

Legal and Democratic Services

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18 February 2014

SUMMONS TO ATTEND

MEETING: WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WOODGREEN, WITNEY
DATE: WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2014
TIME: 2.00 PM

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2014 (previously circulated)

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors relating to items to be considered at the meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Local Code of Conduct, and any from Officers.

4. Receipt of Announcements

To receive any announcements from The Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.

5. Participation of the Public

To receive any submissions from members of the public, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.

6. Recommendations from the Executive and the Council's Committees (Report of the Chief Executive – copy attached)

Purpose:

To receive and consider recommendations made by the Cabinet and the Council's Committees from 23 January to 12 February 2014.

Recommendations relating to the 2014/2015 budget process are incorporated within the report of the Strategic Director at Agenda Item No. 8. The Cabinet's recommendation with regard to the Notice of Motion concerning the Transparency Of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill is incorporated within the report at Agenda Item No. 9.

Recommendations:

That the recommendations set out in the Appendix to the report be adopted.

7. Reports of the Cabinet and the Council's Committees (copies attached)

To receive the reports of the following meetings of the Cabinet and the Council's Committees. Unless otherwise stated, copies are attached:

- (a) Economic and Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee 23rd January 2014
- (b) Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 30th January 2014
- (c) Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee 5th February 2014
- (d) Cabinet 12th February 2014

8. Recorded Votes at Budget Meetings and Minor Changes to the Officer Delegation Rules (Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services – copy attached)

Purpose:

To (i) advise Council of, and seek approval for, a required change to the procedural rules in Part 4 of the Constitution; and (ii) to consider a number of minor procedural amendments considered necessary for the purposes of clarity or to take account of the change in designation of Council Tax Benefit to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

Recommendations:

That the information contained in the report be noted and the amendments set out therein be approved.

9. The Budget and Council Tax 2014/2015 (Report of the Cabinet – copy attached)

Purpose:

To set the Budget and Council Tax for 2014/2015.

Recommendation:

That the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Cabinet on 12th February 2014 be considered.

10. Notice of Motion - Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill

At the Council meeting held on 22 January 2014 the following motion was received in the names of Mr D A Snow and Mr D S T Enright, namely:

"West Oxfordshire District Council is extremely concerned about the Transparency Of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill currently working its way through parliament, and resolves to advise the Prime Minister of the severe blow this proposed legislation would have on our local democracy. Community Groups, Charities, and Church Based Organisations by their very nature often pursue or campaign on issues that coincide with, or are similar to that of political parties. If this Bill passes into law, any one of these groups could be breaking the law, simply by acting on the wishes of their supporters, and straying into the realms of what the government could deem "campaigning for political purposes". Legislation such as this could potentially silence the very community-spirited people that voted us into office! This Council believes this proposed legislation is hugely disrespectful to our electorate, whose voice should always be heard, however big or small, and especially in the run up to an election. As a council, we aim to guard this democratic freedom vigilantly".

At that meeting it was agreed that, in accordance with paragraph 11(e) of the Council Procedure Rules, the Motion stand referred without discussion to the Cabinet.

The motion was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 12th February and the Council is now invited to consider the attached report.

11. Notice of Motion – Support for Local Public Houses

The following motion has been received in the names of Mr D S T Enright and Mr G Saul, namely:

"Pubs are important local assets and West Oxfordshire District Council has a record of supporting pubs across the District. They are under threat as a result of a number of pressures including the economic situation, the structure of the tied beer trade, and high property prices.

The Council therefore resolves to create a really simple "toolkit" or online nomination form so parishes and other bodies can nominate pubs as assets of community value, and promote the power to relevant bodies, as an enhancement of the details already available at <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/communities/community-rights/>.

In addition the Council supports the introduction of a statutory code, as follows, and will write to CAMRA and our MP to share our support:-

1. The Beer Tie, whereby landlords can only buy products from their PubCo, works for some licencees. However, for many others it means they can only buy limited products at inflated prices. We want every landlord to have the choice of whether to go free-of-tie. This would allow licencees to operate in a re-constructed market which would actually be more competitive.
2. When a new licencee takes over a pub, or when an existing rent contract expires and is renegotiated, there should be a fully transparent and independent rent review completed by a qualified surveyor.
3. There must be a truly independent body to monitor the regulations and adjudicate in disputes between licencees and pubcos".

12. Notice of Motion – Questions by Members on Announcements

The following motion has been received in the names of Ms E P R Leffman and Mr J C Cooper, namely:

“This Council resolves to amend the procedural rules in Part 4 of the Constitution as follows, with additional wording shown in italics:

- (i) in Rule 2 relating to Ordinary Meetings of the Council, the amendment of paragraph (vi) to read “receive any announcements from the Chairman, leader, members of the cabinet or the head of the paid service *and receive questions and answers on any such announcements*”; and
- (ii) the amendment of Rule 10(a) relating to Questions by Members (without notice) to read:

A member of the Council may ask the leader or the Chairman of a Committee any question without notice upon an item in the report of the executive or a committee when the item is being received or is under consideration by the council.

Additionally, a member of the Council may ask the chairman, leader, members of the cabinet or the head of the paid service a question arising from an announcement made pursuant to Rule 2(vi).”

In accordance with paragraph 21(b) of the Council Procedure Rules the above Motion (being a Motion to add to the Council Rules of Procedure) will, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

13. Sealing of Documents (copy attached)

Purpose:

To note the documents sealed since the last report.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.



David Neudegg
Chief Executive