



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 8TH day of APRIL, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2013.

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 21st February, 2013.
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 James – Beekeeping schemes

“The importance of 'Pollinators' has in recent years, become a topic at the forefront of countryside and conservation issues in the media. Councils across the UK and many conservation organisations now recognise the vital role 'Pollinators' (including wild bees and butterflies, domestic honey bees) play in our natural landscape. These insects contribute significantly to plant and crop yields, and ensure the pollination of many species of wild flowers, which are in steep decline.

The Greenspace Services Allotments Strategy 2007 - 2012, hopefully soon to be updated, includes sections on 'Areas Managed for wildlife' and 'Promoting Partnership working with groups promoting food production and Biodiversity' amongst its aims. However, Appendix 3 Allotment Tenancy Agreement Section 2(g) states allotment holders are "Not to keep upon the allotment any pigs, fowl or other livestock".

Could the portfolio consider an amendment to this policy to clarify that honey bees be considered exempt from the catch-all 'livestock' provided that any beekeeping schemes be undertaken as in the Governments 'Growing in the Community' document , in partnership with the British Beekeepers' Association?”

(2) Councillor Young – Spend on footpaths and highways

“Can the portfolio holder give a ward by ward breakdown of the total spend on footpaths and highways since April 2012 to date?”

(3) Councillor Phillips – The Lea, Blakenall

“In the light of recently announced austerity measures, can the portfolio holder justify to this Council and especially to the residents of my ward Bloxwich East the recently announced £42,000 of Walsall Tax Payers money to be spent on a piece of scrub land in Blakenall known as the Lea.”

(4) Councillor Young – Illegal scrap metal trading

“In a public protection report given to Council on the 7th January 2013, the report quoted “improving support for residents affected by illegal scrap metal trading” Could the portfolio holder tell this Council, what these supportive measures are?”

(5) Councillor Phillips – Gritters

“Can the portfolio holder tell me what time the gritters were sent out on Sunday 24th March?”

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

Walsall Sustainable Community Strategy – The Walsall Plan 2013-16

That the Sustainable Community Strategy be approved.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 13th March 2013 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

9. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Appointments Board**:

Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001

That the Constitution at Part 4.6 6(a) be amended by removing the term “Executive Directors” to give proper effect to the 2001 regulations.

(Note: Report to Appointments Board on 18th March 2013 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

10. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Audit Committee**:

Independent member on Audit Committee

That Council extend the term office of Mr. A. Green, independent member of the Audit Committee for a period of 2 years recommencing from the start of the 2013/14 municipal year.

(Note: Report to Audit Committee on 25th February 2013 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

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

Street trading review

(1) That in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by virtue of Section 3 of and Schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1982 the Council hereby makes the following designation, such designation to take effect on 31st May, 2013 and that the Regulatory Services Manager be authorised to make the necessary statutory advertisements:

- (a) The streets within Walsall Town Centre are designated licence streets.
- (b) Walsall Town Centre is defined as an area including and edged by the following streets:

Blue Lane West from the junction of Wolverhampton Street to Green Lane;
The line of the Ring Road from the Blue Lane/Green Lane junction to Littleton Street West/Wisemore junction;
Littleton Street West from Wisemore to Hatherton Street;
Littleton Street East from Hatherton Street to Lichfield Street;
The line of the Church Hill Ring Road from the Littleton Street East/Lichfield Street junction to the Ward Street/Walhouse Road junction;
Lower Rushall Street from Walhouse Road to Ablewell Street;
Upper Rushall Street from Ablewell Street to High Street;
The line of the Church Hill Ring Road adjoining Peal Street and Dudley Street from High Street to Caldmore Road;
Vicarage Place from Caldmore Road to Bradford Street;
A line from the Vicarage Place/Bradford Street junction to Long Street/Bridgeman Street junction;
Navigation Street and Upper Navigation Street from Bridgman Street to the Canal Arm;
A line along the Canal Arm and through the old Public Works Depot to the Wolverhampton Street/Blue Lane West junction.

- (2) That any previous resolution passed under Schedule 4 paragraph 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 designating a street be rescinded in so far as it relates to Walsall Town Centre as defined above.

(Note: Report to Licensing and Safety Committee on 27th February 2013 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

12. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board**:

Establishment of Health and Wellbeing Board

That a Health and Wellbeing Board be established with a remit and terms of reference consistent with the current remit and terms of reference of the existing Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in the Appendix to this report and that the membership be as follows:

- Portfolio holder for Social care and health (or nominee)
- Portfolio holder for Children's services (or nominee)
- One member of the controlling group to be Chairman
- 2 Labour group nominees
- 1 Liberal Democrat group nominee

- Executive Director of Adult Social Services
- Executive Director of Children's Services
- Interim Director of Public Health
- 5 Clinical Commissioning Group representatives
- Executive Director for Neighbourhoods
- A representative of HealthWatch
- 1 independent member of the Council

(Note: Report to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board on 25th February 2013 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

13. Local Government Ombudsman – Report on an investigation into complaints 10 008 980 and 10 012 328 against Walsall Council. Report to follow.

14. Portfolio holder briefings. To receive a 5 minute presentation from the following portfolio holders:

- (a) Community engagement and voluntary sector (Councillor I. Shires)
- (b) Transport and Environment (Councillor Ansell)

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

15. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors I. Shires, Cook and D. Shires:

(1) This Council notes with concern:

- (a) the recent increases in household energy bills averaging over 7% per annum given the impact that this will have on many hard pressed households across Walsall MBC
- (b) that the primary reason for the rise is the increase in fossil fuel prices on gas and electricity tariffs.

(2) This Council welcomes:

- (a) the action which the Coalition Government is taking to reduce reliance on fossil fuels in our energy mix long term but believes that action should be taken where possible to increase competition in the retail energy market in order to help drive down bills and get the best deal for the consumer.

- (b) the initiative of the Department of Energy and Climate Change to promote guidance on collective switching and its launch of a competition to encourage local authorities and community groups to support collective switching schemes.

(3) This Council further notes that pilot schemes promoted by local authorities in Cornwall, South Lakeland and Oldham have already led to households reducing their energy bills by up to £200 per annum.

(4) This Council instructs officers to bring forward proposals for Walsall Metropolitan Borough to introduce a collective switching scheme (working with other local authorities and public sector bodies if appropriate) to enable energy consumers in the borough to make similar large savings as those achieved elsewhere.

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

16. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Bennett, Perry and Longhi**:

This Council has heard with regret that Centro are pursuing further bus stops in Field Lane, Pelsall and/or hail and ride which is considered by the three elected members, after consultation with the highways department, that this constitutes a highways danger.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to Centro expressing our concerns in the strongest manner and requests them to cease any further proposals to increase buses stopping within Field Lane.

(Note: Report to follow.)

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

“(1) This Council notes:

- (a) The recent U-turn by the coalition government with regard to some sections of our community affected by the implementation of the so-called “bedroom tax”;
- (b) the comments made by Lord Justice Kay residing over the case Gory v DWP on housing benefit size criteria, who concluded that discretionary housing payments “fell far short of being an adequate solution to the problem”;

- (c) that the impact of the “bedroom tax” will continue to fall disproportionately on less well-off residents and families across the borough of Walsall, who will in many cases have no option but to face a further reduction in their living standards.

(2) Further that this Council:

- (a) notes the comments made by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Bird, in criticising and calling for re-consideration of this badly thought-out legislation (Express & Star 13/3/13); and
- (b) therefore resolves to call upon the coalition government even at this late stage to scrap the so called “bedroom tax” and to write to appropriate ministers to let them know our dismay and anger at the impact of their proposals.”

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

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.

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