



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2013/14

Thursday, 26 September 2013

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

18 September 2013

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, 26 September 2013 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 - 10)
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 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 11 - 14)

(1) To consider Minutes for Confirmation from Cabinet:

- Minute 27(2) – Swindon Borough Council Tenancy Strategy
- Minute 47 – Local Government Ombudsman Review 2013..

(2) To consider Minutes for Confirmation from Licensing Committee:

- Minute 17(5) – The Establishment of Street Markets in Swindon Town Centre.
- To consider Minutes for Confirmation arising from the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 23rd September 2013. (Minutes to follow under separate cover.)

7. **Motions**

- (a) **Motion - Affordable Council Tax**
Councillor Mike Bawden will move and Councillor Michael Dickinson will second:

This Council notes and welcomes the decision of residents of Haydon Wick to elect Oliver Donachie, and the positive vision he offered residents based on the Administration's sound financial policies and record of improving and changing services without affecting the frontline delivery to residents.

Locally this Council welcomes the ongoing improvements to services, town centre regeneration and fair and affordable Council tax. Nationally, this Council welcomes the fall in unemployment, projected economic growth and the willingness of the Coalition Government to tackle important issues such as welfare reform.

This Council requests that the Leader of the Council continues to take all steps to ensure that this Administration continues its record of protecting the vulnerable and providing for fair and affordable Council tax.

- (b) **Motion - Economic Development**
Councillor Peter Heaton-Jones will move and Councillor Emma Faramarzi will second:

This Council congratulates the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart on the completion of the new elderly person's dwellings on Fleming Way. Council also congratulates the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Culture on the new town centre car park and the work on the old College site.

Council notes that both the projects are examples of how the Central Area Action Plan, the formal planning policy approved by Council in 2009 is being delivered.

Council invites the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Culture to report back to Cabinet and Council as soon as practicable on the

work being undertaken to promote the town centre. He is also requested to report on the mitigation that this Council will have to take in the light of a private and confidential report containing sensitive commercial information being in the public domain and how this might deter investors?

This Council asks the Leader of the Council, along with the Leaders of the Opposition and Minority Groups, to sign a letter to Kimmerfields apologising for any damage caused by the leak of sensitive commercial information and stating their continued commitment to the Central Area Action Plan and the redevelopment of the town centre.

(c) **Motion - Trade Unions**
Councillor Toby Elliott will move and Councillor Oliver Donachie will second:

The Council notes and welcomes the Labour Leader, Ed Miliband's, commitment in respect of reforming the relationship between trade union funding and the Labour Party. This Council notes and supports the right of employees to belong to unions and the valuable role that Trades Unions can play.

This Council notes that a consequence of his principled stand, Mr Miliband has been criticised by numerous politicians within his own Party.

This Council invites the leaders of all political Party Groups in Swindon to write to Mr Miliband to encourage him to continue his reforms.

(d) **Motion - Pot Holes**
Councillor Julian Price will move and Councillor Jim Grant:

"This Council:

- Recognises that due to ever changing conditions in the weather and population growth, the standard of roads in Swindon has reduced which in turn has increased the number of potholes in the town.
- Notes an AA survey taken this year which shows that 33% of motorists in the South-West have had their vehicle damaged by potholes in the last two years.
- Believes that resurfacing more of the Borough's roads will reduce the rapid increase in the number of potholes arising on Swindon's roads and could lead to a reduced cost for the Council of fixing potholes in the future.
- Believes that more capital funding could be allocated to resurfacing Swindon's roads from future New Homes Bonus funding and thinks such a move would have a positive effect in reducing the number of potholes arising on roads in the Borough.

Council requests:

- The Board Director, Resources to submit an action plan to Cabinet on how the Council could use future New Homes Bonus funding for

the purposes of funding further road resurfacing

- The Cabinet to take note of Council's wishes when forming its proposals for the Council's 2014/15 budget and Capital Programme."

(e) **Motion - Adopted Lands**

Councillor Nadine Watts will move and Councillor Des Moffatt will second:

"This Council:

- Notes with regret that residents living in the Angel Ridge estate as with other new areas of the borough, have been left confused by Swindon Council over the ownership of a plot of land in their neighbourhood.
- Notes that since 2010 the Council's grounds maintenance contractor had been maintaining gardens between Mistletoe and Rowan Courts in Angel Ridge, yet in recent months the management company of the aforementioned apartment blocks have maintained the gardens and have informed its apartment owners that they will bill them for the work.
- Is concerned that the Council has either been maintaining grounds that it does not own or that a property management company have been maintaining gardens on Council land and charging the apartment owners for the work.
- Affirms its commitment to properly identify and address land that has undesignated ownership at the earliest possible opportunity.

This Council therefore resolves to establish a Cross-party working group to look at and make recommendations to Cabinet on how the Council can more quickly identify and address land that has undesignated ownership within the borough, therefore making it clearer for local residents on land ownership.

This working group is also requested to report to Cabinet on whether there are any actions the Council can take to better protect residents living in new developments from being exploited due to uncertainty over land ownership."

(f) **Motion - Thames Water**

Mark Dempsey will move and Julian Price will second:

"This Council notes that Thames Water posted £549m in profits last year and increased water charges of more than 5%, at a time when both Swindon businesses and residential customers are struggling to pay all bills not just water costs.

Council therefore opposes the idea of Thames Water surcharging all businesses and domestic customers £29 to pay for new Thames Water initiatives and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Ofwat Regulator

to inform them of Council's opposition to this unfair surcharge."

(g) **Motion - Forward Swindon**
Kevin Small will move and Des Moffatt will second:

"This Council condemns Forward Swindon Limited's support for the establishment of a scrap wood burning Planet on the Cheney Manor Industrial Estate.

This Council demands that the Forward Swindon withdraws its support for this project immediately."

8. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

To consider changes to Member representation on certain Council Committees and other bodies. Changes to representations requested by Political Groups will be tabled at the meeting.

9. Scrutiny Committee Annual Report (Pages 15 - 36)

10. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members (Pages 37 - 64)

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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

Access Arrangements - The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you have any special requirements to enable you to attend the meeting or would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size, please contact the Committee Officer as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.