



New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

10 September 2018



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, 10 September 2018 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 - 8)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2018 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. BY-ELECTION FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL'S FAWLEY, BLACKFIELD & LANGLEY WARD - 26 JULY 2018 (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive the report of the Returning Officer on the by-election held on 26 July 2018 to fill the vacancy for the Fawley, Blackfield & Langley ward.

6. REPORTS OF THE CABINET (Pages 11 - 14)

To consider the Reports of the Cabinet dated:-

- 1 August; and
- 5 September 2018 (to follow).

7. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22

8. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

To ask questions of Portfolio Holders. Questions received will be tabled at the meeting. (Members are reminded that questions must be submitted to the Chief Executive or to the Executive Head of Governance and Regulation by no later than noon on Friday 7 September 2018.)

9. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

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

10. MEETING DATE FOR APRIL 2020 - CHANGE OF DATE

To agree to change the date of the meeting in April 2020 from 13 April to 6 April.

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

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Agenda Item 1

9 JULY 2018

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 9 July 2018

* Cllr M J Kendal (Chairman)

* Cllr A T Glass (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

A R Alvey
* Mrs D E Andrews
* W G Andrews
* P J Armstrong
* G C Beck
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
* L E Harris
* M R Harris
* D Harrison
* E J Heron
* J D Heron
* Mrs A J Hoare
* Mrs M D Holding
* Mrs C Hopkins

Councillors:

Mrs P Jackman
* Mrs E L Lane
Mrs P J Lovelace
B D Lucas
Mrs R Matcham
* 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
* Mrs C V Ward
J G Ward
* M L White
* C A Wise
* Mrs P A Wyeth

*Present

Officers Attending:

R Jackson, C Read, Miss G O'Rourke, Mrs R Rutins, Mrs M Sandhu and Mrs K Wardle

Apologies:

Cllrs Alvey, Mrs Bennison, Ms Ford, Mrs Jackman, Mrs Lovelace, Lucas, Mrs Matcham, Steele, Thierry, Tipp and J Ward.

14 MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018 and the special meeting held on 6 June 2018 be signed by the Chairman as correct records.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by any member in connection with an agenda item.

16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman had represented the Council at a total of 24 functions since their inauguration. These included:

- An Age Concern Annual Volunteer Party. Certificates were presented to those who had volunteered for 25 years or more. It was humbling to see the commitment of some of the volunteers.
- The New Forest Children's University Graduation at the University of Winchester for children aged 5-14 years.
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award reception for Gold Award Holders.
- His Civic Day, attended by the Chairmen and Mayors of surrounding authorities on 4 July. This had been a successful day with lunch at Bucklers Hard. £115 had been raised for the Chairman's charity in a raffle. The prizes had been kindly donated by local businesses in Totton.

17 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader was pleased to note England's progress in the World Cup so far and wished them continued success in the rest of the tournament.

18 REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Cllr O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the Annual report 2017/18.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

19 REPORTS OF THE CABINET

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the meetings held on 2 May and 4 July 2018. The Leader reported that just over three years ago, it was recognised that the challenges ahead were significant. Financial resources would become more limited and the demand for services was expected to grow. Housing was a particular priority which was recognised for families in the New Forest.

The most recent Cabinet meeting highlighted a sensible and planned approach on the use and management of the Council's finances. The Council were asked to approve an increased budget of £4.5 million in order to provide 16 extra affordable homes. Planning services had been reviewed and measures would be put in place to ensure the service would be able to deal with the additional demands, which had included the approval of an additional £300,000 per annum.

Efforts had been made to work with others to ensure that residents' money went further, although, as evidenced in the Cabinet reports, it had not always been possible to achieve this.

The new powers on litter enforcement were welcomed in order to protect the New Forest. Success would not be measured by the number of prosecutions but by the efforts made in the community to remove anti-social and potential dangerous behaviour.

Strategies on supporting economic growth and planning the future direction of the Council demonstrated the long term intentions.

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.

20 QUESTIONS

There were none.

21 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A

Question 1

From Cllr David Harrison, to Cllr Jill Cleary, Portfolio Holder for Housing Services:

"Whilst I applaud the collective efforts of staff and members of the authority in seeking to address the lack of affordable housing in the district, don't you agree that the policy of "Right to Buy" which means that we have effectively lost half our council housing in the last 20 years, coupled with the fact that most of the receipts go to central government for redistribution around the country, means that the prospects, especially for young people seeking local affordable rental accommodation are getting worse, not better?"

Answer

The Portfolio Holder agreed that right to buy had reduced Council housing stock. Providing more homes for local people was one of the Council's top priorities. The Council was actively pursuing a range of measures to create affordable homes for families and young people. The effect of right to buy had already been raised with Government Ministers. The Portfolio Holder read part of a response received from Dominic Raab MP, at the time Minister of State for Housing. This indicated that the Government appreciated that more needed to be done to help Council's deliver

replacement homes. The Government was looking at flexibilities that could be offered to local authorities in their use of right to buy receipts in order to increase build out. The Government would be consulting the sector later in the year.

Question 2

From Cllr Alan O'Sullivan, to Cllr James Binns, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing:

"Will the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing please update the Council on the progress of the New Milton Free-Weights Room and Applemore Studio Projects, the associated costs and payback time?"

Answer

The Portfolio Holder said that excellent work had been carried out on both projects with tight budgets. The projects had been split into seven different elements, and a separate contract had been let for each. The Applemore Studio Project had cost £44,500 and had been delivered on budget. The Studio had opened and payback was expected in one year.

With regard to the free-weights room in New Milton Health & Leisure, initial tenders had come back too high, at £100,000. Unfortunately damp was discovered underneath the squash courts which needed to be resolved, however the final cost of the project, including this additional work was £34,000. It was expected that the payback time would be 1 year and 3 months. Safety and security had been improved with the free-weights room being re-located opposite main reception. A further benefit of moving the weights room from upstairs was that the maintenance of a ground floor weights room would be cheaper.

Cllr Binns congratulated the Council's Graphics Team on the promotional material produced for both projects and paid tribute to the Health and Leisure Teams for their commitment and determination to make both projects a success.

Question 3

From Cllr David Harrison, to Cllr Diane Andrews, Portfolio Holder for Community Affairs:

"It has been reported that a suspected thief was caught by members of the public in Lyndhurst High Street and held onto for 40 minutes and yet the overstretched police force were unable to send somebody along to arrest the suspect, despite the fact that Lyndhurst police station is only located a few hundred yards away. The suspect got away. What does this tell you about the capacity of Hampshire Constabulary to fulfil their duty towards community safety?"

Answer

The Portfolio Holder said that the fact the Police had been unable to respond in good time to the incident was regrettable. It was, however, a fact that Police resources were stretched and they had to prioritise incidents when they occurred. She understood that at the time of the incident referred to, the local Police were dealing with a number of Grade 1 incidents (Grade 1 being the highest priority rating attributed to reports of crime). No units had been available to deploy to

Lyndhurst High Street. The local people who took action were to be thanked for their community spirit. It was understood that an item stolen from premises in the village had been recovered and that the Police were investigating what was being treated as a burglary. The Police had very difficult and dangerous jobs to do and they should be praised for the way they went about their work. They were central to what Cllr Andrews believed was a very successful and influential Community Safety Partnership. However, their resources were limited. Hampshire's Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner were campaigning for improved national funding. Meanwhile, the Community Safety Partnership continued to work as a collective to address the concerns of the community by using combined resources to try to reduce crime and disorder in the District. The matter raised by Cllr Harrison was not one within the District Council's control.

Councillor Harrison asked a supplementary question regarding the long Police response times and whether the reduction in staffing would cause further problems. The Portfolio Holder hoped that the publicity over the issue both locally and nationally would help to bring about improved funding. The Portfolio Holder was very supportive of the excellent work the police carried out.

Question 4

From Cllr David Harrison, to Cllr Alison Hoare, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services:

"How many successful prosecutions have there been against people dropping litter in the New Forest District in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018?"

Answer

The Portfolio Holder said that littering was a challenging problem. In order to achieve successful prosecutions enforcement officers needed to be in the right place at the right time but people were unlikely to drop litter in the presence of enforcement officers.

The Council in 2017 had reviewed how it enforced Environmental Crime. A review of the Enforcement Team had resulted in a team to pursue littering offences being set up within the existing Car Parking Enforcement Team. New legislation was also available to tackle fly tipping. There had been no prosecutions in 2016/17 but there had been 15 in 2017/18, and 2 so far this year, the latest having been reported in the Press the previous week.

The main problem with littering in the New Forest was rubbish thrown from vehicles. The Council had recently adopted new powers to tackle this issue, and a Multi-Agency Working Group would make recommendations on how these new powers could be enforced and publicised.

Cllr Harrison asked a supplementary question regarding the target for prosecutions for dropping litter in the next 12 months. The Portfolio Holder said that there was no target but that work to educate the public would continue, coupled with enforcement action in appropriate circumstances. A review would be carried in a year's time.

Question 5

From Cllr David Harrison, to Cllr Alison Hoare, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services:

"How many successful prosecutions have there been against people who have allowed a dog to mess without clearing up on pavements, verges and other community spaces in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018?"

Answer

The Portfolio Holder reported that there had been no prosecutions over the last few years. However, successful campaigns with a high profile presence from the Dog Warden at known hot spots had been carried out, these included Calshot Beach and Fisherman's Walk at Barton. Although no penalty notices had been issued, the campaigns had dramatically reduced the amount of dog fouling in the areas concerned.

In response to a supplementary question from Cllr Harrison, the Portfolio Holder stated that there was no target for prosecutions but that anti-fouling campaigns would continue.

Question 6

From Cllr David Harrison, to Cllr Alison Hoare, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services:

"New Forest District Council is near to bottom of the UK league in terms of recycling performance. What ambitious plans will be put in place to correct this?"

Answer

The Portfolio Holder reported that the recycling rate in the District had increased from 31% to just over 34% in 2017/18, which was very positive. Work was continuing to increase this further. A campaign called 'Six in the Sack' was to be launched at the New Forest Show to encourage households to recycle the right items. The Waste and Transport Service continued to try to reduce contamination in the clear sacks as a high priority.

Cllr Harrison followed up with a question comparing the recycling rate for NFDC with other nearby authorities, asking whether more steps should be taken to improve recycling rates. The Portfolio Holder responded that the Council was committed to improving recycling but items that could be accepted for recycling were limited by the commodities accepted by Project Integra. She applauded the rise in recycling for the last year and wished to see this continue.

Question 7

From Cllr David Harrison, to Cllr Barry Rickman, Leader and Corporate Affairs:

"What plan does he now have with regards to senior management of the planning function of New Forest District Council?"

Answer

The Leader responded stating that housing and planning were top priorities for the Council. Considerable investment had been made into these two priority services.

The Local Plan: Part 1: Planning Strategy had been agreed and was out for consultation. The Cabinet would review the planning function over the summer and report back to Members on progress.

Question 8

From Cllr David Harrison, to Cllr Alison Hoare, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services:

"A commercial company called Thelightsfest.com have announced their intention to hold a Chinese Lantern Festival in the Southampton area. This has undesirable consequences for property, public safety and wildlife, both in the City area and the New Forest district. Will she join me in trying to persuade the company to cancel the event and try to exercise as much influence as possible to stop them via the licensing regime?"

Answer

The Portfolio Holder reported that the Company proposing the event appeared to hold events throughout the UK and also in the USA and Canada. They appeared to apply strict environmental, safety and sustainability controls which included clean-up crews. The event might not require a licence but if it did it would be a matter for Southampton City Council. The Portfolio Holder appreciated the concerns and said she would contact Southampton City Council to ascertain what measures they would seek to put in place to protect the environment if the event proceeded.

22 MEETING DATES FOR THE 2019/20 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

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

20 May 2019 (Annual Meeting, already agreed)
8 July 2019
9 September 2019
14 October 2019
9 December 2019
24 February 2020
13 April 2020
18 May 2020 (Annual Meeting)

23 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

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

CHAIRMAN

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COUNCIL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2018

BY-ELECTION FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL'S FAWLEY, BLACKFIELD & LANGLEY WARD – 26 JULY 2018 – REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

1. An election to fill the vacancy in the Fawley, Blackfield & Langley Ward of the District Council, caused by the death of the late Cllr Bob Wappet, was held on Thursday 26 July 2018. Two candidates were validly nominated for the election.

2. The following votes were cast:

Craig Alexander Fletcher (Liberal Democrats)	525
Mervyn James Kenneth Langdale (Conservative Party Candidate)	736

Cllr Mervyn Langdale has therefore been declared duly elected a Councillor for the Fawley, Blackfield & Langley Ward of New Forest District Council.

3. The turnout was 26.5%.

4. Cllr Langdale has given notice that he has joined the Conservative Group on the Council. The political representation on the Council (taking into account the vacancy in the Pennington Ward) remains at:

Conservative	56
Liberal Democrat	2
Independent	<u>1</u>
	59

There is therefore no need to review the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels.

Further information:

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Background Papers:

Published documents

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REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 1 August 2018)

1. FUNDING OF CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION CIC BUSINESS CENTRE, EVERTON (MINUTE 24)

The Cabinet has agreed to give financial support to the Centre for Social Innovation Community Interest Company which is establishing a business centre to promote the growth and development of small businesses. The Centre is based in South Efford House at the Otter Nurseries site at Everton and has already attracted 10 micro businesses to operate from their flexible working space. In May 2018 the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership approved a loan of £220,000 to undertake the initial refurbishment of South Efford House, including fitting out shared, co-working and meeting conference accommodation. The Company sought match funding of £75,000 from this Council and from Hampshire County Council for phase 2 of the project. This will establish a seed fund that will help to deliver:

- A skills and talent incubator – a partnership with this Council, Brockenhurst and Totton Colleges to deliver specific skills and apprenticeships to meet the needs of local business. The Business Centre's New Forest Group Training Association would work to overcome the perceived barrier of the apprentice levy and provide an alternative learning model to the traditional university route.
- The provision of resources and facilities – including the recruitment of a Director of Innovation and meeting some of the building costs to establish the Business Centre
- Marketing – to attract targeted businesses and sectors.

The Council's Economic Development Manager has been closely involved in the development of the project which should drive local economic growth, develop skills in high value sectors and provide much needed flexible employment space. Accordingly, this project will contribute to delivering the Council's own vision and corporate priority, "Supporting local business to prosper for the benefit of the local community" and there is notable synergy with the Council's Economic Development Strategy 2018-2023. Members have welcomed the support that this initiative will give to developing high value businesses in the local economy and also, very importantly, the promotion of good quality apprenticeships that will encourage young people to train to fill the new jobs, allowing them to live and work in the Forest.

A number of caveats have been attached to the funding. These are:

- This Council will only release its funds when the Enterprise M3 due diligence has been completed
- The funding from this Council is co-dependent upon Hampshire County Council agreeing to support the project through their own mechanisms
- Payments will be staged with 50% of the funds issued 'up-front' and the remainder being payable upon completion of agreed milestones
- The centre should deliver its support in conjunction with identified business support networks including but not limited to the local Growth Hubs
- A clawback arrangement will be put in place to ensure that if for any reason the Community Interest Company ceases to operate within 3 years, each authority will seek to recover a proportion, if not all, of the original seed funding

- Funding will only be awarded subject to confirmation either that Planning Permission (reference 11/97250) granted on 11 November 2011 has been implemented or there is regularisation of the business centre use through the grant of a new planning permission.

2. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2018 ONWARDS (MINUTE 25)

The Cabinet has been briefed on the financial assumptions being used to develop the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2018 and beyond. A summary of the budget projections up until 2022/23 is attached as Appendix 1 to Report Item 5 to the Cabinet. The context for budget development includes the continuing Fair Funding Review and also the review of the Business Rates Retention Scheme, where the latest information suggests that the formulation will be based on a 75% retention rate, rather than the 50% currently.

All the assumptions have been made on a realistic basis on what should be achieved.

The assumptions on the funding available to the Council are set out in section 3 of the report. Business Rates Collection is expected to see overall growth of £1m beyond baseline for 2019/20; and the combined Hampshire Authorities are also working on a bid for a business rate pilot for 2019/20, which could result in additional funding being retained within Hampshire. At present it has been assumed that a baseline reset will take place in 2020/21, but in accordance with prudent financial planning, at this time all growth beyond the annual inflation increases has been removed from the assumptions.

By 2019/20 Revenue Support Grant will cease and this Council, in common with some others, is expected to be affected by “negative Revenue Support Grant”, in this Council’s case to the value of £612,000, which has been built into the budget. It is hoped that this will be addressed through the Fair Funding Review.

It is also expected that New Homes Bonus will not in future be a reliable source of funding, and is likely to cease entirely by 2022/23.

Increased costs to the value of £3.2 million have been identified for the next 4 year period, as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report. This will be partially offset by the savings and income adjustments identified in paragraph 4.2. There will also be new budget requirements for additional staffing in planning and open spaces; and there will be an electoral review of the District.

The forecast budget deficit in each of the forthcoming years to 2022/23 is set out in Section 5 of the report, and totals £1.35 million to 2023. Action to address the deficit is already underway, with a number of reviews and strategy developments needed to maintain the current process. Further details are set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report.

Investment in 2 capital projects originally reported in February 2018 will continue, with the outline business cases, confirming the level of investment required, currently being produced for submission to the Cabinet in due course. These projects are projected to achieve annual savings to contribute to closing the identified budget deficit.

The timeline for the development and reporting of the Medium Term Financial Plan is set out in Section 7 of the report.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the revised Medium Term Financial Plan, as outlined in Report Item 5 to the Cabinet and Appendix 1 to that Report, be adopted;**
- (b) That the reporting timeline as set out in section 7 of Report Item 5 to the Cabinet be agreed; and**
- (c) That the “Actions Required”, as set out in Report Item 5 to the Cabinet, be progressed.**

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN
CHAIRMAN**

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