

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 8 December 2014

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER 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 Meetings of the Council held on 27th October and the Special Council Meetings of the 15th and 18th November 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 "Consultation – Best Practice".

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2013-2014

(Copy herewith)

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Mason to second:

“This Council recognises that living in a flat for families with children can be very difficult. It often inhibits play, and isolates families that rely on neighbourhood social networks. In particular many parents struggle to access their flat with pushchair, shopping, toddlers and children.

Even where there is a lift available the lift can be out of order making life difficult.

This Council therefore resolves to work towards a situation where families with children under 5 are not put in flats above the 1st floor”.

ii) Councillor Ashraf to propose and Councillor Marriott to second:

“This Council notes that Cabinet gave authority to enter into contractually binding arrangements that may lead to the disposal of land and buildings at Westbridge Depot for use in connection with a ‘waste to energy’ installation.

This Council is concerned that detailed and informative consultation (as set out in the ‘Consultation Toolkit’) has not been adequate. Also there was not sufficient information about the proposal and plans in the cabinet report.

This Council therefore asks to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to set up a Panel of councillors, which includes representatives from all political groups, to investigate the proposal more thoroughly and how public consultation on this issue can be improved”.

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

“Council notes cabinet's decision to enter into legally binding contracts with a waste company proposing to build a power plant in the urban heart of Northampton town, and that no consultation has taken place with the people of St. James, Far Cotton, or the other areas where residents lives will be impacted by this dangerous proposition.

Council further notes that the St. James’ area in particular suffers terrible traffic problems, with roads already overloaded by local businesses - and that other plants of this type have a waste lorry coming or going once every 3 minutes. Contrary to statements made by this administration, Council also notes that plants of this type have not been shown to produce any net power whatsoever, and while there are environmental benefits compared to landfill, these would be undermined by an urban location.

Council recognises the significant problems plants of these types have had around the Country and the world with spillage and leaks of toxic substances into the local area.

Council therefore resolves that a full consultation must be taken out regarding all and any further decisions about the possibility of this power plant, and that no further steps will be taken without:

1. A full business case

2. A clear, evidence based understanding of environmental benefits, risks and problems associated with developments of this type.
3. The full and informed consent of the people of St. James, Far Cotton and the surrounding areas.

Council further resolves that to ensure that these conditions are met in an open and transparent way, all further moves towards the proposed development must be ratified both at Cabinet and Full Council”.

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

Council recognises the need for Northampton's road system to be dramatically improved. However, Council also notes with regret the frustration caused to motorists, residents, shoppers and businesses by the extreme amount of work being done simultaneously around the town centre over the past few months.

Given the already fragile position of many of Northampton's businesses following 4 disastrous years of a Conservative administration, Council recognises that something must be done to mitigate some of the damage caused.

Council therefore resolves to work more closely with the County Council to ensure that works in Northampton are planned and scheduled more effectively in future, and further resolves to reduce the business rates of Northampton town centre businesses by 5% in each of the months where work has been going on in Abington Street, the Victoria Promenade/ Cheyne Walk junction, the Carlsberg Roundabout or the Drapery. This discount will apply to the last year and until the end of these works”.

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

The Councils are in fact assets belonging to the town and to the communities surrounding them.

Often, the sale of assets happens because of pressures on the Council, rather than because of the needs of the local community.

As such, the capital receipts generated by the sale of assets should, where possible, be spent on improving facilities in the local area. Even where this is not possible, communities should have clear information of where money generated by the disposal of assets from their community is being reinvested by the Council.

Council therefore resolves to publish this information”.

11. 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

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 at 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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