

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 15 September 2014

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2014 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 14th July 2014.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Marriott to make a statement on 'Air Pollution'.

9. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE PLACES

(Copy herewith)

10. EXEMPTION FROM CALL-IN; URGENT KEY DECISION

(Copy herewith)

11. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION - SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS

(Copy herewith)

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Hallam to propose and Councillor Hibbert to second that:
Seconded by Cllr Hibbert

‘Council welcomes the recent Green Flag Awards for Abington Park and Delapre Park after being judged to be among the best parks in the country.

‘Council notes that Delapre Park receives the award, from the charity Keep Britain Tidy, for the second year running and this is a first award for Abington Park which means they are among just 1,476 parks and green spaces across the country judged to be of a very high standard.

‘Council recognises these awards are a tribute to the commitment by all the volunteers who are part of the dedicated Friends groups and other organisations that work alongside the Council staff and our contractor to reach these high standards.

‘The Administration renews its commitment to maintaining our town's parks and green spaces and to seek Green Flag Awards across the town in the future.’

ii) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Conroy to second:

This Council recognises the incredible stress many visitors and patients are under when they find it necessary to park at Northampton General Hospital.

Problems with not only the expense, but more worryingly, the availability of parking at the Hospital must not be allowed to continue.

This Council therefore resolves to make representation to Northampton General Hospital regarding the concern of residents and to be proactive in encouraging a solution, and working with all partner organisations to overcome these difficulties.

iii) Councillor Meredith to propose and Councillor Glynane to second:

There are many areas of the Eastern District where historic planting of the wrong kind of trees in the residential areas cause a number of problems for residents – from light being blocked from homes, to fallen debris, to damage to property from roots.

This Council resolves to develop a plan to remove trees that are identified as problematic and replace them with smaller trees more suited to residential areas.

iv) Councillor Mason to propose and Councillor Ashraf to second that:

This Council notes recent research based on Ministry of Justice statistics shows that nearly three homes are at risk of being repossessed in Northampton every day. In Northampton between July 2013 and June 2014 952 possession claims were issued to the county courts. This Council is concerned that any rise in interest rates in the near future will put more people at risk of repossession.

Therefore this Council resolves to explore all ways it can help local people with the threat of home repossession, such as supporting advice agencies to provide early help with those struggling financially.

One way Northampton Borough Council can help with the housing crisis is to increase the supply of affordable housing. We need more affordable housing for young families starting out and we need larger family homes for families that are expanding and growing up. We need housing that graduates from the university feel they can afford as a means of retaining some of our students post training.

This Council believes that building social housing can be funded by easing the restrictions on council borrowing for housing, a larger social housing grant programme, and a robust regime of private developer contributions.

Therefore this Council further resolves to lobby central government for such changes to happen so Northampton Borough Council can build more affordable homes.

v) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Gowen to second that:

Northampton Borough Council notes that large supermarkets, whilst bringing certain benefits to the local area, also have a detrimental impact on local communities, the local economy and the environment;

Therefore welcomes the fact that Brighton & Hove, Chorley, Cornwall, Coventry, Crawley, Derby, Islington, Lambeth, Lancaster, Lincoln, Oxford, Preston, Sefton, South Hams, Southend-on-Sea, Southwark, Thanet, Wakefield, Weymouth & Portland and Wyre Forest Councils have submitted a proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act for Local Authorities to be given the power to put a modest levy on very large retail outlets, or just supermarkets, in order to redress this detrimental impact, the specific wording of the proposal being:

"The government give local authorities the power to introduce a levy of up to 8.5% of the rateable value on supermarkets or large retail outlets in their area with a rateable annual value not less than £500,000 and for the revenue to be retained by local authorities in order to be used to help improve their local communities."

This Council also notes that the proposal also documents the detrimental impact, for example research has shown that for every pound spent in a large supermarket only 5p remains in the local economy while for independent retailers it is over 50p, that whilst in the last year large supermarket chains expanded their floor space by 2,750,000 square feet the number of people they employed fell by over 400 and that one of the largest supermarket chains has stated that it generated 28,500 tonnes of food waste at its stores and distribution centres and it threw out two-thirds of its bagged salad and 40% of its apples in the first six months of 2013;

Notes that the inspiration for the proposal has come from similar levies that have existed in Northern Ireland and Scotland for over two years and that the proposal notes the positive impact seen in those parts of the UK;

Notes that the VAT rise in 2011 was thirty five times higher as a cost to large retailers than this proposed levy would be and that following the VAT rise the major supermarket chains embarked on a price war where thousands of items were reduced in price;

This Council further notes that if this power was acquired it would present the opportunity to raise further revenue for the benefit of local businesses and local communities if the Council wished to use it;

This Council resolves to support the proposal and inform Derby City Council of this in writing.

13. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

The Guildhall
Northampton

D. Kennedy Chief Executive

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

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