

REVISED



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 JULY 2019 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 8th day of July 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Johnson'.

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 20th May 2019.
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. Petition: Support Walsall Arboretum dedicated team. An on-line and paper petition with regard to this matter has been submitted by the Walsall Arboretum User Group. The petition contains approximately 2,200 signatures. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

(Note: The Council's petitions scheme states:

“Council debate - If a petition contains at least 1,500 signatures it will be debated at a meeting of the Council. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting to which all Councillors can attend and speak. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action that the petition requests; not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to ask for further information. Where the issue is one where the Cabinet are required to make the final decision the Council will decide to make recommendations to the Cabinet. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision and this will be published on our website.”)

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

(a) From the public: None

(b) From members of the Council:

Councillor Rattigan – Unauthorised encampments at Rushall Playing Fields/Radleys Park

“Can the portfolio holder confirm whether or not he supports residents calls for an injunction at Rushall Playing Fields/Radleys Park to prevent further UE's and can he confirm any progress relating to this matter?”

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

Independent member to Audit Committee

That Mr. A. Green's term of office be extended commencing from the start of the 2019/20 municipal year and ending at the conclusion of the 2020/21 municipal year.

(Note: Report to Audit Committee on 15th April 2019 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

11. **Portfolio holder briefing.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the Leader of the Council.

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

12. **Personnel Committee membership:** To note that Councillor Harris has replaced Councillor Kaur as a member of the Personnel Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

13. **Appointments on outside bodies and charities:**

(a) **Walsall Museum and Art Galleries Development Trust:** To note that Councillor Follows has replaced Councillor Chattha as the Council's representative for the remainder of the municipal year.

(b) **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education:** To note that Councillor Ali has replaced Councillor Chattha as a member of SACRE for the remainder of the current municipal year.

(c) **West Midlands Combined Authority:**

(i) **Investment Board:** To appoint one representative to the Board for the municipal year 2019/20.

(ii) **Wellbeing Board:** To appoint one representative and a substitute to the Board for the municipal year 2019/20.

(iii) **Public Service Perform Board:** To appoint one representative and a substitute to the Board for the municipal year 2019/20.

(d) **Catherine Walker's Charity:** To appoint one trustee to the Charity for the balance of the 4 year period expiring on 24th May 2021 in place of ex-Councillor Rochelle.

(e) **Pelsall (Staffs) Mining Accident Fund:**

(i) The term of office of Councillors Neville and Perry expires in September 2019.

(ii) To appoint two trustees to the Charity for a period of 5 years expiring on 14th September 2024.

14. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Shires (leader member), C. Bott, P. Bott, Barker and Young**:

“Council notes reports on BBC News 12 June 2019 by Roger Harrabin Environmental Analyst that the UK Government was to commit to almost zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and Prime Minister Theresa May’s comments that:

There was a “moral duty to leave this world in a better condition than what we inherited” and that “Cutting emissions would benefit public health and cut NHS costs”.

Council recognises that:

1. Burning fossil fuels poses a serious risk to the stability of the climate upon which our wellbeing and our economy depend.
2. Research demonstrates that up to 80% of proven fossil fuel reserves will have to remain unburnt if we are to have a reasonable chance of keeping global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the globally agreed target for climate change mitigation.
3. Since 80% of fossil fuel must remain in the ground, the reserves of the fossil fuel industry risk becoming “stranded assets” with little or no value – representing a substantial financial risk for those that invest in them.
4. The West Midlands Pension Fund currently has over £490 million invested in the oil, coal and gas industries.
5. As of January 2019 1000+ institutions with assets totalling in excess of £8.05 trillion have made divestment from fossil fuel commitments.

Council pledges to:

- A. Review its investment strategy and develop and implement a Responsible Investment Policy which rules out new investment in fossil fuel companies.
- B. Call on West Midlands Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels by mandating its representative on the West Midlands Pension Fund Committee to call for the development and adoption of Responsible Investment Policies which:
 - i Immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies;
 - ii Divest from direct ownership any co-mingled funds that include fossil fuel equities and corporate bonds within 4 years;
 - iii Set out an approach to quantifying and addressing climate change risks affecting all other investments; and
 - iv Focus future investments on areas that minimise climate change risk.”

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

15. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nawaz (lead member), Hussain, Ward, Sarohi, Mazhar, Bashir and Worrall**:

This Council recognises the improvements made in the quality and in the increased use of the arboretum over the past several years.

This Council further acknowledges the crucial role played by all the front line staff and the on site Arboretum Manager and the Arboretum Events Manager in achieving the improvements to our premier park in Walsall.

In recognising and acknowledging the above, this Council calls upon the Cabinet to maintain the posts of a site based Arboretum Manager and a site based Arboretum Events Manager. Both these posts being essential in the continuation of the success of a well-used and high quality Walsall Arboretum Park.

(Note: See report at item 8 – Petition: Support for Walsall Arboretum dedicated team.)

16. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nawaz (lead member), Robertson, Jeavons, Jukes, Bashir and Hussain**:

This Council recognises the disruption, anxiety and fear caused to the residents of Walsall by the continuing instances of unauthorised encampments across the Borough.

This Council acknowledges the loss of confidence of the residents of Walsall in Walsall Council's ability to deal with unauthorised encampments and the disruption, ASB, littering and general annoyance that they create.

This Council further recognises the fact that Sandwell Council, by setting up a Traveller Transit Site, has eliminated unauthorised encampments from its borough.

This Council therefore calls upon the administration to consult local residents and Councillors in order to designate, open and operate a traveller transit site in the borough of Walsall, based on the Sandwell model, and to do this urgently – within 3 months – to resolve this major issue for the people of Walsall.

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

17. Local Government Act, 1972 – Attendance at meetings – report attached