



New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

25 February 2021



SUMMONS

To All Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the District Council to be held on Microsoft Teams - Online on Thursday, 25 February 2021, 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 - 22)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 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. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 23 - 24)

To consider the report of the Audit Committee dated 29 January 2021.

6. REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE (Pages 25 - 26)

To consider the report of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee dated 8 January 2021.

7. REPORT OF THE HR COMMITTEE (Pages 27 - 28)

To consider the report of the HR Committee dated 14 January 2021.

8. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (Pages 29 - 30)

To consider the report of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel dated 14 January 2021.

RECOMMENDED:

That the conclusions of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel in respect of the Call-In request, as outlined in the report, be noted.

9. REPORTS OF THE CABINET (Pages 31 - 36)

To consider the reports of the Cabinet dated:-

- 3 February 2021
- 17 February 2021 (to follow)

10. QUESTIONS

Under Standing Order 22.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION - SUSPENSION OF CAR PARKING CHARGES

In accordance with Standing Order 21, Cllr M Wade will move the following motion:-

“In response to the dire local economic situation for both New Forest District businesses and New Forest residents brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns. In order to support and stimulate local retailers and businesses, encourage New Forest residents to shop locally and help local people, this District Council will from the end of the current lockdown suspend for six months car parking charges in its town centre car parks.”

Under the provisions of Standing Order 41, the above motion, after being proposed and seconded (without speeches), should stand referred to the Cabinet, or to the Cabinet or such Committees or Panels as the Council may determine. However, the Chairman may allow the motion to be dealt with at this meeting if he considers it urgent, convenient or conducive to the despatch of business.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION - LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

In accordance with Standing Order 21, Cllr J Davies will move the following motion:-

"This Council notes:

- *February is LGBT+ History Month; and*
- *the great strides our society has taken towards accepting and supporting the needs and rights of LGBT+ community, including the recognition of sexuality as a protected characteristic under equalities legislation; and*
- *that there are still huge challenges to be faced, including over a third of LGBT+ employees having experienced harassment or bullying at work.*

This Council therefore resolves:

- *to declare our support for the holding of a New Forest Pride event to celebrate the New Forest's LGBT+ Community; and*
- *to fly the rainbow flag at Appletree Court throughout the month of February in support of LGBT+ History Month; and*
- *To ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity; and*
- *To work to provide at least one gender neutral toilet where possible in every public building, including public conveniences, owned or operated by the Council."*

Under the provisions of Standing Order 41, the above motion, after being proposed and seconded (without speeches), should stand referred to the Cabinet, or to the Cabinet or such Committees or Panels as the Council may determine. However, the Chairman may allow the motion to be dealt with at this meeting if he considers it urgent, convenient or conducive to the despatch of business.

13. 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 Monitoring Officer by not later than 12.00 noon on Wednesday 24 February 2021.)

14. COUNCIL TAX 2021/22 (Pages 37 - 48)

To set the Council Tax for 2021/22.

15. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

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

16. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The background report in relation to Health and Leisure Review – Preferred Bidder, which contains recommendations to the Council at item 9 of this agenda – Report of the Cabinet dated 17 February 2021 (to follow), contains exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

If required, the Chairman will move the following resolution:-

"That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it."

Description of exempt information – Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Part II - Private Session

Members are reminded that reports and information relating to this session are not for publication and should be treated as strictly confidential.

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Background

This meeting is being held virtually with all participants accessing via Microsoft Teams.

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, with this published agenda.

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 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 using the "raise hand" feature in Microsoft Teams. Requests will be managed by the Chairman with support from Democratic Services. Please remember to "lower hand" when you have finished speaking.
- The chat facility should not be used unless raising a point of order or providing the wording for a motion.
- 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 on the committee 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.