



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2012/13

Thursday, 20 September 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON

12 September 2012

Dear Councillor,

Summons to attend Council Meeting

A MEETING of the **Council**, which you are requested to attend, is to be held at the CIVIC OFFICES, SWINDON, on **Thursday, 20 September 2012 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business to be transacted will be as follows:-

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Communications

To receive any communications or letters which the Mayor or Chief Executive may have to bring before the Council.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th July 2012.

4. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

5. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below.

6. Minutes for Confirmation (Pages 7 - 98)

(1) To consider Minutes for Confirmation from Cabinet:

- Minute 32 – Local Government Ombudsman’s Latter 2011/12.
- Minute 36 – Military Covenant – Motion at Council.

(2) To consider Minute for Confirmation from the Licensing Committee:

- Minute 11 – Introduction of a Licensing Regime for Sexual Entertainment Venues.

(3) To note Minute from Cabinet:

- Minutes 43(6) - Street Lighting and Traffic Signals Review.

7. Appointment of Representative to Serve on the Joint Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Panel

The Council’s Conservative Group have requested that Councillor Andrew Bennett be appointed to replace Councillor Roderick Bluh as a representative serving on the Joint Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year, 2012/13.

8. Motions

(a) Motion - Unison

Councillor Jim Grant will move and Councillor Stan Pajak will second:

“Swindon Borough Council recognises the role that UNISON has with regard to consultation, negotiation and representation on behalf of the Council’s employees.

Following consultation on the proposal to reduce central funding for UNISON facility time, Swindon Borough Council believes that the most efficient and effective way of meeting its responsibilities as an employer in its relationship with UNISON is to continue to centrally fund the equivalent of 1.5 full-time posts to undertake this role. Accordingly, Council urges Cabinet to request a report from the Head of People and Change as to how this can be achieved.”

(b) Motion - Allotments

Councillor Cindy Matthews will move and Councillor Steve Wakefield will second that:

“This Council recognizes the role its allotments play in bringing exercise, fresh food and a sense of self-sufficiency to many of its local residents.

This Council notes that there is a large waiting list for allotment plots, while many of Swindon Council's allotment plots have been left unused for a number of months.

This Council notes the expression of interest from the Swindon Allotment and Leisure Gardens Association, an organisation representing the views of Swindon's allotment holders, for taking over the management of

Swindon Borough Council's allotments.

With this in mind, Council requests Cabinet to consider establishing an allotments cooperative organisation, which will manage and collect the rents from the users of Swindon Borough Council's allotment sites.

Prior to Cabinet considering this, this Council requests that the Lead Member establishes a cross-party working group to produce detailed recommendations to Cabinet of how this Co-operative organisation will work in practice and how the users of Swindon Borough Council's allotments can play a much greater role in managing these allotments."

(c) **Motion - Green Waste Collections**
Councillor Mark Dempsey will move and Councillor Neil Heavens will second that:

"This Council expresses its concern at the present standard of green waste collection within the Borough and requests that the Cabinet produce a report for the next Council meeting outlining what action will be taken to improve the service"

(d) **Motion - Provision of Infrastructure**
Councillor Richard Hurley will move and Councillor Dale Heenan will second:

"The provision of Infrastructure in the Eastern Villages is of huge concern to local residents and local Councillors on the East of Swindon, particularly the issue of traffic.

This Council requests:

- The Head of Highways ensures that the option of an Eastern link road at either Dorcan or Commonhead is properly considered.
- The Head of Highways ensures that the White Hart junction rebuild, the Green bridge over the A419, an Eastern Link road and any other necessary projects are included in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan under the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- The Head of Planning ensures that any future Supplementary Planning Document for the Eastern Villages includes the appropriate transport links like the White Hart junction rebuild, the Green bridge over the A419 and an Eastern link road.
- The Board Directors of Service Delivery and Commissioning, and the Chief Executive review all of the available funding for the Eastern Villages infrastructure and opens talks with Government to provide any shortfall."

(e) **Motion - Housing**
Councillor Steve Allsopp will move and Councillor Julie Wright will second that:

“This Council notes the local housing challenges over the next decade. These challenges include:

- The effects of Housing Benefit changes
- The need to kickstart housing developments at strategic sites in order to stimulate the local economy, with particular reference to Wichelstowe
- The increasing demand for social housing **and the need to ensure there are mixed developments**
- And the increasing numbers of families unable to afford home ownership, while there is a lack of medium-term private rented housing for families

In order to meet the increasing demand for private sector rented housing for families, Council requests its Board Director for Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property to present a report to Cabinet detailing how the Council can use its current property portfolio to establish a joint venture vehicle with a developer, which establishes housing developments that would orientate towards long term private sector tenancies (10 years+), with an inflation linked rent review. This would unlock the value of Council land, help stimulate an ailing construction sector and bring a new model of providing market facing rented accommodation in Swindon, driving up standards and supporting social cohesion.

This Council also requests its Board Director for Service Delivery to organise a Housing Conference with all the different kinds of local housing stakeholders invited, including tenants in private and social housing, to shape how Swindon faces the specific housing challenges detailed above.”

(f) **Motion - Leisure Facilities**
Councillor John Haines will move and Councillor Claire Ellis will second:

This Council welcomes the Administration’s commitment to promoting access to sport through a range of public and private sector providers.

This Council supports Moirai, the private sector company providing a £65m refurbishment of the Oasis and its bid to have Olympics Basketball court re-sited in Swindon.

This Council congratulates the Administration for taking the bold step to seek a private sector option to rebuild the Oasis, and notes this would have been unaffordable if left to the Swindon Taxpayers alone.

This Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport ensure that the Leisure Libraries, Culture and Parks options appraisal due for consideration by Cabinet contains full details of Swindon’s Olympic legacy.

9. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members (Pages 99 - 132)

Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Cabinet Member in respect of Cabinet minutes (which are not reserved for Council for decision) and in respect of individual Cabinet Member delegated decisions.

10. Minutes of other Council Bodies

Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Chair in respect of all other Committee minutes (not reserved to Council for decision), as set out in the Minute Book circulated separately.

11. Councillors Question Time

Questions (if any) of which notice has been given by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 15.

Yours faithfully

Director of Law and Democratic Services

Questions by Members of the Public in accordance with Standing Order 11

Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Council (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.