

Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

7 July 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Stevenage Borough Council will be held virtually (via Zoom) on Wednesday, 15 July 2020 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Partridge
Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - 20 MAY 2020

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2020.

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3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

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

4. MAIN DEBATE

There is no Main Debate.

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

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

- (A) "Are there any environmental projects planned which Stevenage Youth Council could be involved with?"

- (B) “As a Youth Council we have been having discussions around the Black Lives Matter movement, and we are interested to know if SBC is planning on running any projects on this and if we could be involved from a young person’s perspective?”

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

- (A) Question from Tina Walker

“Transport is responsible for about 27% of all emissions. We need to find innovative ways to reduce the reliance on motorised vehicles. With this in mind **Cycling UK Stevenage** have formed a group looking at the provision for cycling and active travel in the town and we would like to ask whether cycling permeability and accessibility is to be properly built into all developments including the Town Centre and Forster Country that links up to the existing network within Stevenage and linking up to route 12 towards Letchworth and beyond; whether in every new **planning** proposal will the existing network be protected, and in line with your declaration of a climate emergency, priority will be given to enhancing the network with Cycling UK Stevenage being consulted/involved at the planning stage?”

- (B) Question from Councillor Richard Briers

“Over time the priority that the cycleways had (and should remain) over crossing minor side roads has been eroded. We need to reclaim our routes for active travel. Will cyclist priorities be reinstated as a matter of urgency at existing junctions and incorporated in future planning decisions? This should not need planning to correct priority issues at existing junctions.

Examples: Costco development and most of the other junctions on Gunnels Wood Road.”

- (C) Question from Loyd Davies

“I understand that responsibility for the maintenance of the Stevenage cycle track surfaces rests with HCC but in many locations, it is the hedgerow and surface vegetation that narrows the cycle-track and causes a hazard. In some places the usable surface has been reduced by more than half. Cycling UK Stevenage riders are using the network daily; we could assist you with identifying places that need attention.

Examples:

1. The short spur link from the A602 down the hill to join the Gresley Way cycleway south of Ridlins Stadium is dangerous because going downhill you are forced onto the wrong side of the track.
2. The cycle-track junction with Brittain Way on the north-east corner of the roundabout opposite Ken Brown Motors; here a tall hedge blocks more

than half the cycleway and blocks the cyclists view of the road traffic and vice versa.

3. Broadhall Way cycle way near Broadwater Crescent junction - vegetation on the surface narrows cycleway on a sloping section which is hazardous as cyclists coming uphill move across towards the path of oncoming cyclists descending at speed.

Will the frequency of hedgerow maintenance and surface vegetation clearance along the cycleway and footpath network be increased to ensure that cyclists can safely use the cycle-tracks, particularly while Social Distancing?"

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. UPDATE FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS

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

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(i) Black Lives Matter

To consider the following motion submitted by the Labour Group.

"That Council notes with serious concern the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in America on 25th May 2020 and the systemic racism towards black people that continues to exist around the world.

Council also notes the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic people in the UK and that decisive action needs to be taken to mitigate these risks on sections of our community.

Council welcomes the decision to light the Clock Tower purple on 2nd June 2020 in commemoration of George Floyd's unnecessary death and all those who have died because of racism in public life.

Council also welcomes the progress that has been made in Stevenage over a number of years to build community cohesion and strengthen the voice of those who are marginalised, but recognises that there is more we can and must do.

That Council resolves:

- To stand in solidarity with black people in Stevenage, Britain and around the world.

- To lobby government for immediate action to address the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic people in the UK including here in Hertfordshire where we will continue to work with our Director of Public Health on this issue.
- To lobby government and the county council on racial inequality in education, including recruiting more black teachers and reforming the curriculum to fully reflect British history including the history of slavery empire and colonialism.
- To ensure the Council's HR and management policies fully meet the requirements for equalities, diversity and inclusion in the recruitment and career progression of all staff.
- To establish wider community dialogue with BAME Community organisations to make clear recommendations to the Council and other public bodies of further actions required to tackle discrimination and reduce inequalities across the town.
- To work with our partners in Stevenage Together to ensure we are all listening and engaging with our black community as we plan the future of our town together."

(ii) Primett Road Car Park

To consider the following motion submitted by Liberal Democrat Group.

"That in the interests of helping businesses in the Old Town, Primett Road Car Park should be made free to use for the first 3 hours, for an initial period of 6 months or until the former Waitrose building returns to retail use, whichever is the sooner."

11. 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 Doug Bainbridge

"How much money has been spent on "consultants" by the Council over the last 5 years. Year by year?"

(B) Question from Councillor Andy McGuinness

"Given the impact on the ability to open facilities due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, what discussions has SBC had with Stevenage Leisure Limited about the need for additional support measures and what contingency plans are being developed by the Council in this regard to ensure the future sustainability of these invaluable leisure facilities?"

(C) Question from Councillor Robin Parker CC

“When will SBC commit to fully functioning IT, e-mail and telephone services and what has been the cost of the many repeated failures in these since the start of 2019?”

(D) Question from Councillor Graham Snell

“SBC has been without a website which is fit for purpose for at least 3 years, so what is the date when residents can expect the new website to be launched and how will this be communicated to residents?”

(E) Question from Councillor Tom Wren

“Please can an explanation be given as to why 16 mature trees were felled at the former Chells Play Centre site on Eliot Road, without any planning permission being in place for the development?”

(F) Question from Councillor Adam Mitchell CC

“There has been significant delay to the implementation of the new Council website, at a time when it is most needed by the residents of Stevenage during the COVID-19 outbreak. What is causing this delay?”

(G) Question from Councillor Stephen Booth

“What work has the Council's Environmental Health department been engaged on in connection with the Coronavirus outbreak, including work carried out in conjunction with Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health department, since the beginning of March 2020?”

(H) Question from Councillor Alex Farquharson

“Would you describe the number of highly paid Council officers and the amount of taxpayers' money paid to them as acceptable?”

12. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2019/20

To note the annual report from the three Scrutiny Committees on their activities during the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

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13. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON (STANDARDS COMMITTEE)

To consider an officer report concerning the appointment of an Independent Person to serve on the Council's Standards Committee

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14. APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER

To consider an officer report concerning the appointment of the Monitoring Officer.

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15. REVISION TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (2016) AND CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS (2016)

To consider an officer report seeking approval to revised Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders.

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16. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

To note the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 9 June 2020.

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