



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

21ST FEBRUARY 2017

AGENDA ITEM (14)

COUNCILLOR DILYS NEILL

Accountable Members	The Council
Accountable Officer	Nigel Adams Head of Democratic Services 01285 623000 nigel.adams@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To approve the continued absence of Councillor Dilys Neill from Meetings of the Authority, due to illness.
Recommendations	That, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Dilys Neill's continued absence from Meetings of the Authority due to illness be approved, up to and including the Council Meeting scheduled for 16th May 2017.
Reasons for Recommendations	Only the Council can approve continued absence beyond a period of six months, and the relevant six month period will expire before the next scheduled Council Meeting.

Wards Affected	Stow
Key Decision	No

Financial Implications	None
Legal and Human Rights Implications	As detailed in the report
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None
Human Resource Implications	None
Key Risks	None
Equalities Impact Assessment	Not Required

Related Decisions	None
Background Documents	None
Appendices	None

Performance Management Follow Up	Implement Council decision
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Background Information

1. Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that, if a Member of a local authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance, to attend any Meeting of the authority, then that person will cease to be a Member of the Authority, unless the failure is due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period.
2. Councillor Dilys Neill was elected to the Council following a by-election on 29th September 2016 (caused by the death of former Councillor Barry Dare).
3. Unfortunately, shortly after her election, Councillor Neill was, totally unexpectedly, diagnosed with leukaemia. Since that time, Councillor Neill has been undergoing various forms of treatment, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future - this has also involved a stay in hospital for a number of weeks. While her treatment is obviously impacting on her well-being, Councillor Neill has still been trying to undertake some Council work online, particularly in respect of Ward matters, depending on how she is feeling at any particular time. Her duties/roles are being covered by her fellow Councillors as necessary.
4. The last Meeting attended by Councillor Neill was that of the Planning and Licensing Committee held on 12th October 2016. It had originally been anticipated that Councillor Neill would have been able to return to Council business and attend Meetings prior to the expiry of the six-month period referred to in the legislation - however, due to her on-going treatment, this is now highly unlikely to be the case.
5. In spite of the circumstances, and having only just joined the Council, Councillor Neill does not wish to stand down as a Councillor, and would wish to resume her Council duties and responsibilities again at the earliest opportunity (dependent upon doctor's advice, and the gradual nature of the recovery process).
6. Therefore, as this is the last Council Meeting within the six-month period, the Council is requested to consider formal approval of Councillor Neill's continued absence from Meetings of the Authority. Given the uncertainty over timing, it is suggested that such approval should relate to the period up to and including the next Council Meeting, scheduled for 16th May 2017, with a review at such Meeting in the event that Councillor Neill has been unable to resume duties by that time.
7. We continue to keep in touch with Councillor Neill, and she has asked that I pass on her thanks to everyone for their kind words, best wishes, help and support.

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