



Walsall Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the 15th day of April 2024 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Public access via: www.WalsallCouncilWebcasts.com

Dated this 5th day of April, 2024

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 22nd February, 2024 and 18th March, 2024 – **(pages 5 – 38)**
4. Declarations of interest.
5. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
6. Mayor's announcements.
7. To receive any petitions

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

(a) From the public:

Mark Brindley

How has the conclusion of the trials regarding the murders of Bailey Atkinson and Akeem Francis Kerr influenced the collaborative efforts to enhance safety in Walsall's Town Centre, and what strategies are being considered for the future night-time economy?

(b) From members of the Council:

Councillor Smith

Given that there are four particular empty areas of land in the Coalpool / Ryecroft Area of the Blakenall ward, which have been unused for far too long, serving very little purpose other than to the litter droppers and the fly tippers: They being:

The Council owned site of the former Coalpool Library, Coalpool Lane.

The Council owned site of the original Neighbourhood Office (next to the Methodist Church), Coalpool Lane.

The Council owned site where Dartmouth House, mainly used by the NHS, once stood in Ryecroft Place, and

The site where the former Coalpool Clinic once stood on Ross Road (not Council owned)

and further given that local residents in this area are still concerned and indeed many angry, that on these respective sites the local community once had a Library, a Neighbourhood Office a NHS Health Centre and a Clinic and now have none of these and nothing to replace them,

will the appropriate Portfolio holder inform me and particularly the residents and shopkeepers of the Coalpool & Ryecroft areas, what he intends to do in order to ensure that these lands are brought back into use as quickly as possible with schemes/plans that contribute to the social and economic wellbeing of the community, and that have the support of the local community?

Councillor Worrall

What is the 2023-24 attendance record of the two Walsall Council representatives on the West Midlands Combined Authority's Transport Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Jukes

I recently visited a number of Walsall's Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) providers and had an excellent time seeing the services on offer through this provision. I believe the programme came about as a result of Marcus Rashford's End Child Food Poverty initiative created during the pandemic in 2020 when, after learning how many children miss out on meals during school holidays, Marcus successfully led a campaign to lobby the government to provide a £400m holiday meal and activity programme to support low-income families in England until the end of 2021. Food poverty for children is something Marcus still campaigns on today.

Here in Walsall the HAF programme provides school holiday activities for the Borough's children and ensures that all those who attend are fed healthy and nutritious meals. The HAF also provides parents with recipes which are healthy and cost effective to feed the family at home and will support families in accessing food banks if needed.

On one of my recent visits to the easter provision I was very distressed to have heard a conversation where a young child stated that they needed to 'fill themselves up' while at the session as they'd be 'having nothing' when they got home.

According to DfE sources, this funding is due to cease in March 2025. This will mean the HAF provision will likely not be able to continue across the Borough which would be hugely impactful on our children and young people, leaving many of them hungry over school holiday periods. We as a council cannot allow this to happen.

Firstly I would like to know if the Leader of the Council can confirm that there are plans for the funding to be stopped. If the funding is to be withdrawn, what are the administration going to do to ensure that these vital services remain in place for Walsall children?

Councillor Ward

Can the council please confirm how many vacant properties across Walsall are paying double council tax, how many of these properties are housing association properties and what the breakdown is by individual housing association?

9. **Mayor's use of authority to waive call in process – Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.** To note that the Mayor agreed to exercise his authority to waive the call-in process, as described in Part 4.5 of the constitution.
10. Independent Remuneration Panel - **(pages 39 – 57)**
11. Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report – **(To Follow)**

12. Scrutiny Annual Report - **(pages 58 – 76)**

13. **Portfolio holder briefings.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the following portfolios:
 - a. Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces – Councillor Flint **(pages 77 - 83)**
 - b. Customer – Councillor Ali **(pages 84 - 89)**
 - c. Street Pride – Councillor Murphy **(pages 90 - 93)**

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

At this point the Council to consider the following item as charitable trustees. When the Council is acting in this capacity, Council procedure rules do not apply. A corporate trustee is a corporation which has been appointed to act as a trustee of the charity. Trustees should bear in mind that when they are dealing with the business of the charity, their overriding duty is to act in the best interests of that charity.

14. **Annual report of Barr Beacon Trust Management Committee.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. **(pages 94 – 97)**