transportation expressed the view that the Council should take advantage of this opportunity to achieve enhancements for the benefit of the community and the economy. He also said that the numerous publicly available reports which had been submitted throughout the consideration of this matter clearly detailed all budgeting and set out reasons for any alterations.

The Leader of the Council echoed the views of the Portfolio Holder, that the beach hut replacement scheme provided a great opportunity for the Council to make improvements for the benefit of Milford on Sea and the wider community.

Item 2 – Report of the Cabinet dated 6 July 2016 – Revocation of Totton Air Quality Management Area

Cllr Harrison stated his opposition to the revocation at the present time. He felt that there was no advantage to revocation, particularly given that the commercial development of Marchwood Port would be likely to increase the flow of HGV traffic along the Marchwood Bypass, and traffic in, and out of Totton would have a negative impact on air quality. He expressed the view that the Council would be able to use the existing Air Quality Management Area to its advantage, when negotiating on the amount of HGV use along the roads around Totton. The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation confirmed that air quality monitoring equipment would remain in Totton and this could be used as evidence to address any air quality issues should they arise in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and the recommendations be adopted.

17 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22

There were none.

18 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

Question 1: from Cllr Harrison to Cllr E Heron, Planning & Transportation Portfolio Holder

“Of all the meetings I attend, arranged and supported by New Forest District Council, I have found that the most useful and productive are the local Traffic Management Meetings. They have involved knowledgeable officers, working with Parish, District and County Councillors, looking at specific local traffic issues and very often coming up with low cost solutions. I have found them always to be well organised, very focused and achieving results.

It's disappointing, to say the least, that with no consultation, I am informed that the meetings will no longer take place. Is that the best way of operating?”

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that, following consultation with the District Council (which had been discussed at a recent Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting), Hampshire County Council had reviewed the traffic management agency work provided by the District Council and had decided to reduce its funding to the District from £100,000 to £40,000 next year. The budget remaining would be focused towards road safety issues which left no money to deliver, or action any requests brought forward from the meetings held between local Members and Town and Parish Councils. As such it was not necessary for these meetings to continue.

In response to a supplementary question regarding the impact this decision would have on road safety and the quality of life for residents, the Portfolio Holder replied that despite the constrained budgets of the District and County Council, funding would continue to be directed to address road safety issues and priority road schemes.

19 MEETING DATES FOR THE 2017/18 MUNICIPAL YEAR**RESOLVED:**

That meetings be held on the following Mondays at 6.30 pm:-

15 May 2017 (Annual meeting, already agreed)
10 July 2017
11 September 2017
16 October 2017
11 December 2017
26 February 2018
16 April 2018
21 May 2018 (Annual Meeting)

**20 APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
(SECTION 151)**

RESOLVED:

That Alan Bethune, Service Manager for Finance and Audit be appointed as the Council's Chief Finance Officer, pursuant to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, with Kevin Green as Deputy Section 151 Officer in his absence.

21 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

No changes to committees or panels were proposed by the political groups.

CHAIRMAN

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 3 August 2016)

1. LEADER'S STATEMENT (MINUTE 18)

Over recent months, the Leader has been engaging with all neighbouring authorities and keeping an open mind to evaluate potential options for the devolution of powers from central government to local authorities. To date however he has not seen any proposals that he considers will bring sufficient benefits in service delivery or value for money for local residents.

The Leader is also aware that the context has changed following the EU referendum and the subsequent major changes to the government which had instigated the proposals. The Leader expects that further clarification about the future direction of the Government's plans on devolution will be received from the new Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, in the autumn and there should not therefore be any rush to any apparent solution before the Government confirms its position.

The Leader is drawing attention to two consultations that have been launched recently that look at the future of local government in Hampshire.

Firstly the consultation by the Solent Devolution Deal, being progressed by the Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight Unitary Authorities together with the Solent Enterprise Local Enterprise Partnership. This consultation runs until 18 September 2016. The structure does not include any district councils, but this Council, together with others, is listed as possible associate members or observers.

Secondly, the County Council has launched a consultation under the banner "Serving Hampshire" to ask for views on different ways that the County and the 11 district councils could change or be re-organised. The consultation is not in partnership with any of the district councils affected. Options include replacing all 11 district and borough councils with one all-purpose unitary authority. The consultation runs until 20 September 2016.

The Leader, together with other district council leaders, met with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the County Council on 29 July to express concern over the timing of the consultation and also that it would have been better if the consultation had been more collaborative with all councils in Hampshire. It was a shared objective to ensure the best possible local services were provided to all residents, and to provide good value.

These consultations could cause uncertainty in the New Forest community as well as for the Council's own staff. All members are therefore encouraged to look closely at both these consultations. The Chief Executive has sent the necessary internet links to all members and staff.

The Chief Executive has been requested to organise some events early in September, at different locations, to provide the opportunity for the Leader and Chief Executive to answer questions raised by members and staff about these consultations. The Leader will then ensure that a response is made on behalf of the Council, following full consideration by the Council.

In the ensuing debate at the meeting of the Cabinet it was noted that the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council had attended a recent meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils to present the consultation options and to suggest the role that could be played by town and parish councils in the future. This meeting had been well attended by local council representatives and it was hoped that the attendees would encourage their councils to respond to the consultation. District Councillors are also asked to encourage their town and parish councils to respond. To assist the town and parish councils further the internet links on the consultations have been circulated to them and, in addition, consideration will be given to widening the events planned for the Council's members and staff to include representatives of the wider community. It has been suggested that these events may be usefully scheduled for after the events already organised by the County Council.

2. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT BASED ON PERFORMANCE TO JULY 2016 (MINUTE 19)

The Cabinet has discussed and noted variations to the Council's budgets that have been identified in the year to date.

There is a net estimated saving of £654,000 against the original General Fund budget which is now projected to be £16.538 million for the year. Full details are set out in section 3 of the report, divided between items from portfolios or committees; asset management items and business development/third party grants. Additional savings have been identified in the close down process for the accounts for 2015/16 that will continue into the future; from the Senior Management Review; and also the Budget Stabilisation Strategy. New budget requirements have also been identified; including the increased grant to the St Barbe's Trust (minute 62, 6 April 2016 refers); and a contribution to Creative England to promote film and television productions in the Forest. There are significant elements of rephasing from 2015/16 in each of these categories and the cost will be met from earmarked reserves.

The Capital Expenditure programme has increased to £24.193 million as a result of additional budget requirements totalling £1.363 million and the rephasing of schemes totalling £2.161 million from 2015/16. Full details are set out in section 4 of the report. This includes the supplementary budget agreed by the Council for works at Milford sea front (Council minute 16, 11 July 2016 refers), funded primarily from 2015/16 underspends, that increased the Capital Programme Reserve. In addition, in February the Council received notification that its grant allocation for Disabled Facilities Grants has been increased by £335,000 to £901,000 for 2016/17. It is therefore proposed to remove the original capital allocation from this Council's funds of £74,000, bringing the total increase in this budget to £261,000; with a consequent increase in revenue expenditure of £33,000 for additional staff to allow the implementation of the increased funding.

To try to reduce the rephasing of both revenue and capital projects the Council will be undertaking a general review which will include working with external contractors to try to establish more realistic timetables for the delivery of these projects, which are often delayed by factors outside the immediate control of the Council.

No variations have yet been identified against the Housing Revenue Account, although slower than expected progress on the maintenance programme might be the subject of an update in the next financial monitoring report.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Disabled Facilities Grants gross capital budget be increased by £261,000.

**Councillor B Rickman
CHAIRMAN**

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