



# 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 11TH day of JULY, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 1st day of July, 2011.

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 May, 2011.
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

**Ms. A. Fisher of Bloor Mill Close, Willenhall – School admissions**

“Why are you informing parents that they have a preference option for school admissions applications and these should be in order of where they want child to attend, when the Admissions co-ordinator confirmed at a recent appeal hearing, that the computer system used will allocate places based on distance regardless of preference or the school even being selected, rather than on preference order and distance?”

(b) From members of the Council

**Councillor Robertson – Metal theft**

“What has been the cost to this Council of metal theft that has required replacement over the last two financial years split into categories such as drain covers, lead or copper from roofs, electrical cable etc and have you any estimate how much has been the cost of metal theft to our partners over a similar period?”

8. **State of Walsall debate.** See separate report.

9. To confirm the following recommendation of **Cabinet**:

**Charges for street naming and numbering services**

- (1) That pursuant to Paragraph 25 of Schedule 14 to the Local Government Act 1972, the provisions of Sections 17-19 (inclusive) of the Public Health Act 1925 relating to the naming of streets and Sections 64 and 65 Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847, relating to the numbering only of streets, be adopted and apply throughout the area served by Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council.
- (2) That approval be given to the introduction of charges in relation to street naming and numbering services as detailed in Appendix A of the report.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 8 June 2011 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

10. **Pay and grading.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

11. **Annual scrutiny report 2010/11.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. **Corporate Health and Safety Policy.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

13. **Food Law Enforcement Plan.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

14. **Portfolio holder briefing.** To receive 5 minute presentation from the portfolio holder for Regeneration (Councillor A. Andrew).

(Note: (1) Copy of the presentation - to follow.

(2) A member of the Council may ask the portfolio holder any question and other associate question without notice upon the each report. Questioning by members is limited to 10 minutes for each report presented.)

15. **Blanch Woollaston Charity**

- (a) The term of office of Councillors Bott and Harrison expires on 13th September 2011.
- (b) To appoint two Trustees to the Charity for a period of 3 years expiring on 13th September 2014.

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

Following an assurance by the portfolio holder for Leisure and Culture at the April meeting of Council that he would explore this issue, this Council now calls upon the Cabinet to give a commitment to commence the building process of the proposed new library at Bentley by using the slippage of finance included within the Capital Programme for this Scheme.

(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 Robertson, Young and Thomas**:

Council notes that there are now a large number of horses tethered and grazing illegally on their land.

Council accepts that this causes a nuisance to neighbours, stops residents using the land for recreational purposes, poses a risk to the public plus there is a legal risk to this Council if a horse on our land was a factor in causing an accident.

Council proposes to pursue the following policy.

- (1) explore the feasibility of allocating and subsequently leasing specific areas of land that are suitable and safe that could be used for grazing of horses.
- (2) facilitate a working group meeting under the relevant scrutiny committee and guidance of the local area partnerships to which all relevant parties are invited to produce a report directly to Cabinet and Council within 3 months. This report to contain recommendations as to how this issue can be resolved.
- (3) in the event no satisfactory agreement being forthcoming, Council directs that officers fully implement existing legal powers to deal with all illegally placed horses on Council land.

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

18. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Oliver, S. Coughlan, Thomas and Nazir**:

This Council notes the positive discussions between officials from Walsall Football Club and Councillors from all political parties on Walsall Council at an informal meeting that was held in the Council House on Tuesday, 21 June 2011.

The Council therefore now instructs officers to prepare a report on how the Council might help safeguard the Football Club's future at the Banks's Stadium, including the benefits and the risks of the Council supporting any purchase of the stadium (where necessary mindful of commercial confidentiality).

This report to be prepared as a matter of urgency, and to be shared initially with the three Group Leaders on Walsall Council, and potentially to a meeting of the full Council.