

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 8 June 2015

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 8 JUNE 2015 AT 6:30 PM WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES.

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meetings of the Council held on 2nd March, 15th April and the 21st May 2015.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone to make a statement on "Northampton: The Next Four Years".

9. CHANGES TO STATUTORY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES - AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

(Copy herewith)

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

This Council notes with concern the intention of the new Conservative government to revisit the fox hunting ban passed by Labour in 2004.

Council asserts that hunting with dogs for sport has no place in a civilised society, and resolves that it will never be allowed to take place on Council land.

Council further resolves to write to the Prime Minister stating our position to any repeal.

ii) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

Council recognises that Democracy is struggling in Britain today, with citizens feeling alienated from their Government at every level, with almost a third of people failing to vote at all in May's elections.

Council further recognises that this Council could be more accountable to residents, ensuring that they have a real voice in the way their town is run.

Council therefore resolves to begin producing plans to return to the Committee system, meaning an administration, while retaining their current level of control, would be more accountable to opposition members and, therefore, the town's residents.

iii) Councillor Marriot to propose and Councillor Russell to second:

"The council applauds the excellent work of the Returning Officer and all his staff for conducting three elections at the same time with superb efficiency and excellent customer care.

However we note that there remains a democratic issue in this town in three areas and resolve the following:-

1. We need to do further work to ensure maximum numbers of our citizens are registered to vote, particularly with full implementation of IER.
2. In our next review of polling stations we must ensure equal access for voters without cars, those who need wheel chair access and those not able to walk very far.
3. The methodology process of consultation of the polling station review needs to be approved by General Purposes Committee before it is carried out.

We further urge the Administration to think about Democracy Week and how we can use that week to further the aims of democracy in our town"

iv) Councillor Ashraf to propose and Councillor Stone to second:

“This Council notes that the well-being of the people of our town is often dependant on the services provided by Northamptonshire County Council. These services should not be provided in isolation but should be part of a robust partnership with Northampton Borough Council.

We therefore resolve to strengthen our partnership working around the following key issues:-

Planning for Sheltered Housing, Care Homes and End of Life Care.

Planning for the transitional needs of young people leaving care such as the housing needs.

Raising issues and awareness regarding the exploitation of vulnerable adults and children, through our Licensing function”.

v) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Cali to second:

“This Council notes that in April 2013 that Northamptonshire County Council set up a Sustainable Independent Living Scheme (SILS) due to the changes brought about by the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

This Council also notes that the purpose of SILS was to support vulnerable people to remain in or return to the community and sustain independent living. SILS was controlled through applications meeting the criteria so grants were given only to people under significant pressures such as people being rehoused after a period of homelessness.

However, this Council further notes that Northamptonshire County Council ceased the SILS with effect from 1st April 2015. There are no other sources of public service support of this kind and so people will have to turn to voluntary agencies, which are already under extreme pressures.

This Council believes that the closure of the SILS could result in increased poverty and personal debt.

This Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to Northamptonshire County Council calling for the reinstatement of SILS or temporary reinstated whilst a long-term satisfactory solution is found”.

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

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

Democratic Services: e-mail democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk

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