

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chambers, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Tuesday, 18th April, 2023 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Val Bryant, Tamsin Thomas, Raj Bhakar, Michael Muir, Michael Weeks, Faye Frost, Mandi Tandi, Ian Albert, James Denselow and Sam Collins.

2 MINUTES - 23 FEBRUARY 2023

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 February 2023 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (2) Members were reminded that this Council had declared a Climate Emergency. This was a serious decision and means that, as this is an emergency, all of us, officers and Members had that in mind as we carried out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District.
- (3) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (4) The Chair clarified the rules of debate for Members.
- (5) The Chair clarified that 4.8.23(a) of the Council's Constitution did not apply to the meeting and advised that a comfort break would be taken at a suitable time in the proceedings, if required.
- (6) The Chair acknowledged Councillors that were not standing in the forthcoming elections and thanked them for their service.
- (7) The Chair advised a change to the order of the agenda and Item 7 'Notice of Motions' would be taken after Item 9 'Constitutional Amendment Report'.
- (8) The Chair held a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor John Bishop and Group Leaders and Members paid tribute.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at the meeting.

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 three questions had been submitted by the required deadline set out in the Constitution.

(A) Council Financial Information

Councillor David Levett to Councillor Ian Albert (Executive Member for Finance and IT)

(B) Breach of the Code of Conduct Investigation and Withdrawn Sub-Committee Costs

Councillor Ralph Muncer to Councillor Ian Albert (Executive Member for Finance and IT)

(C) Fly-tipping

Councillor Ralph Muncer to Councillor Amy Allen (Executive Member for Recycling and Waste Management)

8 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no items referred.

9 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REPORT

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council approved the change of the Area Committees to informal Area Forums (set out in paragraphs 8.2-8.5) to commence with the new municipal year from May 2023.
- (2) The principle that grant applications be considered by the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel (as set out in paragraphs 8.6-8.11) was not approved [default decision was that Area Forums would consider and recommend].
- (3) That a start time of 19:00 for meetings (other than those which already meet in the daytime) was not approved.
- (4) That Council noted the Cabinet Panel on the Environment was the remaining Panel from May 2023.
- (5) That Council approved the amendments detailed in Appendix A (summarised at paragraph 8.14-8.18).

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To review and look at ways to improve engagement with the community; consider resource issues, reflect good decision-making practice, and keep the Constitution up to date.

7 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

One motion was submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.1.12.

(A) Motion to Remove the Leader of the Council from Office

RESOLVED: That the Leader of the Council was not removed from Office.