



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tuesday, 8 March 2022

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COUNCIL

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Full Council to be held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester on **Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at 2.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Council

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to 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 prior to the date of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members and Officers, relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 16 February 2022.
4. **Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive (if any)**
5. **Public Questions**
To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions from each member of the public should be no longer than two minutes each and relate to issues under the Council's or Committee's remit. Any member of the public wishing to ask a public question is requested to contact Democratic Services by no later than 5.00pm the working day before the meeting.
6. **Member Questions**
The following questions have been submitted:

Question from Councillor Nick Maunder to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance:

Twelve months ago, the Council started levying an additional 50p on parking stays at the Rissington Road car park in Bourton-on-the-Water to generate revenue to spend in the village on managing the impacts of tourism.

Could the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance please advise the Council:

- (i) the revenue generated so far by the charge;
- (ii) what this revenue has been spent on in 2021/22; and
- (iii) the budget and plans for spending the revenue from the charge in 2022/23.

Question from Councillor Claire Bloomer to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

Cirencester Town Council has recently taken steps to implement a menopause policy for the Council staff. What plans does Cotswold District Council have to do the same?

Question from Councillor Stephen Andrews to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

Over the past two years I have asked a number of questions relating to the response of this Council to Consultations that the Government or other bodies have conducted.

Given his responsibility for Democratic Renewal and Consultation, will he endorse the suggestion that I have made to Officers that all such responses are made available to the Public on the website of this Council as soon as they have been completed?

Question from Councillor Stephen Andrews to Councillor Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness:

In late 2017 the idea of a scheme for the regeneration of poor standard Social Rent housing in Kempford was first conceived. Following consultation, including with the residents of that housing, this scheme was agreed and planning permission sought in 2019. At the same time, residents were encouraged by the Housing Association to move out and into other properties in nearby settlements such as Fairford. Since then, the Oakley flats have been demolished and most of the houses boarded up. Despite requests from the Parish Council and myself the Housing Association have failed to indicate when this regeneration programme will be completed.

The result, is a net loss to this Council of in excess of 20 social rent houses; the disruption of the lives of its occupants; and, a complete change to the fabric of the village of Kempford and its vibrancy.

Will she agree that this is wholly unacceptable given the priority she has claimed this administration affords to increasing social rented housing in particular?

Question from Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

In July last year the Government launched the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund aimed at investment in infrastructure across the UK that improves everyday life, including the regeneration of town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport and investing in cultural, heritage, leisure and business assets. The LGA welcomed the announcement and applauded the fact that councils were placed at the heart of the delivery of the Fund.

Did CDC jump at this opportunity and make a bid for the first issue of the Levelling Up Fund. If so, what was it for?

Question from Councillor Tony Berry Question to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

The 25 February Council press release indicated that you had agreed to pay £30,000 to repair the mosaic in Brewery Court, together with other repairs and improvements. Could you please advise me why this was not processed through the Crowdfunding process that was introduced by your administration to ensure that there was local support for such projects, and therefore reducing the overall cost to CDC.

Question from Councillor Stephen Hirst to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

The Government is being urged to welcome thousands of refugees from Ukraine. The UK should play a leading role in providing sanctuary, Save the Children and Amnesty International amongst others said. The Refugee Council has also called for an urgent plan of action from ministers. LGA chair James said that councils are “deeply saddened by the tragic events unfolding day by day in Ukraine” and are following the situation closely.

Councils have a proud history of welcoming refugees, stepping forward voluntarily to offer homes and support to new arrivals and helping resettle them in local communities. Can the Leader confirm that Cotswold District Council has prepared plans to receive numbers of Ukrainian refugees, stepping forward to offer homes and support to new arrivals and helping resettle them in Cotswold communities.

Question from Councillor Stephen Hirst to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

I understand that Cotswold District Council has been allocated over £130,500 for the Household Support Fund to help families who may be struggling this winter and spring. The Household Support Fund has been provided by the Government to local authorities with funding to be allocated in two phases. The first phase is available for families with children who are struggling and need immediate financial support with food, energy and water bills.

The second phase of the scheme will assist individuals or families moving out of homelessness into permanent tenancy as well as those in receipt of Pension Credits (Savings or Guaranteed).

How does CDC plan to distribute these funding strands both the initial 50% of the funding and the remaining balance for households identified to be in need.

7. Changes to Cotswold District Council's Offices at Trinity Road, Cirencester to Facilitate Agile Working and Increase Commercial Income | | - 34

Purpose

To seek agreement to the changes to Cotswold District Council's Offices at Trinity Road, Cirencester to facilitate implementation of the Agile Working Strategy, reducing costs and carbon impact of the Council's operations and creating lettable space within the building to provide income to the Council.

Recommendation(s)

That Council agrees:

- a) to support the proposed changes to office layout;
- b) to seek tenants to occupy space that will be created in the West wing of the building;
- c) to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to agree lease arrangements in consultation with the Interim Head of Legal Services and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance.
- d) allocate funding of up to £975,000 from the Recovery Investment Strategy budget in the Capital Programme to facilitate the changes to the Trinity Road offices and fund structure repairs identified in the building condition survey;
- e) The detailed costs to be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance.
- f) To note that the gross revenue savings of £202,000 will contribute towards the savings from the Recovery Investment Strategy.

8. **Review of Licensing Fees 35 - 42**

Purpose

Licensing fees are set on a cost recovery basis. The current fees have been reviewed against the cost of delivering the service and it is proposed from 1st April 2022 that there is a 5% increase on all licence fees excluding statutory fees. The Council is required to keep fees at a level that provide a cost neutral service.

Recommendation(s)

To adopt the fees as set out in Annex A of this report.

9. **Appointment and Remuneration of Independent Persons 43 - 46**

Purpose

To appoint Independent Persons for standards matters, commence a subsequent recruitment campaign, and approve allowances payable.

Recommendation(s)

a) Phyllida Pyper, John Acton and Michael Paget-Wilkes are re-appointed as Independent Persons, effective from 01.04.2022. All appointments to be a maximum of one year.

b) The Independent Persons are paid an annual allowance of £1000 per annum on a monthly basis, plus a mileage allowance equivalent to the rate paid to elected Members.

c) Authorise the Director of Governance & Development to commence a recruitment campaign prior to the expiration of current appointments and to enable reports to be presented on future appointments.

10. **Report of Decision Taken by the Chief Executive Using Urgency Powers Under the Council Constitution 47 - 52**

Purpose

To report a decision taken by the Chief Executive on 4 March 2022 using urgency powers to the next meeting of Council.

Recommendation(s)

That Council notes the decision taken by the Chief Executive using urgency powers.

11. **Notice of Motions**

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

a) **Motion – Sewage in Rivers**

Proposed by Councillor Andrew Doherty, Seconded by Councillor Lisa Spivey

Council notes that

1. There is great concern at reports that Thames Water, Seven Trent Water and Wessex Water discharges raw sewage into Cotswold rivers. This happened 1260 times in 2020.
2. Statistics from the Rivers Trust shows sewage discharges across all locations in

the Cotswold district in 2020 occurred for 17609 hours in total.

3. These timings show that the discharges have become routine, rather than an emergency response to exceptional conditions.
4. In response to a petition on such discharges, the Government has stated that 'Tackling the harm caused by sewage is a top priority for Government'.
5. The Government has stated that 'Climate change has led to increased rainfall and water infrastructure has not kept pace with development growth'.
6. In addition to having a negative impact on local wildlife and forcing a local watercress farm to cease trading, this also hugely affects the quality of life and the enjoyment of water-based activities for residents along the course of the rivers and at times causes contaminated water to be on roads and pavements, and into local properties.

Council believes that

1. The establishment of a Storm Overflows Taskforce and a date of September 2022 from the Government to publish a plan to reduce sewage discharges from storm outflows is too little, too late to tackle the issue.
2. The rules on sewage discharges must be tightened and enforcement improved, in conjunction with the Environment Agency.
3. Housing developers should meet the costs of the required supply and disposal of water from new homes.
4. The Government must make capital funding urgently available to address these issues.
5. Solutions to these issues cannot be local, as sewage output in one geographic area affects another.

Council instructs

1. The Leader and Chief Executive to write to the relevant Government Ministers, requesting an acceleration in the capital programme to lower risks of untreated sewage discharges into our rivers, and an assurance that local housing developers will be expected to fund water infrastructure to meet the needs of new housing.
2. The Leader and Chief Executive to work with other local authorities to call on the Government to provide guidance and funding to local planning authorities to challenge water companies to deliver the urgent upgrades required to water

treatment capacity.

Council resolves to

- I. Set up a working group, with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities, that will develop appropriate policy to guide planning application determination and enforcement in those areas where sewage treatment is insufficient. Incorporating legislative frameworks and the five principles recently outlined in legislation: integration, prevention, precautionary, rectification at source, and the polluter pays principle.

Rivers Trust Data on Sewage Discharge in the Cotswolds - 2020

Where?	Times	Hours	Company
Tetbury	122	502	WW
Didmarton	96	1886	WW
Avening	90	283	STW
South Cerney	72	735	TW
Ampney	108	2316	TW
Fairford	138	2492	TW
Lechlade	51	845	TW
Andoversford	50	822	TW
Northleach	70	984	TW
Bledington	92	1536	TW
Broadwell	31	481	TW
Moreton	62	911	TW
Sheephouse Farm	10	39	STW
Blockley	212	3330	STW
Chipping Campden	49	407	STW
Mickleton	7	40	STW
	1260	17609	

b) Motion – Parliamentary Boundary Proposals

Proposed by Councillor Joe Harris, Seconded by Councillor Jenny Forde

Council notes:

The Boundary Commission's proposals to create two new Parliamentary constituencies covering the Cotswold District.

Cotswold District Council's initial response supported the Commission's proposals and proposed a name change to the proposed new constituencies:

- The proposed 'The Cotswolds' constituency be renamed 'North Cotswolds'
- The proposed 'Cirencester & North Wiltshire' constituency be renamed 'South Cotswolds'

That Baunton Parish Council submitted a request to the Boundary Commission in the initial consultation requesting that Chedworth and Churn Valley ward be included in the proposed Cirencester and North Wiltshire seat.

Under the Boundary Commission's current proposals, Baunton Lane would be split down the middle into two parliamentary constituencies.

That residents in the villages that make up the Chedworth and Churn Valley ward look to Cirencester as their main centre for shopping, healthcare and education.

That the Boundary Commission's primary objective is to ensure electoral equality in new parliamentary constituencies.

This Council believes that:

The cross-county border constituency of Cirencester & North Wiltshire is a good solution to the need for electoral equality in this sub-region.

The Chedworth and Churn Valley ward should be included in the proposed Cirencester and North Wiltshire parliamentary constituency.

That the proposed Parliamentary constituencies should be renamed 'North Cotswolds' and 'South Cotswolds'.

Council further notes:

The commission's current proposals place Cirencester and North Wiltshire constituency on 71,222 electors and The Cotswolds constituency on 74,985 electors.

Moving Chedworth and Churn Valley ward into the proposed Cirencester and North Wiltshire Constituency would mean that it would have 72,965 electors and The Cotswolds Constituency would have 73,242, effectively equalising the electorate in the seats.

Council resolves to:

Authorise the Chief Executive to submit a written response to the Boundary Commission outlining the Council's position as set out in this motion.

Ask the Leader of the Council to speak at the Boundary Commission's public hearing in Gloucester later this month in support of the Council's position.

c) Motion – Ukrainian Refugees

Proposed by Councillor Patrick Coleman, Seconded by Councillor Nigel Robbins

Council notes the appalling conflict unfolding in Ukraine.

On behalf of residents in the Cotswolds, the Council wishes to express its solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Council notes that in recent years we have welcomed refugees from Syria and Afghanistan.

The Council welcomes the steps being taken to resettle Afghan refugees from their temporary hotel residences within the UK which is still ongoing.

Council notes and applauds the record of Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS) in supporting refugees and asylum seekers within our District and County.

Council records its thanks and appreciation for the many generous actions taken by residents of our District in support of refugees and asylum seekers.

Council requests the Chief Executive brings forward proposals and options for further appropriate support by this Council, at the earliest practicable date, particularly in light of the appalling events currently unfolding in Ukraine.

Council requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the Ukrainian ambassador to the UK offering the District's support for the people of Ukraine in these difficult times.

12. **Next meeting**
25 May 2022 – 2pm

(END)