



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tuesday, 16 January 2024

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Wednesday, 24 January 2024 at 2.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

(Councillors Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Evemy, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Roly Hughes, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Chris Twells, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins)

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 (Pages 7 - 36)**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 22 November 2023.
4. **Announcements from the Chair, Leader of Chief Executive (if any)**
To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council, Leader of the Council, or the Chief Executive.
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 one minute each and relate to issues under the Council's remit. At any one meeting no person may submit more than two questions and no more than two such questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation.

The Chair will ask whether any members of the public present at the meeting wish to ask a question and will decide on the order of questioners.

The response may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral answer;
- b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

6. **Member Questions (Pages 37 - 42)**

A Member of the Council may ask the Chair, the Leader, a Cabinet Member or the Chair of any Committee a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Cotswold District. A maximum period of fifteen minutes shall be allowed at any such meeting for Member questions.

A Member may only ask a question if:

- a) the question has been delivered in writing or by electronic mail to the Chief Executive no later than 5.00 p.m. on the working day before the day of the meeting; or
- b) the question relates to an urgent matter, they have the consent of the Chair to whom the question is to be put and the content of the question is given to the Chief Executive by 9.30 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

An answer may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral answer;

- b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

The following questions were submitted before the publication of the agenda;

Question 1 from Councillor Len Wilkins to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability

How many of the planned EV charging points have Cotswold District Council now installed across the district? What impact have inflationary pressures, energy costs and other economic factors had on the business case, first put to Cabinet in March 2022, for the installation of these EV chargers?

Question 2 from Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council
Please could you confirm the current expected lead time for the repair or replacement of street signs?

Question 3 from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

There is a great deal of concern across the Cotswold District about the ever-increasing number of second homes and properties which are let out as holiday homes both of which decrease the supply of housing available for would be residents. The ONS states that 8% of properties in the Cotswolds are vacant.

An additional issue is holiday homes which are registered as businesses which do not have to pay council tax and fall below the threshold for paying business rates and yet their domestic bins are collected along with everyone else's.

The popularity of the Cotswolds as a place to have a weekend retreat or its attraction as a tourist destination is mirrored in places such as the Lake District and whilst it brings prosperity, which is valuable to the local economy, it would be good to have greater control of these type of tenures and also capture more financial benefit for the District Council.

As a start, what avenues has this Council explored to advise property owners who rent out properties as holiday homes registered as a business that they should pay a commercial waste charge as happens in Salcombe; doubling council tax on second homes as is proposed in Whitby and Swanage and also a doubling of council tax on properties which have been vacant over a year?

7. Committee Appointments

Purpose

To confirm the changes to the Committee appointments for the remainder of the 2023/24 Civic Year.

The current vacancies are as follows:

Performance and Appointments Committee – 1 vacancy (Liberal Democrat Group)

Audit and Governance Committee – 1 vacancy (Liberal Democrat Group)

Boundary Review Working Group – 1 vacancy (Liberal Democrat Group)

Nominations received for the vacancies:

- Councillor Dilys Neill to the Performance and Appointments Committee
- Councillor Michael Vann to the Audit and Governance Committee
- Councillor Lisa Spivey to the Boundary Review Working Group

Any other changes to the membership of Committees and/or Working Groups notified by Group leaders

- Councillor Tristan Wilkinson to replace Councillor Roly Hughes on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation

That Full Council resolves to:

1. Agree to confirm the changes to the membership of the Committees and Working Groups presented.

8. **Polling District and Places Review (Pages 43 - 64)**

Purpose

To consider the outcome of the review of polling districts and places/stations undertaken within the District.

Recommendations

That Full Council resolves to:

1. Approve the scheme of polling districts and polling places/stations set out in the Annex A.
2. Approve the proposed changes to polling stations as set out in the annexe B and Annex C.
3. Delegate authority to the Returning Officer to make any further changes as necessary to enable the efficient and effective conduct of elections.
4. Authorise the Electoral Registration Officer to make any changes as are necessary to the Register of Electors.

9. **Amendments to the Constitution - Report of the Constitution Working Group (Pages 65 - 114)**

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to consider updates to the planning scheme of delegation following recommendations by the Planning Advisory Service for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Recommendations

That Council resolves to:

1. Approve the changes to the Scheme of Delegation in respect to the Call in of planning applications and notifications to the Planning & Licencing Committee.
2. Approve the other changes to the Scheme of Delegation relating to Article 4 directions and Disposal of Planning applications.
3. Approve the change in frequency of the Planning Review Panel and the associated changes to the Planning Protocol in respect to this and the required attendees.

10. **Corporate Plan 2024-2028 (Pages 115 - 140)**

Purpose

To present the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2028, for adoption by Full Council.

Recommendations

That Council resolves to:

1. Review the appended 'Our Cotswolds Our Plan' and agree any modifications.
2. Subject to modifications, agree to adopt the plan.
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make agreed modifications and consequential amendments to the text and layout.

11. **Cotswold District Local Plan Update (Pages 141 - 196)**

Purpose

To consider the recommendation to start preparing a new local plan for the period 2026 to 2041 and to consult on a first stage document that includes development strategy options for distributing future growth in the district.

To consider the formation of a new cross party working group that will examine strategic growth in Moreton-in-Marsh.

Recommendations

That Council resolves to:

1. Begin the preparation of a new Local Plan that would extend the plan period from 31 March 2031 to 31 March 2041 and approves the consultation document, as presented at Annex A, to be published for a six week public consultation;
2. Delegate authority to the Forward Planning Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services, to agree questionnaires and make minor and typographical corrections to the consultation documents prior to being published for public engagement.
3. Note upcoming national policy changes and the impact this may have on the preparation of the Local Plan at Annex B;
4. Approve the formation of a Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group and approves the Terms of Reference at Annex C; and
5. Approve the Local Development Scheme as presented at Annex D.

12. **Notice of Motions**

No motions have been received for consideration by Full Council.

13. **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be the Budget Council on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 6pm.

(END)