



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday 25th September 2019, 2.00 p.m.

Council Chamber, Trinity Road, Cirencester

NOTES

(i) Questions Arising on the Agenda

If any Member has any questions regarding any substantive item contained within the Agenda, he/she is requested to give advance notice of such question to the Officer originating the report or to an Officer of the Democratic Services Section so that a full response can be made available either prior to, or at, the Meeting. If no such advance notification is given, a full response to any question cannot be guaranteed at the Meeting.

(ii) Mobile Phones/Pagers

All mobile phones/pagers should be **SWITCHED OFF OR SET TO SILENT MODE BEFORE** the start of the Meeting.

(iii) Recording of Proceedings

The public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings may be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know before the start of the Meeting.

Recording/filming should not be disruptive or distracting to the good order and conduct of the Meeting. To assist with this, an area of the Meeting venue will be designated from which proceedings can be recorded/filmed, and 'roaming' around the venue while recording is not permitted. The Chair will exclude anyone whose behaviour is disruptive.

Recording/filming should only be of Members and Council Officers, and not any members of the public (unless they are formally addressing the Meeting or unless specific permission has been given by those individuals).

For further information, please read the Notices displayed inside and outside the Meeting venue and/or speak with the Committee Administrator.

(iv) Committee Administrator

If any Member has any general questions about the Meeting or the associated agenda papers, or is unable to attend, he/she is asked to contact Ben Amor on 01285 623236 who will be the Committee Administrator responsible for the Meeting.

Distribution:

All Members of the Council

Nigel Adams
Head of Paid Service

17th September 2019

COUNCIL: 25TH SEPTEMBER 2019

AGENDA

(1) **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

(2) **Declarations of Interest**

(a) To receive any declarations of interest from Members under:-

(i) the Code of Conduct for Members; and/or

(ii) Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (any Councillor who has Council Tax payments remaining unpaid for at least two months must declare an interest and not participate in any matter affecting the level of Council tax or arrangements for administering the Council Tax).

(b) To receive any declarations of interest from Officers under the Code of Conduct for Officers.

(3) **Minutes** - To confirm:-

(i) the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 27th June 2019 (attached);

(ii) the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 3rd July 2019 (attached).

(4) **Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Head of Paid Service**

(5) **Public Questions**

Council Procedure Rule 10 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by members of the public on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

(6) **Member Questions**

Council Procedure Rule 11 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by Members on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

The following questions have been submitted:-

(1) **Question from Councillor Nikki Ind to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council**

'How can Cotswold District Council help Tetbury and improve their relationship with residents, who currently feel let down with the lack of infrastructure – loss of Leisure Facilities, inadequate Elderly Care and Youth Services, a dated GP Surgery and limited Public Transport – given that Tetbury is the 2nd largest town in the District, which has recently seen housing

stock grow by 7% (April 2019 Completions) with a further 4% (April 19 Commitments) – 11% in total since the last Census in 2011?’

(2) Question from Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Rachel Coxcoon, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy

‘At the Council Meeting on the 3rd July, we agreed that my motion to assess the viability of placing PV Solar panels on our Trinity Road building be deferred into an overall ‘Climate Change Plan’ which would shortly be forthcoming. Nearly 3 months on the approval to recruit a ‘Climate Change Manager’ has only just been agreed by Cabinet and since it can take up to 6 months to get someone on board should we not take action now given that this is a Council ‘emergency’? Moving to solar power is something of a ‘no-brainer’ as far as climate change is concerned; does Cllr. Coxcoon not think that we should bring this motion forward now?’

(3) Question from Councillor Stephen Andrews to Councillor Mike Every, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

‘The government's transparency programme aims to hold public bodies to account in order to deliver better value for money in public spending. As part of the programme, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government instructed all local Councils to publish details of all their supplier spending over £500 on a monthly basis, no later than 30 days after the month end.

*In the interests of transparency and since August 2012 the previous Conservative administration had published details of **all** payments, not only those of £500 or more.*

As at the date of submission of this question (13th September, 2019) the Liberal Democrat administration at CDC has failed to publish any details of expenditure whatsoever, as required, since they came to power in May.

Nothing has been published for May, June, July or August, 2019.

What are the Cotswolds Liberal Democrats trying to hide from us and the taxpayers of the Cotswolds?’

(4) Question from Councillor Richard Morgan to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

At the last full council meeting on 3 July 2019, Cotswold District Council (unanimously) passed a motion regarding the Valley Trading planning application in my ward (Grumbolds Ash with Avening).

The motion resolved Cotswold District Council would:-

1. Seek clarification as to whether the Valley Trading application is in direct conflict with the Tetbury and Tetbury & Upton Neighbourhood plans, and if it is, write to GCC questioning why the application has not been rejected on these grounds.

2. Write to GCC seeking confirmation that, should the applicant be approved, the Valley Trading plant would be defined as a "major development" and of "strategic scale" by their own Waste Core Strategy and should therefore be located in Zone C (and it is not appropriate for its current location).

3. Write to GCC and confirm Policy GWCS14 states that major development in AONB must be in the "proven public interest" and planning permission only granted in exceptional circumstances following the "most rigorous" examination. Furthermore the letter should state that CDC does not feel this application is currently being subjected to the "most rigorous" examination.

4. Write to GCC and ask for a fully independent survey to be conducted over multiple random days to ascertain the exact level of HGV movements along the A4135 and how many of these movements are Valley Trading vehicles. Once the survey has taken place, these results should be made public".

As I have not heard anything about this motion since 3 July 2019, could the Leader of the Council confirm these points have been actioned. In addition, would he be willing to give me a copy of the outgoing letters, and any replies CDC have received?'

(5) Question from Councillor Richard Morgan to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

Could Cllr Evemy please confirm the exact level of financial reserves, and the approximate level of investments available to CDC at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year, and if there was a financial overspend or underspend for this financial year.

Furthermore, could he clarify if the council has overspent or underspent against budget forecasts at the end of Q1 in the current financial year (2019-20).

Finally, could he confirm that the new Lib Dem administration are aware that longer term central government funding is under review and income to the council could (hypothetically) be reduced in 2021/22 leaving a financial shortfall in the event of particularly severe changes to local government funding? Can he confirm that the CDC MTFs report from February 2019 - 14.13 Section 10 states "The Council has sufficient revenue reserves to be able to develop contingency plans while the impact of changes to central government funding post 2020/21 becomes clearer.'

(6) Question from Councillor Mark Annett to Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for Waste, Flooding and Environmental Health

'Under Conservative leadership and in the interest of transparency, the full council twice debated changes to garden waste collections in December 2018 and February 2019.

At the February meeting the Conservative Group committed to a public consultation later this year to ask the people who pay for the service whether they wanted to continue with a weekly service or change to a fortnightly service.

However, I read in a press release that the Liberal Democrat Cabinet has now decided to proceed with a fortnightly service without undertaking any public consultation whatsoever.

Whereas the Conservatives involved all members of the council in the decision-making process and planned to consult widely with the public,

Cotswold Liberal Democrats decided to restrict debate to their 9 person Cabinet - more than half of whom weren't even CDC councillors a few months ago.

Am I right in assuming that Cotswold Liberal Democrats can't be bothered to listen to the views of the people of the Cotswolds who actually foot the bill for the service?

Is consultation and transparency now dead at CDC under the Liberal Democrats?'

(7) Question from Councillor Stephen Hirst to Councillor Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

'It is important that the target for the completion of Affordable Homes is achieved.

For the past three years Cotswold District Council whilst under Conservative control have reached and exceeded their Affordable Homes target.

Can we please be advised of the projected total of Affordable Homes that will be completed during the 2019/2020 period and whether the annual target will be achieved?'

(8) Question from Councillor Stephen Hirst to Councillor Rachel Coxcoo, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy

'Already our Market Towns are bulging at the seams with estates of new homes. There is a feeling that these towns have already achieved sufficient new homes for many years to come without parallel increases in school places and local infrastructure. Will the new administration take this situation into account when reviewing the existing local plan?'

(7) Schedule of Decisions taken by Cabinet - 2nd September 2019

(8) Schedule of Decisions taken by Overview and Scrutiny Committee 23rd July 2019, 3rd September 2019 and Audit Committee Decisions - 25th July 2019

(9) Petitions (if any)

Items for Decision

(10) Planning Application for the Change of Use of the Waggon and Horses Public House, London Road, Cirencester to five flats

(11) Future Joint Waste Partnership and Waste Management Provision

(12) Funding for Climate Change Emergency

(13) Corporate Strategy 2019-2023 Aims and Priorities

Other Matters

- (14) **Issues/Reports Arising from the Cabinet (if any)**
- (15) **Issues/Reports Arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit (if any)**
- (16) **Notice of Motions**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Motions have been received:-

(i) **Motion 6 of 2019/20 re European Union**

Proposed by Councillor Joe Harris, Seconded by Councillor Andrew Maclean.

‘Council notes that officers have been doing their best to prepare the Council for leaving the European Union on 31 October 2019 and commends them for their efforts so far.

Council also notes that, despite extra government funding and a weekly webinar with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, their job has been made harder by a lack of clarity from HM Government about what leaving the European Union will look like. This makes it much harder to know how to prepare.

Council expresses its frustration at this situation and supports the Leader’s letter dated 28 August 2019 to Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP requesting clarity.

Council believes that a ‘no deal’ withdrawal from the European Union would pose an unacceptable risk to the Council’s strategic and financial resilience.

Council believes that its best interest and those of its residents and businesses are served by remaining in the European Union as the majority of the District’s residents decided in the referendum held in June 2016.’

(ii) **Motion 7 of 2019/29 re Council Finances**

Proposed by Councillor Mike Evemy, Seconded by Councillor Patrick Coleman.

‘This Council notes:

- *that its Revenue Budget Medium Term Financial Strategy endorsed in February 2019 by the previous administration contained £1m in unidentified savings for 2020/21 and also required the Council to use £900k from its General Fund Balance;*
- *that its revenue budget is highly dependent upon the scheme for retention of business rates and New Homes Bonus;*
- *That the New Homes Bonus can vary greatly or even be withdrawn by HM Government in each year’s funding announcement;*

- *That the value of the retained business rates is highly likely to significantly reduce when the scheme is reset; and*
- *that the share of its revenue from the Council Tax paid by its residents is just 8% compared with the average for Gloucestershire districts of 10% and the national district council average of 11%.*

This Council is committed to building its financial stability and resilience and recognises that this requires the Council to grow its income as well as manage its costs. It is also committed to providing a range and levels of services that the District's residents, businesses and community organisations expect and deserve.

This Council believes that it can grow income and meet its policy goals through making better use of its capital and revenue reserves as well as by prudent financial management.

This Council therefore instructs the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to work with Officers to present a proposed budget for 2020/21 which:

- *strengthens the Council's financial stability and resilience*
- *identifies opportunities to increase revenues and/or reduce costs to close the £2million budget gap*
- *explores opportunities to use its investments and access to low cost finance to meet its policy goals.'*

(iii) Motion 8 of 2019/20 re Affordable Housing

Proposed by Councillor Lisa Spivey, Seconded by Councillor Jenny Forde.

'The Council notes that there is a housing affordability crisis in the Cotswold District with the median private sector rent at £850 (i) and average house purchase price at £375,305 (ii) coupled with lower than average earnings from local jobs means housing affordability is a significant challenge for residents in the District.

The Council notes that the new Liberal Democrat administration has pledged to tackle this affordability crisis and to put in place measures to ensure the delivery of genuinely affordable homes across the District.

The Council notes that in the emerging corporate plan this delivery is a priority of the Council.

The Council further notes that the current methods of delivery, led by private developers whose primary objective is to make a profit for their shareholders, may not be the best way to provide housing.

The Council notes that on the 3rd July it unanimously passed a motion declaring a Climate Emergency and, as part of that, a commitment was made to review the Local Plan to ensure that climate change is a strategic priority for planning and new development.

The Council notes that as of 13th September 2019, 1,821 households were seeking social housing in the District.

The Council resolves to review its housing strategy with a specific emphasis on:

- *sustainable development, building homes fit for the future, both in terms of construction standards and end user fuel efficiency;*
- *implementing policies specifically for younger people earning average wage or below;*
- *investigating methods of providing its own housing and the practical and financial implications of doing this.*

The Council requests its Officers to carry out a full review of housing allocations to make sure that people in most need are prioritised and that the Council is effectively relieving its statutory duties and delivering for its residents.

Sources:

(i) *Private Rental Market statistics calculated by the Valuation Office Agency, based on summary of monthly rents between 1 April 2018 to 31st March 2019;*

(ii) *UK House Price Index as of June 2019'*

(iv) Motion 9 of 2019/20 re A417

Proposed by Councillor Ray Brassington, Seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton.

'This Council notes with grave concern the ongoing congestion and pollution and the accidents and fatal collisions that have taken place on and around the section of the A417 between Cowley Roundabout and the Brockworth bypass.

It further notes the noise from the concrete-surfaced section of the road as it runs through the District and the impact this has on many of our communities.

This Council reaffirms its support for the proposal from Highways England to replace the section of the road between Cowley Roundabout and the Brockworth bypass with a dual carriageway which will then be continuous from the M4 to the M5 and supports this much needed project.

This Council recognises that the improvement of this road will lead to an increase in traffic volumes and therefore that road noise will increase unless mitigating actions are taken.

It notes that Highways England will be consulting on the details of the scheme this autumn and encourages its residents, businesses and community groups to respond to this consultation taking the opportunity to highlight any concerns about the noise and other environmental impacts of this scheme and requesting Highways England to take action to address these.'

(v) Motion 9 of 2019/20 re Carbon Neutral

Proposed by Councillor Stephen Hirst, Seconded by Councillor Ray Theodoulou

'This Council notes that:

** Gloucestershire County Council recently debated a motion to ensure that all new public buildings commissioned are carbon neutral throughout their entire life-span (with GCC funding Gloucestershire-based carbon offsetting to capture any technically unavoidable performance gap).*

** On 3 July 2019 Cotswold District Council declared a climate emergency and committed to making CDCs own activities net-zero carbon as soon as possible, aiming for an 80% reduction against a 1990 baseline by 2030, and 100% reduction by 2045, with no reliance on offsetting or the trading of carbon credits.*

Council therefore commits to:-

** Starting immediately, ensuring that all new CDC public buildings will be carbon neutral throughout their entire lifespan.*

** Ensuring the new multi-story carpark in Cirencester is carbon neutral throughout its entire life-span.'*

(vi) Motion 10 of 2019/20 re Leisure Facilities in Fairford and Tetbury

Proposed by Councillor Richard Norris, Seconded by Councillor Stephen Andrews.

'Local communities in Tetbury and Fairford have been left devastated by the recent and sudden closures of their leisure centres. Both communities are working hard to find solutions to try and keep their leisure centres open for local residents and local community groups. As leisure facilities are so crucial to the mental and physical wellbeing of residents, this council fully supports efforts by local communities and so will offer financial support if requested.

This Council resolves to:

Offer a grant of up to £25,000 for each leisure centre (£25,000 for Tetbury and £25,000 for Fairford) to help transition from their previous organisation structure to their new structure. This grant will be available immediately and will be in place for the next 24 months. Funding can be spent on anything related to the present and or future labour and equipment needed for the successful start-up of each centre. For clarification:-

- monies cannot be spent on past leisure centre operations or outstanding debts;*
- will be subject to the submission of a proposal by the local community organisation; and,*
- will be with the agreement of the school that in principle the facilities will be made available to the local community organisation.*

The grant can be spent on:-

** Funding to purchase, update or develop new booking and administration systems (including software, hardware and any increase labour costs associated with new administration procedures).*

** Funding for marketing activities so local communities are informed about the new opening and ongoing availability of the centres.*

** Funding to purchase and install new doors and locking systems if necessary (for example a magnetic key fob system or card swipe systems).*

** Funding to purchase any new security systems deemed necessary (for example CCTV).*

** Funding to purchase new insurance deemed necessary by the new organisations.*

** Funding to purchase or replace any old or damaged equipment.'*

(17) **Sealing of Documents**

To resolve:

“that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to all contracts, conveyances and any other documents necessary for carrying into effect all resolutions passed by the Council.”

Note:

The Register of Sealing will be available at the Meeting for Members' inspection.

(18) **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

To consider, and if so agreed, to

RESOLVE that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and Press be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph (3) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the said Act (Information relating to financial or business affairs) and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned.

Item of Exempt Business for Consideration and Decision

(18) **Property Matter**

(END)