



New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

17 October 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, 17 October 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 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 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 CABINET (Pages 5 - 8)

To consider the report of the Cabinet dated 5 October 2016.

6. 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 14 October 2016.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

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

8. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

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Agenda Item 1

12 SEPTEMBER 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, 12 September 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, Miss G O'Rourke and Ms M Stephens

Apologies:

Cllrs Alvey, Coombes, Mrs Hoare, Mrs Lovelace, Penson, Rippon-Swaine, Russell & White.

22 MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with an agenda item.

24 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had attended a variety of events since the last Council meeting and these had been reported in the latest Information Bulletin.

New Forest Show 2016

The Chairman congratulated officers for their enthusiasm and commitment at this year's show. The Chairman had the honour and privilege of greeting the Countess of Wessex. The Chairman thanked Cllr Rickman for his commitment and dedication to the show over the last few years.

Commemoration Event

On 23 August 2016, the Chairman had the privilege of representing the Council at the commemoration of the bombing of New Milton.

Merchant Navy Day

On 2 September, the Chairman raised the Merchant Navy Day flag at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst. The Vice-Chairman, Leader of the Council and Chief Executive were also present.

Civic Day

The Civic day would take place on 13 September where other civic heads from Hampshire and Dorset would be shown around a selection of family-owned and run businesses operating within the New Forest District. This would provide the opportunity to showcase and promote these businesses within the District, and how the Council supported local businesses in general, this being one of the Council's corporate priorities.

Freedom Ceremony

The Freedom of the District Ceremony would be held on Sunday 25 September, in which the Freedom of the District would be bestowed on the 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, RLC.

Members who had registered their acceptance would be issued with an admissions pack. It was very important that members bring the parking permit and admission cards with on the day, to enable access to Appletree Court.

Big Spin Event

The Chairman had the great pleasure of presenting New Forest Disability Information Service, First Opportunities, Simon Says, and Southampton Hospital Charity with cheques of £4,556 each through monies raised at this year's Big Spin event held on 22 May 2016. Southampton General Hospital would use the money

to purchase essential equipment for their maternity unit and New Forest First Disability Information Service would fund an outreach worker for the forthcoming year. The Chairman thanked all staff, particularly Toby White, Totton Health and Leisure Centre, for organising this event.

Paralympics

The Chairman congratulated Alice Tai and Michael Jones, both swimmers from New Milton, for competing at this year's Rio Paralympics and wished them luck in their events.

25 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Forest Show

The Leader echoed the Chairman's comments about the success of the Hampshire and New Forest Agricultural Show. The Council's theme was "Helping Local Business Grow" to showcase the support of the Council for local business which was very well received. The Council had very positive visits from Sophie, the Countess of Wessex and, the board members of Enterprise M3, the Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Countess of Wessex thoroughly enjoyed visiting the stand and had written the Leader a letter personally asking "that her thanks be conveyed to those involved behind the scenes."

It was opportune that the visit from the Enterprise M3 Board coincided with the Show. This was the Board's first meeting in the New Forest since it was created in 2011 and the Council used the opportunity to showcase business in the New Forest. The Board took part in an activity which demonstrated surprising facts and figures about business in the area. The feedback received was extremely positive with Board members commenting that they "enjoyed the time spent and gained valuable insights into the opportunities and issues facing the area". As a direct result of this work, a meeting had been arranged between the Chief Executives to talk to about how to exploit opportunities for the benefit of local business.

Devolution

There had been a lot of speculation around the future of Devolution in light of the new Government. A formal position statement was still awaited from the Government.

Last week the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council had attended two sessions with Council staff to explore the current position with regard to devolution and local government reorganisation. This was a great opportunity to discuss this important issue with staff. It was hoped that by October, the position would be clearer once the results of local consultations were known.

26 REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the report of the meeting held on 3 August 2016.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and recommendations adopted.

27 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22

There were none.

28 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

Question 1: from Cllr Harrison to Cllr Mrs Beeton, Environment Portfolio Holder

“Is the Portfolio Holder completely satisfied that all the necessary plans and resources are in place, in the New Forest district, to prevent and mitigate the serious threat of flood damage?”

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that Hampshire County Council was the lead flood Authority, responsible for the County Wide Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The Environment Agency was the lead on flood prevention and was responsible for all main rivers.

The District Council was a category one responder to emergencies and therefore the Council had resources in place to assist residents in the event that these authorities requested assistance.

There have been various flood mitigation schemes across the District and a good example of this was the work undertaken in Fordingbridge.

Property owners had their own part to play in preventing flooding in their own and their neighbouring properties by maintaining watercourses and by purchasing readily available air-brick covers and door sealing barriers. In an emergency sandbags could be purchased from builders merchants but these were not as effective as other measures that could be installed in advance.

District Council officers worked as a closely co-ordinated team with other services including the emergency services, to provide a fast effective and efficient level of protection to life and property. The Council had emergency plans in place and had regular co-ordinated emergency planning training with partners, so those involved were always ready to respond to emergencies at short notice.

In response to a supplementary question, Cllr Mrs Beeton confirmed that the Milford on Sea beach hut replacement scheme included flood defences.

29 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

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

CHAIRMAN

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 5 October 2016)

1. LEADER'S STATEMENT (MINUTE 24)

Together with 5 other District Councils in Hampshire, this Council has commissioned Price Waterhouse Cooper to undertake an independent and detailed analysis of options for the delivery of services to people and communities. This is in response to the consultations undertaken by the 3 unitary authorities around the Solent and Hampshire County Council with respect to devolution.

It is also understood that the Government's Autumn Statement is due on 23 November 2016. The Leader has therefore asked for both of these items to be included on the agenda for the meeting of the Cabinet on 7 December 2016. Consideration is also being given to the best way of sharing this information with members and the wider community. Current thinking is that a detailed briefing session, open to all members, the public and media, will be held prior to the December meeting of the Cabinet.

2. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2016 ONWARDS (MINUTE 25)

Following consideration of the Medium Term Financial Plan in July (minute 14 refers), the Government's offer of guaranteed funding levels to 2019/2020 has been accepted and, as required, the Council's Efficiency Plan will be published on the website by 14 October 2016. This will give increased certainty for the Council's financial planning up to 2019/20.

A key issue for the future will be the redistribution formula that will be used with respect to business rates, and the degree to which local authorities retain the sums collected. In this District the Council retains only a small proportion of the Business Rates collected. It is understood that, by the end of this parliament, local government will not receive any government grant but will be 100% funded by business rates, with the change being fiscally neutral over the medium term.

The Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation Paper for 2017/18 was published in September and a summary of the key points is set out in Section 3 of the report.

In summary, the anticipated reduction in grant funding over the next 3 years is £3.051 million, a 37% reduction from 2016/17. Increasing Council Tax in line with the thresholds allowed by Government would reduce the deficit to £1.898 million (a 10% reduction in the Council's funding). A breakdown of the funding assumptions is set out in Appendix 1 to the report. A summary of estimated budget movements is set out in Appendix 2 to the report. The financial projections are based on the working assumption that the Council will increase Council Tax in line with Government limits. Council tax will however be set at the appropriate time.

The budget stabilisation process is continuing and other reviews are underway to achieve further savings. The Cabinet is satisfied that, by continuing to undertake efficiency reviews and to seek savings, the Council is remaining in a strong financial position, responding to financial constraints, while maintaining healthy balances to allow flexibility for investment to achieve greater efficiencies. The emphasis remains on protecting the delivery of front line services.

Resource plans have been produced for each portfolio, as attached as Appendices 3-8 of the report.

The asset maintenance and replacement programme to 2018/19 will be partly funded from reserves but will be mostly revenue funded. The programme of work is being developed to remain within the financial parameters that have been agreed, and the summary programme will be reported to the Cabinet as part of the next Medium Term Financial Plan report.

RECOMMENDED:

That the actions and the development of plans for options to support the Medium Term Financial Plan, as set out in Report Item 4 considered by the Cabinet, be supported.

3. ASSESSMENT OF BRING BANKS IN THE DISTRICT (MINUTE 26)

The Cabinet has reviewed the coverage of recycling bring banks across the District. Following the district-wide introduction of the kerbside collection of materials, including glass, the demand and need for bring sites has reduced over recent years. Currently the public has access to 106 public bring sites, in a variety of types of location. These collect dry mixed recyclable materials (paper, card, plastic bottles, metal tins/cans, and glass bottles/jars). A map of the sites is attached as Appendix 1 to the report considered by the Cabinet.

Following the introduction of the kerbside collection of glass, some 65% of glass for recycling is now collected directly from properties. A review has established that there is spare capacity in the vehicles used for the kerbside collection of both dry mixed recyclables and glass. In addition the markets are changing, for example with the reduction in printed media such as newspapers and magazines leading to reduced tonnages being collected and the closure of 2 UK based paper re-processors in the last year.

It is proposed to reduce the number of bring sites from 106 to around 20 through a phased approach, with considerable publicity over the coming winter to advise the public of the impending changes. The proposed 20 sites, which are those identified as satisfying the highest demand, including during the peak Christmas/New Year period, are set out in the plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report. Some additional sites, located at business premises where the public also have access, could also continue through the trade waste and recycling collection service. The Cabinet is satisfied that this proposal is a logical outcome from the successful introduction of the kerbside collection of materials, which is proving increasingly popular with local residents. The data collected demonstrates that kerbside collection is strongly supported in rural communities, where access to bring sites is more limited. Residents without cars also favour the kerbside collection service.

One specific issue that will need to be the focus of publicity is that, in future, shredded paper will need to be disposed of through the black sacks and sent for energy recovery, or composted at home. The Materials Recycling Facilities cannot handle shredded paper and consequently the kerbside collection service will not be able to offer this service.

The opportunity will be taken to explore the collection of additional materials through the remaining bring banks, such as the collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment. It is proposed that a trial collection will be introduced at identified bring sites. In addition, there are privately operated textile banks at many bring sites and it would be opportune to review their future operation. The Cabinet has supported the appointment of a working group to look at this issue.

It is projected that, by reallocating vehicle resources, it will be possible to dispense with one collection vehicle and the associated crew. This can be achieved without redundancies. Overall, it is anticipated that the proposal will achieve savings of £143,000, with the full breakdown set out in paragraph 5.5 of Report item 5 considered by the Cabinet.

4. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS (MINUTE 27)

The Cabinet considered revisions to the Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers to take account of the recent significant changes to the staffing structure.

RESOLVED:

That the updated scheme of delegation of powers to the officers that are the responsibility of the Cabinet, as attached to the minutes of the Cabinet, be agreed.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That the updated scheme of delegation of powers to the officers, that are not the responsibility of the Cabinet, as attached to the minutes of the Cabinet, be agreed; and*
- (b) *That the following additional Proper Officer appointment be made:*

*Public Health
(Control of Disease)
Act 1984, s48 as
amended by Health
and Social Care Act
2008*

*To seek an Order from a
Justice of the Peace for
removal of a body to a
mortuary and burial
within a prescribed time
or immediately*

*A Consultant in
Communicable
Disease Control or
Health Protection
employed by
Public Health
England South
East*

**Councillor B Rickman
CHAIRMAN**

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