

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 9 December 2013

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2013 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 Meeting of the Council held on 28th October and the Special Council Meeting on the 28th November 2013.
(Copies herewith)

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(Copy herewith)

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone to make a statement on “Public Sector Employment”.

9. HOUSING OPTIONS REVIEW

(Copy herewith)

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2013-2014

(Copy herewith)

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Palethorpe to second that:

“This Council notes that this Conservative Cabinet wants to open up the top section of Abington Street to road traffic next year.

This Council believes sufficient public consultation has yet to be carried out whether this is actually what the general public want for the town centre. Nor have the Conservative Cabinet provided a proper rationale for this decision.

This Council further believes opening up the top section of Abington Street would be a retrograde step for the town centre and puts the interests of the car and associated traffic problems ahead of pedestrians. This Council opposes the opening up of the top end of Abington Street until proper consultation has taken place”.

ii) Councillor Mason to propose and Councillor Palethorpe to second that:

“This Council notes that the Conservative Cabinet carried out low key consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Northampton Borough Council is proposing to reduce the maximum amount of discount a person can receive each year. In 2014/15 the proposal is to reduce the maximum amount of discount a person can receive to 85% of their Council Tax bill, which may then be reduced to 64% in 2015/16.

This Council believes these proposals are iniquitous as they harm the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in Northampton. In order to fill any shortfall this Council should look seriously at revenue raising measures”.

iii) Councillor Eales to propose and Councillor Subbaryan to second that:

“This council recognises that local government workers’ earnings have fallen by 18% since 2010 and that over 500,000 across the country now earn less than the Living Wage outside of London of £7.65 pence an hour. We recognise that this has placed many of our employees in financial hardship.

This council notes and supports calls by Government, Shadow Cabinet Ministers and MP’s from all parties for action on low pay, for a significant increase in the National Minimum Wage and for the Living Wage.

This council therefore resolves to:

- support the 2014-15 NJC pay claim by UNISON, GMB and Unite
- call upon the LGA to support the claim and lobby government for funding for it.

This council further resolves to call upon the Chancellor and Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government to ensure that funding is made available for councils to meet the NJC pay claim for a minimum increase of £1 an hour to:

- achieve the Living Wage for the lowest paid and
- begin to restore the earnings of the rest of the workforce”.

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

“This Council recognises that:

- It, and its members, are here to serve the people of Northampton, not be served by them.
- That often, service users and local residents have a far better understanding of local services and the needs of their local communities than Council officers, or even Councillors – particularly as not all Councillors are as engaged as they should be with their wards, as the current fiasco at Blackthorn Workshops shows.
- With these facts in mind, the Council has procedures for consultation laid out in consultation documents.
- Unfortunately, these procedures have been, at times, ignored.

This Council therefore resolves that:

- Cabinet decisions should demonstrate Consultation in line with the Council’s own consultation document at all times. “

v) Councillor Glynane to propose and Councillor Conroy to second:

“The Delapre tea rooms are a beloved institution in the local area. The tea rooms, run by the Friends of Delapre Abbey, have been established for a number of years, and run by people who have a passion for the abbey and community, often volunteering substantial amounts of time with no expectation of return. That it has become a social and community hub, where many people from across the town meet

This Council therefore resolves that:

During the works at Delapre Abbey, there will be proper provision in place to ensure an uninterrupted service, protecting the tea rooms customer base, and allowing what has become an essential community facility to keep serving the town”.

12. 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 and 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

Tel 01604 837722

Mail Democratic Services
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton NN1 1DE