



New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

6 July 2020



SUMMONS

To All Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the District Council to be held as a Skype Meeting - Online on Monday, 6 July 2020, 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

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AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 56)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2020 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. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020 - IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

In response to the ongoing Coronavirus – COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Council meeting scheduled for 18 May 2020 was postponed in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Leaders of Political Groups.

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the Council notes that, in accordance with the above Regulations:-
 - a) There is no requirement for New Forest District Council to hold an Annual Meeting in 2020; and
 - b) Any appointments that would have been made, or required to have been made by law at the Annual Meeting, continue until such time as the Council determines. These appointments include the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Committees and Panels.
2. That the Council agrees to continue with the current arrangements as approved at the Annual Meeting on 20 May 2019, until the Annual Meeting on 17 May 2021.

6. ATTENDANCE DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that “if a Member of a Local Authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority.”

Due to the on-going Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a number of councillors will have their own unique circumstances and consequently be prevented from, through no fault of their own, attending Council meetings.

The following is recommended to give the Council increased resilience for the next six months, preventing any Member of the Council being automatically disqualified as a councillor.

RECOMMENDED:

That, having regard to the current circumstances arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and in accordance with Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the requirement for all New Forest District Councillors to attend any meeting of the authority throughout a period of six consecutive months, be waived for a six month period commencing 6 July 2020, therefore expiring on 6 January 2021.

7. REPORTS OF THE CABINET (Pages 57 - 60)

To consider the reports of the Cabinet dated:-

- 6 May 2020
- 3 June 2020
- 1 July 2020 (to follow)

8. QUESTIONS

Under Standing Order 22.

9. 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 Housing by not later than 12.00 noon, Friday 3 July 2020.

10. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

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

The Conservative Group have notified the following change:-

Planning Committee

Cllr Duke to be replaced by a Conservative Vacancy.

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Background

This meeting is being held virtually with all participants accessing via Skype for Business.

A live stream will be available on YouTube to allow the press and public to view meetings in real time and can also be found at the relevant meeting page on the Council's website.

Principles for all meetings

The Chairman will read out Ground Rules at the start of the meeting for the benefit of all participants. All normal procedures for meetings apply as far as practicable, as the new Government Regulations do not amend any of the Council's existing Standing Orders.

The Ground Rules for all virtual meetings will include, but are not limited to, the following:-

- All participants are reminded that virtual public meetings are being broadcast live on YouTube and will be available for repeated viewing. Please be mindful of your camera and microphone setup and the images and sounds that will be broadcast on public record.
- All participants are asked to mute their microphones when not speaking to reduce feedback and background noise. Please only unmute your microphone and speak when invited to do so by the Chairman.
- Councillors in attendance that have not indicated their wish to speak in advance of the meeting can make a request to speak during the meeting by typing "RTS" (Request to Speak) in the Skype chat facility. Requests will be managed by the Chairman with support from Democratic Services. The Skype chat facility should not be used for any other purpose.
- All participants should note that the chat facility can be viewed by all those in attendance.
- All participants are asked to refer to the report number and page number within the agenda and reports pack so that there is a clear understanding of what is being discussed at all times.

Voting

When voting is required on a particular item, each councillor will be called to vote in turn by name, expressing their vote verbally. The outcome will be announced to the meeting. A recorded vote will not be reflected in the minutes of the meeting unless this is requested in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

By casting their vote, councillors do so in the acknowledgement that they were present for the duration of the item in question.

Technology

If individuals experience technical issues, the meeting will continue providing that it is quorate and it is still practical to do so. The Chairman will adjourn the meeting if technical issues cause the meeting to be inquorate, the live stream technology fails, or continuing is not practical.