



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 FIFTEENTH day of JANUARY, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 5th day of January 2007.

Yours sincerely,

Interim Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:-

1. Apologies.
2. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6th November 2006.
3. Declarations of interest.
4. Mayor's announcements.
5. To receive any petitions.
6. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:-
 - (a) From the public.
None

(b) From members of the Council.

(1) Councillor Cassidy – Brownhills Eastern By-Pass

Following the failure of the Council's original proposals for the Brownhills Eastern By-Pass and recent press statements by the Leader of the Council, that there is now an alternative route, could you please outline to the Council details of this alternative route and its associated environmental impact?

(2) Councillor Oliver – Peter Francis case

Could the Leader of the Council inform us of progress towards publication of the report commissioned by Walsall Council into the Peter Francis case and related issues, and also to the District Auditor's investigation?

7. To the report to result of the by-election for the Aldridge North and Walsall Wood ward held on 23rd November 2006:-

Name of candidates	Votes cast	Candidate elected
Bugler, Dominic Marsh James	160	
Flower, Michael David	1157	
Greveson, Mark Robert	132	Michael David Flower
Lenton, Anthony	309	
Pearson, Ian	222	

8. Mayoralty 2007/2008. Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 2(vi) to nominate the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for 2007/2008 in accordance with the powers contained in Sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

9. Statement by the Leader re: Employment Tribunal matters.

10. Members' Allowances – Report of Independent Remuneration Panel. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

11. High Hedges. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

12. Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

13. Welfare Rights Service. Report of the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel reproduced in the booklets for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

14. Changes in membership of Committees:

- (a) Audit Committee – Council to note that Councillor Khan has replaced Councillor Chambers for the remainder of the municipal year with effect from 6th November 2006.
- (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel – Council to note that Councillor Arif has replaced Councillor Bird as Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year with effect from 15th November 2006.

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

The Council recognises the importance of the appearance of the street scene to the citizens perception of tidiness; fly posting whether authorised or not, is a major contributor to this.

To improve the street scene and improve the environment, the political groups will, from today, not affix or erect any posters seeking election for a candidate or political group to the Council within the Borough.

Further, if such posters are placed upon street furniture belonging to the Council, it authorises all officers of the Council to remove the same. Also, the Council requests the Chief Executive to contact all of the Council's partner organisations to seek their commitment to remove any election posters that may be attached to their assets within the Borough.

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

This Council:

- (a) confirms its policy position as being that it wishes to see the re-instatement of the Walsall – Brownhills – Lichfield rail link, so restoring Rushall, Pelsall and Brownhills to the national rail network and improving rail links to/from the north-east for the whole of the Borough;
- (b) agrees that the strategy for building towards this longer-term goal should be to urgently develop a project for an early intermediate form of rail-based transport for the Walsall – Brownhills corridor using light-rail technology;
- (c) considers that the proposal of Centro’s consultants for a bus-based approach to this corridor is inadequate to meet the needs and aspirations of WMBC and of local people, who wish to see a segregated rail link based largely on the track bed of the Walsall – Brownhills line;
- (d) notes that the Parry People Mover has been in successful service on the national rail network, having provided a reliable, cost-effective, popular and environmentally-friendly Sunday rail service on the Stourbridge town branch;
- (e) resolves, in the light of the foregoing, to accept in principle the offer of JPM Parry and Associates, Cradley Heath, to develop project proposals for a Parry People Mover-based light rail link between Walsall and Brownhills in the first instance, and instructs officers to discuss and agree with the company the terms of the study, based on the appended draft proposal from Parry Associates, so as to have the work carried out and completed at the earliest possible date.

(Note: The draft proposal from Parry Associates is reproduced in the report booklet for this meeting.)