



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 FOURTEENTH day of SEPTEMBER, 2009 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 4th day of September, 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 6th July 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 – Disabled Facilities Grant budget
(Councillor Andrew)**

“With regard to Walsall Council’s Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budget for each of the financial years 2006/7, 2007/8, 2008/9 and 2009/10 would the appropriate portfolio holder give me, the Council and the public a breakdown of (a) the amount contributed by the government and (b) the amount of “top up” to the DFG budget by Walsall Council, for each of these years?”

**(2) Councillor Robertson – Reorganisation of management structures
(Councillor Towe)**

“What has been the total cost during the last twelve months of the re-organisation of the management structures in this Council (this figure to include moving and refurnishing offices with associated costs), and what are the projected costs for the next twelve months?”

(3) Councillor Creaney – Upgrading of offices (Councillor Towe)

“In light of reports that this Council must save money over the coming years, could you please tell me and this Council what has been the overall cost of upgrading the offices of the Deputy Leader of Walsall Council and other facilities such as the new Cabinet room?”

(4) Councillor Anson – Price of dropped kerbs (Councillor Ansell)

“Could the portfolio holder tell me why the price of this Council dropping kerbs over the last year has gone up in one case in my ward by over 50% even though my constituent decreased the width from four to three kerbs I already know this is not the only case of big price rises?”

(5) Councillor Smith – Government green paper “Shaping the Future of Care Together” (Councillor McCracken)

“With regard to the Government’s Green Paper entitled “Shaping the Future of Care Together” on which consultation commenced on 14 July 2009 and will continue until 13 November 2009 and given that this could lead to the scrapping of Attendance Allowances and even possibly Disability Living Allowances (DLA) and bearing in mind that in Walsall there are approximately 8,000 in receipt of Attendance Allowances and approximately 16,000 residents in receipt of Disability Living Allowances, would the appropriate portfolio holder or Chair of Committee, inform me, this Council and the public: (a) whether Walsall Council intends to make any response to the Green Paper as part of the consultation process and (b) if so, what the details of such a response are likely to be?”

(6) Councillor Smith - Walsall Academy (Councillor Walker)

“With regard to Year 7 intake at the Walsall Academy for September 2009, would you give me, this Council and the public details of (a) the number of applications for a place at the Walsall Academy from those residing in the Blakenall ward and (b) the number of those who succeeded in their application for a place at the Walsall Academy from those residing in the Blakenall ward?”

8. Changes in membership of Committees:

Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel: To note that the Conservative Group has changed its membership of the Panel for the remainder of the municipal year as follows.

Councillor Douglas-Maul in place of Councillor Turner
Councillor Clarke in place of Councillor E. Hughes

9. Appointments on outside bodies and charities:

(a) Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited Board

- (1) To report that Councillor O'Hare has resigned as the Council representative on the above.
- (2) To appoint a member to serve on the Board for the balance of the period expiring June 2010.

(b) Pelsall (Staffs) Mining Accident Fund - To appoint two trustees for a period of 5 years.

(c) Catherine Walker Charity – To appoint two trustees for a period of 4 years.

10. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Robertson, Wilkes, Oliver, Barton, Anson and Creaney:**

This Council notes with concern the recent report to Cabinet on the audit of past payments made under the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund programmes.

- Council calls for a full and accurate public disclosure of the financial consequences to the Council Tax payers of Walsall and this to be tabled at a future meeting of the Audit Committee.
- This full investigation to show how the management and records for this programme were not to the standard required to justify the payments, and how the risk assessment did not uncover this potential serious loss for the Council, as warned by a previous employee of this Council, two weeks after taking up post.
- Council also requires referral to Audit Committee of a report detailing the action plan to prevent any such losses occurring in current and future projects.

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

11. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors I. Shires and P. Hughes:**

That government take the necessary steps to pass a new law to enable community pubs to trade on a level playing field by prohibiting irresponsible promotion of alcohol as a loss leader.

Also, the government take the necessary steps to pass as new law prohibit restrictive covenants that prevent any future use of a property as a “local service” as defined by the Sustainable Communities Act.”

(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 Cassidy, Wilkes, Oliver, Robertson, Creaney, Anson and Barton:**

This Council welcomes the news that the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust now has a phased, costed programme which will lead to the restoration of the Borough's waterway links to the northern canal network by relinking the canal at Brownhills Ogleby Junction with Huddlesford Junction at Lichfield.

It notes in particular:

- (a) the significant regeneration benefits this will bring to Brownhills as a gateway to the Borough, and to the whole of Walsall Borough and
- (b) the recent launch of a Phase One funding appeal headed up by the Trust's high profile President, David Suchet.

The Council expresses its full support for the project to restore the eight miles of canal in question, and asks that officers enter into discussion with the officers of the LHCRT with a view to reporting to Cabinet at an early date setting out ways in which the Council can provide meaningful support to the efforts of the Trust in bringing this major project to fruition."