



New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

11 September 2017



SUMMONS

To All Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the District Council to be held in the the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 11 September 2017, 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 10 July 2017 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

- To receive a short presentation from It's Your Choice, one of the Chairman's charities for the current year.
- To receive the Chairman's announcements.

4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. REPORTS OF THE CABINET (Pages 5 - 8)

To consider the Reports of the Cabinet dated 2 August and 6 September 2017 (to follow).

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 8 September 2017.

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

10 JULY 2017

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held in the the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 10 July 2017

- * Cllr Mrs C V Ward (Chairman)
- * Cllr M J Kendal (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

- * A R Alvey
- * Mrs D E Andrews
- * W G Andrews
- * P J Armstrong
- * G C Beck
- 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

Councillors:

- Mrs A J Hoare
- * Mrs M D Holding
- * Mrs P Jackman
- * 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, Mrs R Rutins and Ms M Stephens

Apologies:

Cllrs Mrs Beeton, Binns, D Harrison, Miss Sevier, Steele, Wappet and J G Ward.

10 MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kendal in Minute No. 16, Report of the Cabinet dated 5 July 2017.

12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that she had taken part in numerous events across the New Forest and Hampshire which had been listed in the latest Information Bulletin. She highlighted the following: -

Armed Forces Day

On Monday 19 June, the Chairman, along with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, had raised the flag at Appletree Court to mark Armed Forces week.

On Sunday 25 June, the last day of Armed Forces week, the Chairman had attended the 17th annual dedication service for New Forest Airfields at the memorial in Holmsley, Nr Bransgore.

The New Forest Children's University Graduation Ceremony

On Saturday 24 June, the Chairman had attended the New Forest Children's University Graduation Ceremony held at Winchester University. The New Forest Children's University was an exciting programme for children aged between 5-14 years. The aim of the programme was to formally recognise, reward and celebrate the commitment that children made in attending extra-curricular activities. Aaron Phipps, a British wheelchair rugby player, and part of Team GB Paralympics, was the Chancellor of the New Forest Children's University. He was an aspirational role model for young people. The Chairman had the honour of being asked to make a speech at the graduation ceremony, before presenting the students with their Post Graduate Diplomas. Currently, the programme only operated in the west of the district but it was hoped that it would be extended to the east of the district through Brockenhurst College. The Chairman encouraged members to support this worthy programme.

New Forest Show

The Chairman reminded members that the New Forest Show would take place on 25th, 26th and 27th July. The theme for this year was 'Best of British'.

Charity Abseil

On Sunday 27 August, the Chairman would be abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower as part of her fundraising efforts for her two chosen charities. The Chairman hoped members would support her in this event.

13 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council announced that he had been pleased to meet recently with representatives of three local organisations – Paultons Park, Walhampton School, and Forres Sandle Manor School which had all achieved the gold standard in a brand new public health initiative. The Council's Environment and Regulation service had launched this new initiative, called 'Eat Out Eat Well', which was a voluntary award scheme for businesses to recognise when they were providing healthy food choices on their menus. This was yet another example of how New Forest District Council worked with local businesses to help and support them in providing excellent services. The Leader wished colleagues in Environmental Health good luck with the scheme, and looked forward to many more local businesses achieving the award.

14 REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Cllr O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 23 June 2017.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

15 REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES & LICENSING COMMITTEE

Cllr Clarke, Chairman of the General Purposes & Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 9 June 2017.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendation be adopted.

16 REPORTS OF THE CABINET

Cllr Kendal disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 (Treasury Management Annual Outturn Report) of the report of the Cabinet dated 5 July 2017, as an Executive Member for Hampshire County Council. He concluded that there were no grounds under common law to prevent him from remaining in the meeting to speak and to vote.

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the meetings held on 3 May and 5 July 2017.

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

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

There were none.

19 MEETING DATES FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

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

14 May 2018 (Annual Meeting)
9 July 2018
10 September 2018
15 October 2018
10 December 2018
25 February 2019
15 April 2019
20 May 2019 (Annual Meeting)

20 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

No changes to Committees or Panels were proposed by the political groups.

CHAIRMAN

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 2 August 2017)

1. STRATEGY FOR BUSINESS - "HELPING LOCAL BUSINESS GROW" (MINUTE 16)

The Cabinet has approved a draft strategy to guide the Council's activities to meet the corporate priority of "Helping Local Business Grow". It is opportune to review the Strategy as organisations such as the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership are also reviewing their strategies, and preparation of the Council's own local plan, setting the background for achieving prosperity over the next 20 years, is progressing. The draft Strategy was attached as Appendix 1 to Report Item 5 to the Cabinet.

It is important that the Council has a clear strategy in place to be able to take advantage of the opportunities that are available for promoting economic and business success and to ensure that the right policy responses are in place for planning, transport, housing and skills.

Consultations on the draft Strategy will be held with the New Forest Business Partnership and other relevant partners; prior to it being reviewed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel in the light of the responses received.

In addition to the objectives set out in the draft Strategy, Members consider that the improvement of business productivity should be widened to include the maximisation of export opportunities; and that there should be an additional objective of improving the earnings of those people at the lower end of the pay scales.

Access to high speed broadband is also considered essential for the growth of small businesses and this is an issue that could usefully be addressed in the developing review of the Local Plan.

Members asked that a progress report should be submitted to the Cabinet in about 6 months' time.

2. A31 IMPROVEMENTS – RINGWOOD (MINUTE 17)

The Cabinet has agreed the response to be made with respect to Highways England's consultation on proposals to improve the A31 at Ringwood between the A338/B3347 (Ringwood) and the B3081 (Verwood) junctions.

The proposal contains a number of elements including the addition of a third lane along the A31 westbound and the closure of the West Street access to the A31.

While there are some concerns about the limited scale of the measures on offer and that some more fundamental causative issues are being left unaddressed, Members concluded that, in a time of financial constraint, it is important to be realistic about the scope of what can be achieved within the budget available, in order to achieve some improvement. This Council should support proposals that will improve traffic flows in this area and encourage Highways England to work closely with local communities, in particular Ringwood Town Council, to achieve the best possible scheme. At present congestion levels are growing, with a detrimental effect on businesses throughout the District, because of the importance of this strategic route to the West Country and the regional airports. In addition, local people are increasingly diverting their journeys onto

smaller forest roads, affecting the environment and increasing the risk of animal accidents.

The Cabinet is also encouraging the public and interested parties to respond to Highways England's consultation.

The letter of support that has gone to Highways England can be seen at Appendix 2 to Report Item 5 considered by the Cabinet.

3. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT - BASED ON PERFORMANCE TO JULY 2017 (MINUTE 18)

The Cabinet has been updated on performance on the Council's budgets to July 2017.

A number of changes have been identified with respect to the General Fund with savings and additional income of £499,000 offset by new requirements of £567,000, of which £150,000 will be funded from an earmarked reserve. Rephasings from 2016/17 into the current year, to the value of £1.146 million, will also be funded from earmarked reserves. The General Fund budget, as a consequence, has been reduced to £16.505 million. Further details of the changes are set out in section 3 of Report Item 6 considered by the Cabinet. This includes a new budget requirement that had not been identified previously, for the replacement of the boilers at Lymington Town Hall.

Capital expenditure has increased to £23.002 million to reflect net budget reductions of £156,000 and the rephasing of schemes from 2016/17. Further details are set out in section 4 of the report.

No adjustments have been identified on the Housing Revenue Account budget, which continues to be managed on a break-even basis.

RECOMMENDED:

That the new budget requirement of £80,000 for the replacement of the boilers at Lymington Town Hall, as set out in paragraph 3.4 to Report Item 6 to the Cabinet, be approved.

4. "SERVING HAMPSHIRE - BALANCING THE BUDGET" - RESPONSE TO HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION (MINUTE 19)

The Cabinet has agreed the following response to the County Council's high level consultation on options for balancing their budgets:

- (i) This Council acknowledges the difficult financial position faced by the County Council and others in local government at this time;
- (ii) It is noted that this stage of the County Council's budget consultation is very high level. It is not therefore possible to comment on the likely impact on specific areas of our community as they are not known. However, when the County Council is proposing to make specific changes to services it is requested that the views and knowledge of local people, including the district council, are sought prior to any formal decisions being taken.

- (iii) From an operational perspective this Council is keen to explore the opportunities to work in partnership with the County Council in order to explore where tangible benefits to both local authorities can be delivered, including in areas that may generate new sources of income.

5. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (MINUTE 20)

A Panel of 3 members has been appointed to review, on an independent basis, the allowances paid to Members. Members will be advised of arrangements for the Panel's meetings and will be invited to contribute to their deliberations.

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN
CHAIRMAN**

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