

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 3 December 2012

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 3RD DECEMBER 2012 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED:-

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 22 October 2012.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Attached are the questions of which notice had been given and responses to them.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Wire DL to make a statement on Council Processes and Local Democracy.

9. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

An addendum to the report tabled at the meeting is attached to the report, immediately following Appendix 3.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Councillor Hadland to propose and Councillor Nunn to second:

“This Council records its gratitude to the Market Advisory Group and its independent chair, Mr. Raymond Everall for their hard work so far, in helping the Administration find solutions to the problems faced by Market Square traders.

This council believes that a vibrant Town Centre is the key to attracting more visitors, business and investment to our town with the Market Square at its heart. This year events such as Godiva Awakes, the Olympic Torch Relay, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and St. Crispin's Street Fair have attracted thousands of people onto the streets of our Town Centre.

This Administration is also committed to deliver more schemes such as an hour of free parking and the 25 percent reduction in market rents to help Town Centre businesses, and in cooperation with our partners, is delivering long-term the 'Northampton Alive' regeneration projects such as the new bus interchange, the St. John's development, the new railway station, Project Angel and the new cinema at The Royal and Derngate for the benefit of the whole town.”

(ii) Councillor Mackintosh to propose and Councillor Eldred to second:

“This council recognises the outstanding contribution made by Walter Tull both in the service of our country and in breaking down racial barriers as a sportsman and a soldier.

Walter Tull served with distinction during the First World War, seeing action at the Battle of The Somme in 1916, and gaining a Mention in Despatches for his ‘gallantry and coolness’ during his time fighting in Italy. As the first black officer in the British Army he has come to be seen as an important historical role model. Walter Tull was killed in action before the end of the war, and was unfortunately never awarded the Military Cross for which he was recommended.

Walter Tull made 111 appearances for Northampton Town Football Club between 1911-1914, and is a figure of national importance with whom Northampton is proudly associated.

2014 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, and 2013 is the 125th anniversary of Walter Tull's birth. This Council adds its support to the campaign for Walter Tull to be posthumously awarded the Military Cross.”

(iii) Councillor Palethorpe to propose and Councillor Davies to second:

“This Council recognises that the National Minimum Wage as of the 1st October 2012 has increased to £6.19 an hour.

This Council also recognises the significant impact on hard working people in

Northampton ability to provide the essentials of life for their families of higher fuel and housing costs along with inflation of over 2% and the changes arising from the Welfare Reforms.

Northampton Borough Council recognises that it has a responsibility to provide the leadership required to help hard working families and that the National Minimum Wage is insufficient to provide the essentials for their families.

This Council recognises that the Living Wage is calculated according to the cost of living and given minimum pay rates required – “for a worker to provide their family with the essentials of life”.

As a major employer and sub-contractor responsible for the provision of public services to the Northampton taxpayers’ this Council agrees that it will become a Living Wage Employer in the financial year 2013/2014. In becoming a Living Wage employer this Council determines that no member of staff, whether directly employed or under an agency agreement will earn less than the calculated Living Wage which is currently £7.45 an hour.

This Council also determines that any contracts entered into with external service providers will require the employer to pay employees employed to deliver the contract the Living Wage rate of pay.”

(iv) Councillor Marriott to propose and Councillor Gowen to second:

“This Council notes that in October 2012 the former Deputy Conservative Prime Minister, Lord Heseltine, published a report titled, ‘No Stone Unturned: In Pursuit of Growth’

This Council further notes the following paragraphs on page 52 of the report that states,

‘2.78 Unitary authorities run local services effectively and at considerably lower cost. They provide greater clarity and accountability about where responsibilities lie for delivery of local services. They avoid duplication and coordination issues that can arise between different local authority functions. They facilitate faster and more robust decision making and avoid the unnecessary administrative expense associated with running a two-tier system.’

‘2.81 Changing to a unitary model of local government will not be easy. It will naturally be uncomfortable for those involved, it may be disruptive in the short term and it will take time. But it would be a mistake not to persevere. The costs of the two-tier system are simply unsustainable. The advantages in increasing effectiveness and freeing resource for the benefit of communities will outweigh the pain.’

This Council agrees and endorses these two paragraphs of the report. It allows for a future discussion about the self-governance of our town.”

(v) Councillor Mason to propose and Councillor Mennell to second:

“This Council notes the recent changes brought in by the Coalition Government to Housing and Welfare Reform, which will have a huge impact on our tenants.

This Council notes that this has put added pressure on staff to cope with these changes and

to comply with all the new legislation.

This Council believes that for these changes to be implemented there can be no compulsory redundancies within the Housing Department in the HRA budget 2013/14.”

11. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

The Guildhall
Northampton
23rd November 2012

D. Kennedy Chief Executive

Public Participation

1. Comments and Petitions

- 1.1 A member of the public (or an accredited representative of a business ratepayer of the Borough) may make a comment or present a petition on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. A comment or presentation of a petition shall be for no more than three minutes. No notice of the nature of the comment to be made or of the petition is required except for the need to register to speak by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

(Public comments and petitions will not be taken at the Annual Council Meeting or other civic or ceremonial meetings.)

NOTES

- i. Comments may be on one or more subjects but each person has no longer than three minutes to have their say.*
- ii. The same person may make a comment and present a petition on different subjects. In such instances that person will have three minutes to make their comment and a separate three minutes to present a petition.*

2. Member and Public Questions

- 2.1 A member of the public (or business ratepayer of the Borough) may ask a maximum of two written questions at each meeting, each limited to a maximum of 50 words, on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. Each question shall:

- be submitted in writing and delivered, faxed or e-mailed to Democratic Services no later than 10.00am seven calendar days before the day of the meeting; and
- include the name and address of the questioner and the name of the Cabinet member/Committee Chair to whom the question is put.

- 2.2 At the meeting, copies of all questions and the responses to them from the public and Members will be made available to the public and press. The Mayor may allow one supplementary question, without notice, that arises directly from the original question or response.

(Questions will not be taken at the Annual Council Meeting or at civic or ceremonial meetings or meetings called to deal with specific items of business.)

NOTES

In respect of paragraph 2.1 above, questions may be rejected on certain grounds that are set out on page 4-12 of the Council's Constitution and which may be viewed at www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1919 or by seeking advice using the contact details below.

3. Motions

- 3.1 A member of the public may register to speak to a motion under the 'Notices of Motion' item on the agenda. Registration to speak must be made to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the day to the meeting. Speaking to a motion is restricted to three minutes per person.

(The 'Notices of Motion' item will not be taken at the Annual Council meeting or meetings called for civic or ceremonial purposes.)

4. General

A member of the public may make a comment, present a petition, ask a question or speak to a motion at the same meeting subject to the restrictions set out above.

5. Contacts

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Tel 01604 837722

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