



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 TWENTIETH day of APRIL, 2009 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:-

1. To elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.
2. Apologies.
3. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23rd February 2009.
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 – **None**

(b) From members of the Council.

(1) Councillor Smith – Hunter Crescent, Forest Estate brown bins (Councillor Walker)

“Why Hunter Crescent, Forest Estate, Walsall is the only street on the Forest Estate to have been excluded from the Brown Bin re-cycling scheme despite the Hunter Crescent properties having approximately the same sized gardens of the other properties in the surrounding streets on the estate that are included in the scheme?”

(2) Councillor Smith – Home Care provision (Councillor McCracken)

“How the Council monitors both qualitatively and quantitatively the home care provision for those Walsall Borough residents receiving it and in particular, whether procedures in place are sufficiently robust enough to have identified in the past or be capable of identifying in the future, any examples of mismatch between the time periods being spent with those cared for and the time periods being paid to care providers for such care?”

(3) Councillor Smith – Walsall Manor Hospital (Councillor Oliver)

“Could the Chairman of the Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel inform me, this Council and the public whether he is aware that the Health and Safety Executive or any other public body, has in the last 6 months, conducted a survey involving a representative number of Walsall Manor Hospital Staff and where the results pointed to high levels of stress amongst Manor Hospital workers? And whatever the answer, could the Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel investigate the extent of such stress and any related absenteeism amongst the Hospital workers as well as the extent to which there is a correlation between stress levels, the cuts in staffing levels and the quality of services being provided by the Hospital to the citizens of our Borough?”

8. To the report the result of the by-election for the Rushall-Shelfield Ward held on 26th February 2009:

Name of candidates	Votes cast	Candidate elected
Carpenter, Ronald Ernest George	809	Ronald Ernest George Carpenter
Jeavons, Lee David	411	
MacNaughton, Karl Raymond	61	
Melville, Timothy Neil	165	
Smith, Leslie Roy	178	

Percentage turnout – 18.09%

9. **State of Walsall debate.** Statement by the Leader of the Council.

10. To confirm the following recommendations of the **Cabinet**:

(1) **Corporate Plan 2009/10**

That the Corporate Plan 2009/10 be adopted.

(Note: The report to Cabinet on 18th March 2009 relating to this recommendation is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

(2) **Proposed transfer of Almshouses to a Registered Social Landlord**

(a) That the Council as trustee apply to the Charities Commission for consent to transfer the trusteeship and the freehold interest in the 11 almshouses at 1-7 Heather Close and 80-83 Sandbank, Bloxwich to a Registered Social Landlord.

(b) That the Council as trustee delegates authority to the Executive Director, Regeneration to negotiate the transfer to the Registered Social Landlord which can best meet the criteria set down by the Council and Charities Commission.

(Note: The report to Cabinet on 18th March 2009 relating to this recommendation is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

11. **Corporate risk management.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. **Annual scrutiny report 2008/2009.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

13. **Annual report of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

Items 14 and 15 – Council to deal with as charitable trustees

14. Walsall Wood Head Gear Sculpture – Trust land report. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

15. Annual report of Barr Beacon Trust Management Committee. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

16. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors Oliver, Wilkes, Anson and Coughlan:

“As the Council notes:

- (1) The decisions taken in relation to the Council's 2009/2010 budget at the meeting on the 23rd February 2009.
- (2) The notification as 24th February 2009 of Local Authority Business Growth Initiative (LABGI) contingency funding from Government to a total of £314,800 in Walsall which is unringfenced grant.

This Council therefore resolves that Cabinet be requested to consider that this additional LABGI funding be used to replenish changes in the Council budget as follows:

- That the increase in charges for meals on wheels be pegged at 2.5% instead of the current 10.5% (cost: £20,248).
- That the cut to the highways maintenance budget be reinstated (cost: £75,000).
- That finance be resolved to be used for additional activities for young people, including provision through the voluntary sector and for sport (cost: £69,552).
- That the Ready Steady Summer scheme for young people be reinstated for 2009 (cost: £50,000).
- That a review be undertaken of respite care across older peoples services, learning disability services, mental health services and young adults disability services, with a view to increasing equity of access (cost: £100,000).

and that a report on this matter be submitted to the Council at its next meeting.”

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

17. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Oliver, Wilkes and Coughlan**:

“This Council:

- (1) Stresses the need for the Police Service to work closely with local Councils and other agencies, and commends the successful relationships being built up through the Safer Walsall Partnership and in many other Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships;
- (2) Notes that a significant proportion of Council tax is spent on policing.
- (3) Welcomes steps taken to increase the responsiveness of the service and keep the public informed e.g. by crime mapping, policing pledge, etc.
- (4) Recognises that greater transparency and accountability are required at neighbourhood basic command unit and force level but;
- (5) Rejects proposals for the direct election of Police Authority members or Police Commissioners and welcomes the Home Secretary's decision not to proceed with such proposals.

This Council therefore calls upon the Local Government Association to enter into discussion with it and the Association of Police Authorities (APA) to seek to build a consensus on ways of achieving the objectives set out in paragraph (4) above, without establishing competing mandates with local Councils, but by means of, inter alia, greater support for all police authority members, training, peer review, closer scrutiny (involving independent members) to enhance the effectiveness of police authorities within the local democratic framework.”

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