

# **Lewes District Council**



## **Council Agenda**

### **17 July 2014**

Southover House, Lewes  
4 July 2014

Jenny Rowlands  
Chief Executive

**Lewes District Council**



# Council Meeting

*Councillors are kindly requested to switch off their mobile 'phones and other mobile devices prior to the commencement of the meeting.*

Note: At the commencement of the meeting the Chair will ask for a period of silence to enable councillors to focus their thoughts on the meeting or to pray silently.

4 July 2014

## **To: The Members of the Council**

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of **the Council** on 17 July 2014 at 14:30 in The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes when it is proposed to transact the following business:

- 1 Minutes**  
To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council and the Annual Meeting of the Council dated 7 May 2014 (copy previously circulated).
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Disclosure by councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the councillor regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct**

## **4 Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.

A list of the Chair of the Council's engagements since the Annual Meeting of the Council on 7 May 2014 is enclosed.

**Attached Documents:**

[Announcements - Chair's Engagements](#)

**5 Questions from Members of the Public**

To deal with questions which members of the public may wish to put to members of the Cabinet in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (if any).

**6 Petitions**

To receive petitions from councillors or members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12 (if any).

**7 Car Parking Petition Response**

To consider the Report of the Director of Service Delivery

**Attached Documents:**

[Car Parking Petition Response](#)

**8 Petition – Special Expenses – Paying for Open Spaces**

To consider, in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme, as set out in Part 6 of its Constitution, the petition relating to Special Expenses – Paying for Open Spaces which was submitted to the Council at its Annual Meeting on 7 May 2014 by Mr Ian Linton and Councillor O'Keeffe and which contained 1949 signatures. The text of the petition is as follows:

“Tax increase by LDC for people living near open spaces – We the undersigned call on the LDC Scrutiny Committee to review the background and legitimacy of the LDC vote on “Special Expenses – Paying for Open Spaces”, as we consider the procedure used to be deeply flawed.”

**Attached Documents:**

[Petition – Special Expenses – Paying for Open Spaces - The Council's response to the petitioner](#)

**9 Written Questions from Councillors**

To deal with written questions which councillors may wish to put to the Chair of the Council, a Lead Councillor on the Cabinet or the Chair of any committee or sub-committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 (if any).

**Attached Documents:**

[Written Questions from Councillors - Questions from Councillor Dean](#)

[Written Questions from Councillors - Answers to questions from Councillor Dean](#)

**10 Questions to the Leader of the Council**

To deal with questions (if any) which councillors may wish to put to the Leader of the Council. It will be at the Leader's discretion to re-direct questions to relevant Members of the Cabinet.

A councillor wishing to raise a question must notify the Chair of the Council of the question prior to the commencement of the meeting.

*(NB This item is limited to a maximum of 5 questions, with no more than 1 question being asked per councillor. If a question requires a detailed or technical response, the Leader may decide that a written response is more appropriate).*

**11 Ward Issues**

To deal with ward issues which councillors wish to raise. A councillor wishing to raise a ward issue must notify the Chair of the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8 (if any).

**12 Urgent Decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members**

In accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17, to receive details of any urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members since the Annual Meeting of the Council on 7 May 2014.

**13 Recommendations from Cabinet**

To consider the recommendations from the meetings of the Cabinet held on 2 June 2014 and 7 July 2014 (Minute Extracts herewith).

**Attached Documents:**

[Recommendations from Cabinet - 2 June 2014](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - 7 July 2014](#)

**14 Notices of Motion**

**(a) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 Councillor Eiloart has submitted the following Notice of Motion:**

“Special Expenses and Devolution  
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\*\* This Council notes:

A. A petition of over 1900 signatures, opposing Special Expenses, has been

presented to Lewes District Council,

B. The project proposal around Special Expenses tied them to devolution talks,

C. Special Expenses have been charged, but devolution talks appear to have stalled,

D. Special Expenses have raised the council tax for Lewes and Newhaven, giving the impression that other areas have been rewarded for voting the current administration.

E. "Negative" Special Expenses cannot be applied where Lewes District Council has revenue generating assets in some parishes but not others.

F. Nevertheless, revenue generating assets could be devolved to parishes, thus offsetting part or all of the cost of Special Expenses.

\*\* This council believes:

i) Ownership and management of all public land assets should be regularly reviewed, in order that the assets can be best applied for public benefit, and

ii) Where land management charges are applied locally, then surplus generating service income should be applied locally.

\*\* This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Accelerate discussions of devolution with Parish Councils,

2. Produce brief monthly reports on progress in those discussions,

3. Identify surplus generating assets to be included in devolution packages, in order to offset part or all of the operating costs of assets currently included in the devolution package,

4. Establish a two way process, by which assets might be exchanged by agreement between Lewes District Council and parish councils, in either direction, according to prevailing circumstances, and

5. Cease charging Special Expenses in 2015-2016.”

**(b) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 Councillor O’Keeffe has submitted the following Notice of Motion:**

“This council undertakes to scrutinise the process by which Special Expenses have been brought in as a Council Tax item for Lewes District residents, including the following:

(a) whether the tax keeps overall taxation for open spaces at the same level it was under the previous arrangements

(b) whether some open spaces currently subject to Special Expenses rules are in fact whole District amenities rather than amenities which a single parish or town should pay for alone

(c) a thorough investigation of all the details of charges making up the current Special Expenses budget for open spaces in the District, made available to the town and parish councils whose residents are paying these charges

and further to investigate the often related process of devolution of assets and its effect on the precepts of towns and parishes including the following:

(d) how a town or parish wishing to take on an open space that their residents are paying the entire upkeep for can budget for the expense without falling foul of government capping rules, in practical rather than theoretical terms”

## **15 Changes to Committee Memberships and Outside Body & Joint Representatives**

To consider the Report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Services

### **Attached Documents:**

[Changes to Committee Memberships and Outside Body & Joint Representatives - Report](#)

[Changes to Committee Memberships and Outside Body & Joint Representatives - Appendix A](#)

[Changes to Committee Memberships and Outside Body & Joint Representatives - Appendix B](#)

## **16 Running of Council Business During May 2015 Election Period**

To consider the Report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Services

**Attached Documents:**

[Running of Council Business During May 2015 Election Period](#)

**17      Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**

To consider the Report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Services

**Attached Documents:**

[Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places - Report](#)

[Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places - Appendix](#)

**18      Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies**

To receive feedback from the Council's representatives who serve on outside bodies in respect of meetings they have attended (if any). A councillor wishing to provide feedback must notify the Chair of the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting.

**Supplementary Update to Constitution: Recording and Filming Council Meetings**

To consider the Report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Services

**Attached Documents:**

[Update to Constitution: Recording and Filming Council Meetings - Report](#)

[Update to Constitution: Recording and Filming Council Meetings - Appendix](#)

Jenny Rowlands  
Chief Executive

For further information about items appearing on this Agenda, please contact Catherine Knight at Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1AB. Telephone (01273) 484332.