



**SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Municipal Year 2013/14**

**Thursday, 7 November 2013**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER  
CIVIC OFFICES  
SWINDON**

30 October 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, 7 November 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 - 38)**

(1) Minute for Confirmation:

To consider Minute 56(1) of the Cabinet – Public Service (Social Value) Act.

(2) Minute for Approval:

To consider Minute 56(1) of the Cabinet – Swindon's Energy Future.

A copy of the reports considered by the Cabinet are attached for Members' information.

**7. Council Petition Scheme (Pages 39 - 44)**

To consider the report of the Council's Petitions Officer.

**8. Motions**

- (a) **Motion - Council Tax Support Scheme**  
**Councillor Stan Pajak will move and Councillor Ann Richards will second:**

"That this Council request Cabinet to reconsider its decision not to pass on the grant received from Government to mitigate the impact of changes to the council tax support scheme to parish councils. Cabinet is also requested to consider that for 2014-15, mindful of this council's and the parish councils difficult financial situation, at least fifty percent of the grant be allocated to Swindon's parish councils as part of our budget considerations."

- (b) **Motion - Maintenance of War Memorials**  
**Councillor David Renard will move, Councillor Jim Grant will second and Councillor Stan Pajak will endorse:**

"This Council notes that August 2014 marks the Centenary of the start of the First World War.

This Council records its gratitude to those who served in this, and subsequent, conflicts.

This Council requests that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor approach InSwindon and local businesses to set up a charitable fund and work in partnership with Borough's Town and Parish councils, and the Royal British Legion. The fund will be available to help ensure that war memorials are kept in excellent condition for the four years commencing 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014, being World War One's centenary, and to continue thereafter. As well as financial contributions, this Council requests that the Mayor of the day looks to encourage volunteers and local communities, especially school children, to take an active role in keeping the Borough Council's monuments clean out of respect to the fallen."

(c) **Motion - Affordable Housing**  
**Steve Allsopp will move and Julie Wright will second:**

“Council notes:

- That the number of affordable housing units delivered in Swindon has reduced from a peak of 395 in 2009/10, to just 141 expected to be delivered in 2013/14.
- That more than 14,000 people are now on the Council’s housing register.
- That the government has incentivised house building in Swindon through providing a New Homes Bonus grant for every home built in the Borough.
- That there are fewer one and two bedroom council homes available than there are council tenants affected by the Government policy dubbed the “Bedroom Tax”.

Council believes:

- That significantly more affordable homes need to be constructed every year in Swindon than are currently being delivered.
- That more “extra care” housing units for elderly and disabled people should be built and that these units would benefit both the aforementioned groups of people and the Council’s Adult Social Care budget, with there being a reduced need to use expensive residential care homes.

Council requests:

- The Board Director, Service Delivery, bring a report to Cabinet detailing the feasibility of the Council delivering 300 homes per year through the Housing Revenue Account.
- That the Head of Housing and the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart & Housing ensure Council’s beliefs regarding affordable and “extra care” housing units be considered when forming the Council’s forthcoming Housing Strategy.”

(d) **Motion - Credit Unions**  
**Councillor Jim Grant will move and Councillor Cindy Matthews will second:**

“This Council:

- Condemns many of the practices used by payday lenders and the negative effect their practices have had on some of Swindon’s residents.
- Believes Credit Unions are much more appropriate lenders for helping Swindon residents in need of short-term credit and believes existing credit unions in Swindon need to be better promoted and

more Credit Unions need to be encouraged in order to counteract the proliferation of payday lender companies in Swindon and to provide proper financial advice to residents when they take out loans.

- Requests the Leader of the Council bring a report to Cabinet detailing how the Council could ban access to all websites advertising payday lenders on the Council's entire computer network, including libraries and community centres and to ban payday lenders from advertising on hoardings in the Borough.
- Requests the Leader of the Council to consider including within the Council's Corporate priority "To together, find new ways to reduce vulnerability and improve health for all", the promotion of more Credit Unions in the Borough as an alternative means of credit and financial advice to payday lenders for residents in the Borough."

(e) **Motion - Asset of Community Value**  
**Councillor Jim Robbins will move:**

"This Council believes the County Ground Park and Sports facilities are a community-valued asset for the local community, sports users and specifically the Football Club and its fans.

This Council believes:

- Football clubs are vital community assets and cannot be viewed as normal businesses.
- Local communities, businesses and supporters have strong interests in the way in which football clubs are run and their long-term sustainability.
- The "benefactor model" of ownership has led to a number of clubs entering administration or liquidation, which results in debts to local businesses going unpaid and communities without a local club to support.
- Supporters Trusts are a vital means to provide supporters with a stake in the running of their club

This Council notes that the Swindon Town Supporters Trust are intending to seek the designation of the County Ground as an Asset of Community Value, which would mean that if at any time the Football Ground should be for sale fans would have the opportunity to bid to purchase the ground themselves. It is also important that we protect the full County Ground site and all of the leisure and sporting opportunities that it offers for the community for community benefit.

This Council resolves:

- To note that Cabinet on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 approved a process for considering applications to register assets of community value
- To make clear the Council's commitment to work with Swindon Town Football Club, supporters, other users of the facilities and the community on any proposals that deliver a football ground for

Swindon fit for the 21st Century and Sporting and Park facilities that meet the needs of the local community.

- To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Board of Swindon Town Football Club to lobby them to encourage fan influence and participation at Board level at their football club.”

**9. Appointment to Swindon Commercial Services Board**

At its meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 the Cabinet resolved:

“That in respect of the future governance of Swindon Commercial Services Ltd, the proposals outlined in paragraph 3.8 of the joint report be approved and the Council be recommended to appoint three representatives to sit on the Board, two of whom shall come from the majority political group on the Council and one from the Opposition political group.” (Minute 57(5) refers.)

Nominations to serve on the Board will be tabled at the meeting.

**10. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members** (Pages 45 - 60)

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.