



Walsall Council

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the SEVENTH day of JULY, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2008.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:-

1. Apologies.
2. To elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.
3. To approve as correct records and sign the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 19th and 21st May, 2008.
4. Declarations of interest.
5. Mayor's announcements.
6. To receive any petitions.

7. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:

(a) From the public.

Deborah Doyle, 211 Little Aston Road, Aldridge

What safety measures do you plan to put in place on the Little Aston Road, Aldridge, given that 111 people, including every household in the road but one, have raised their concern by signing a petition re speeding and the need for enhanced safety measures?

(b) From members of the Council.

Councillor Smith

(1) Postal voting

“Would the appropriate portfolio holder inform me, this Council and the public of the percentage of the electorate, ward by ward, that were registered for a postal vote for the 1 May 2008 local elections?”

(2) Employee surveillance

“Given recent public concern expressed by some that the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 gives Councils “license to snoop” and given that in an answer to a question that I tabled on 25/2/08 specific to employee surveillance after which Councillor Griffiths stated that “*In the last 2 years there have been 10 instances of approved employee surveillance, 5 relating to sickness absence*”, would the appropriate portfolio holder update me, the Council and the public, with details of the total number of surveillance authorisations that have been made by Walsall Council officials since the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act came into force, especially any that have been authorised other than those 10 instances of employee surveillance referred to by Councillor Griffiths at the meeting of 25/2/08?”

(3) Charges for visits by Neighbourhood Care Officers

“Would the portfolio holder for social care, health and housing inform me, this Council and the public whether there have been any changes, and if so what changes, since her response to my question at the Council meeting of 21/4/08 (the last Council meeting before the local elections) when I asked her to give details of any plans being considered to introduce a charge on those older and disabled residents, who are not in receipt of housing and Council tax benefits, for visits by Neighbourhood Care Officers (NCOs) whose service they presently receive for free?”

(4) Residents dealing in scrap and associated businesses from home

“Given that at the Council meeting of 2/7/07, a notice of motion was overwhelmingly passed (51 to 1) with regard to residents who deal in scrap and associated businesses from their home without planning permission, stating in the notice of motion that *“this Council resolves to make every effort via a full strength enforcement team to stop this activity”*, would the appropriate portfolio holder outline details to me, this Council and the public of the extent to which the “full strength enforcement team” has been successful in stopping this activity during the twelve months that have elapsed since the resolution was passed?”

(5) Charges for stolen wheelie bins

“Given the statement that the charging policy for stolen bins (presently at £18.50) was under review, timed to be released just prior to the May local elections and given the most recent announcement just after the elections that the charges for stolen wheelie bins, be they green, brown or may be grey in the near future are to remain after all, would you not agree with me that the Cabinet has missed a golden opportunity to salvage some of the damaged reputation to this Council caused by this unfair and unjust policy which has caused and will increasingly cause widespread discontent in all parts of the Borough?”

(6) Waste collection policy

Will the portfolio holder for the environment clarify the position with regard to the brown bin recycling scheme by making it clear that under her recently announced new waste collection policy, and in the interest of encouraging more recycling as well in the interests of fairness and equality, all households with gardens, including bungalows and even low rise flats with gardens, presently excluded from the brown bin scheme, will now be included?”

8. To confirm the following recommendation of Cabinet:-

Sustainable Community Strategy

That Walsall’s Sustainable Community Strategy as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

(Note: The report to Cabinet relating to this recommendation is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

9. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Licensing and Safety Committee**:

Review of statement of licensing policy

That having undertaken consultation on the existing Licensing Policy between 7th April, 2008 and 2nd June, 2008, the proposed revised changes to the current Statement of Licensing Policy as detailed in the report now submitted, be approved.

(Note: The report to Licensing and Safety Committee relating to this recommendation is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

10. **Walsall Housing Group – proposed changes to group structure.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

11. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillor Smith**:

The Local Government Act of 2000 and the Health and Social Care Act of 2001 places obligations on local overview and scrutiny committees to scrutinise health services and places obligations on NHS bodies to provide information, answer questions and respond to recommendations. Given that this responsibility is included within the remit of the Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel and given recent announcements, reported in the press in early June 2008 that as many as 127 posts including 89 nurses, midwives and health visitors at the Manor Hospital are set to be made redundant by October 2008 as part of a programme of savings ahead of a switch to foundation trust status, with possibly hundreds more staff being lost by 2011, this Council calls on the Health, Social Care and Inclusion Panel to consider fully the actual details of the Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust's plans as a matter of some urgency after which a report should be presented to Council as soon as is practicable in order to give the Council an opportunity to consider the findings of the Scrutiny Panel on this matter.

(Note: Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Oliver, Khan and Nazir**:

This Council recognises that Walsall is a multi cultural borough and that we should work with all communities to achieve community cohesion, whilst wherever possible being sensitive to specific cultural and religious needs.

We therefore note the lack of progress in Walsall in responding to community needs in terms of Muslim burial issues, and calls upon the Council to work in partnership with appropriate community representatives to support the development of a business case for a community based model, such as implemented in Leicester which is cost effective, meets appropriate legal, health and safety requirements, and empowers the local community.

(Note: Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

13. Changes in membership of Employment Appeals Committees. To note the following changes in membership for the remainder of the municipal year:

Employment Appeals A	Delete Councillor Cassidy and substitute Councillor K. Phillips
Employment Appeals B	Delete Councillor K. Phillips and substitute Councillor Cassidy

14. Appointments on charities and statutory bodies. To appoint representatives to the following organisations for the periods indicated:

- (a) Blanch Woollaston Charity – *1 representative for the period expiring 13th September 2011
- (b) W.J. Croft Charity – *1 representative for the period expiring on 25th July 2012.
- (c) Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education – 1 Conservative group member (political balance rules apply) – for 2008/2009.

(Note: * Can either be a Council member or a Council-nominated individual)