

Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

16 July 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Stevenage Borough Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage on Wednesday, 24 July 2019 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Partridge
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - 22 MAY 2019 AND 12 JUNE 2019

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 22 May 2019 and the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 12 June 2019.

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3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

To receive any communications that the Mayor may wish to put before Council.

4. MAIN DEBATE - PUBLIC HEALTH IN STEVENAGE

To receive a presentation on Public Health in Stevenage.

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

None.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, the Leader of the Opposition shall be given the opportunity to raise one matter relevant to the Borough that has arisen since the last meeting of the Council. The Leader of the Council shall then have the opportunity to advise the Council of matters relevant to the Borough that have arisen since the last meeting.

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Robin Parker, CC:

"That Council notes that:

- (a) A number of other local authorities have adopted the policy of planting or encouraging wild flowers, and other alternative methods of managing highway verges, which improve biodiversity without increasing the cost of highway verge maintenance.
- (b) Growing concern about the possible health impacts and effect on biodiversity by the widespread use of glyphosate weed killers.

With the aim of improving biodiversity and the street scene, along with reducing any undesirable environmental impacts, Council agrees to ask for an officer report within the next 6 months about the feasibility of a change in the policy on highways verge maintenance and cutting, to allow many further areas to be left free for wildflower self and initiated seeding, where appropriate, safe and with particular need to ensure safety and visibility, including financial implications and consequences for the current Agency agreement with HCC."

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

In accordance with Standing Orders, written answers to the following questions will be tabled at the Council meeting:

- (A) Question from Councillor Stephen Booth

"What costs have been incurred and how many staff working hours were disrupted during Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 June when online access was limited across the Council's workforce and the Civica payments system was unavailable, following the previous weekend's relocation of the CCTV control room at Cavendish Road and the unavailability of the hosted desktop system from 6 pm on Friday 14 June?"

(B) Question from Councillor Robin Parker, CC

“Will SBC consider webcasting, electronic timing indicators and electronic voting at SBC meetings, similar to those now in use at HCC?”

(C) Question from Councillor Graham Snell

“Does the Council have any plans to refurbish and repair the High Street entrance to King George Park which is in very poor condition and an important access point into the park and the Millennium Garden?”

(D) Question from Councillor Tom Wren

“On the SBC website a policy is stated that when a tree is felled by the council, where possible, a replacement tree will be planted nearby. Please could figures be provided for the last 3 years of the number of trees felled and replanted in the town? “

(E) Question from Councillor Andy McGuinness

“How much did the Council spend in the last financial year on food and drink for (a) Councillors (b) Mayoral events (c) Civic Events (non-mayoral)?”

11. UPDATE FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS

To receive updates from the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees on the recent activities of those committees.

12. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2018/19

To note the annual report from the three Scrutiny Committees on their activities during the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

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13. 4TH QUARTER CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2018/19 GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

The report circulated at Item 13 was considered by the Executive on 10 July 2019 when the following recommendation to Council was agreed:

“2.8 That Executive recommend to Council the approval of budget of £1.5million for Registered Provider grants, in line with the reasoning in Paragraph 4.3.4. of the report.”

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14. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES

The report circulated at Item 14 was considered by the Executive on 10 July 2019 when the following recommendation to Council was agreed:

“2.1 That Council adopts the Stevenage Borough Council draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles, as attached at Appendix A to the report.”

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15. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

To note the Minutes of the Audit Committee meetings held on 19 March 2019 and 11 June 2019.

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16. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider the following motions –

1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.
2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

17. PROCUREMENT OF A PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR AT NORTH ROAD

The Part II report circulated at Item 17 was considered by the Executive on 10 July 2019 when the following recommendation to Council was agreed:

“2.4 That Executive recommends to Full Council approval of General Fund Capital budgets detailed in the Part II report for the year 2020/21 to facilitate the General Fund aspect of the development.”

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18. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

To consider a Part II Officer report concerning the appointment of the Chief Executive.

[REPORT TO FOLLOW]