

To all Members of Stroud District Council

04 May 2018

You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual General Meeting of the **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill on **THURSDAY 17 MAY 2018** at **7.00 pm.**



David Hagg
Chief Executive

Please Note: This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.stroud.gov.uk). By entering the Council Chamber you are consenting to being filmed. The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

AGENDA

- 1 **CHAIR OF COUNCIL**
To elect a Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2018/19
- 2 **VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL**
To appoint a Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2018/19
- 3 **APOLOGIES**
To receive apologies for absence
- 4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive declarations of interest
- 5 **MINUTES**
To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 April 2018
- 6 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive announcements from the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive
- 7 **APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES**
To confirm the membership of each committee

In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the allocations are as per the relevant 2016 AGM report. The 2018/19 nominations received by the Monitoring Officer from Group Leaders will be reported to or otherwise made at the AGM.

8 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS**

To appoint the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the following committees:

- a. Audit & Standards Committee
- b. Community Services & Licensing Committee
- c. Development Control Committee
- d. Environment Committee
- e. Housing Committee
- f. Strategy & Resources Committee

Nominations received by the Monitoring Officer from Group Leaders will be reported to or otherwise made at the AGM.

9 **OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

- a. To appoint one lead and one substitute Member representative for the following bodies which are led by Gloucestershire County Council:
 - i. Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - ii. Police and Crime Panel
 - iii. Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee
- b. To appoint two Mental Health Champions (as per the Mental Health Challenge motion resolved by Council on 26 April 2018).

Nominations received by the Monitoring Officer from Group Leaders will be reported to or otherwise made at the AGM.

10 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Motion regarding Support of the ‘Votes at 16’ campaign is proposed by Cllr Cornell and seconded by Cllr Butcher.

Background:

As noted by the Cabinet Office as part of its promotion of National Democracy Week from 2 to 8 July 2018 (of which our authority is to be involved) “*regardless of who we are or where we are from, we must work together to ensure that every member of society has an equal chance to participate in our democracy and to have their say.*”

Consistent in part with such, 16 and 17 year olds already have the right to vote in local elections in Scotland and elections to the Scottish and Manx Parliaments. In Scotland, 16 and 17 year olds have been allowed to vote in all Scottish elections since May 2016. This step in the right direction was impacted hugely by the results of the Scottish referendum where by 75% of 16 and 17 year olds turned out to vote. This just goes to show that when young people are given the opportunity to influence a decision that shapes their future, they are eager to get involved.

Plans are also in place for the voting age in Wales to be lowered to 16 in 2022 for local authority elections.

However, despite being able to give full consent to medical treatment, pay income tax and National Insurance, obtain tax credits and welfare benefits in their own right, consent to sexual relationships, get married or enter a civil partnership with parental consent, change their name by deed poll, become a director of a company and serve in the armed forces; 16 and 17 years (of which there are 1.5 million in the country and approximately 3000 in our district) do not currently have the right to vote in UK elections nor at local elections in England. There is no justification for not linking the rights of 16 and 17 year olds with their responsibilities.

The Council should be aware that:

- There is an ongoing 'Votes at 16' campaign by the British Youth Council and the UK Youth Parliament and that the campaign to lower the voting age is supported by thousands of young people across the UK, as well as a wide range of youth and democracy organisations and hundreds of MPs and elected representatives across the UK; and
- Many 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen.

Motion:

The Council resolves that it:

1. Supports the extension of the right to vote in local government and devolved elections in England, to 16 and 17 year olds; and
2. Helps to promote the 'Votes at 16' by:
 - (a) Working with Stroud District Youth Council to raise awareness of the 'Votes at 16' campaign and consider ways to increase young people's voices in the Council's democratic process;
 - (b) Agreeing that on behalf of the Council, the Leader should write to the British Youth Council, the UK Youth Parliament, local MPs and the local media stating its support for the 'Votes at 16' campaign; and the British Prime Minister and the Minister for the Cabinet Office to request that they consider extending the voting age to 16 years for local government and referendum in England, and to review the wider franchise for all elections and referendums in the United Kingdom.

COUNCIL MEETING

26 April 2018

7.00 pm – 8.40 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

Minutes

Membership:

Martin Baxendale	P	Nick Hurst	P	Skeena Rathor	P
Dorcas Binns	P	Julie Job	P	Sue Reed	A
Catherine Braun	P	Haydn Jones	P	Mark Reeves	P
Chris Brine	A	John Jones	P	Steve Robinson	P
George Butcher	P	Norman Kay	P	Mattie Ross	P
Miranda Clifton	P	Darren Loftus	P	Tom Skinner	P
Nigel Cooper	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Doina Cornell	P	John Marjoram	P	Haydn Sutton	P
Gordon Craig	P	Phil McAsey	A	Brian Tipper	P
Rachel Curley	A	Karen McKeown	P	Chas Townley	P
Stephen Davies	P	Jenny Miles*	P	Jessica Tomblin	P
Paul Denney	P	Dave Mossman	P	Ken Tucker	P
Jim Dewey	P	Gill Oxley	P	Martin Whiteside	P
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Keith Pearson	A	Tim Williams	A
Chas Fellows	A	Simon Pickering	P	Tom Williams	P
Colin Fryer	P	Gary Powell**	P	Penny Wride	P
Alison Hayward	P	Nigel Prenter	P	Debbie Young	P

**Chair *Vice-Chair P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer

Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Elections Manager

CL.045 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brine, Curley, Fellows, McAsey, Pearson, Reed and Tim Williams.

CL.046 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CL.047 MINUTES

RESOLVED To approve the minutes of the Council held on 22 February 2018.

CL.048 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members were reminded to inform Democratic Services if they were able to attend the pending Members' information evenings.

CL.049 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

CL.050 **RECOMMENDATION FROM AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 10 APRIL 2018****Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2017/18**

Councillor Studdert-Kennedy, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee highlighted areas of the above report and emphasised the non political nature of the Committee's work. The report was seconded by Councillor Tom Williams.

The matter was debated and Members unanimously

RESOLVED **To approve the Audit and Standards Committee's Annual Report 2017/18.**

CL.051 **RECOMMENDATION FROM STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 12 APRIL 2018****Redevelopment of Brimscombe Port, Thrupp**

The Leader outlined the above report which had been debated and agreed at the above meeting. The report was seconded by Councillor Whiteside.

Questions were received regarding the finances of the project and Councillor Whiteside commented on the benefits of the development of brownfield sites. Members unanimously

RESOLVED **That £1.6 million of capital funding be allocated to delivering infrastructure at, and redevelopment of Brimscombe Port, Thrupp.**

CL.052 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were none.

CL.053 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS****(a) The Mental Health Challenge**

Subject to the addition of the following wording, the agenda motion was proposed by Councillor Skinner and seconded by Councillor Davies.

"6. Each committee is asked to look carefully at their current and future work programs to assess how their initiatives and standard operations affect the Mental Health and Wellbeing of our residents."

A variety of Members commented on the significance of this motion including the importance of providing support to affected families. During the debate the mover and the seconder agreed that the additional paragraph 6 should include reference to "Members and staff" as well as residents. The mover confirmed that the two Mental Health Champions should be appointed at the Council's AGM on 17 May 2018.

Upon the vote it was unanimously

- RESOLVED The Council:**
- 1. Sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge and to appoint two elected members as Mental Health Champions;**
 - 2. Support positive mental health in our community, including in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces;**
 - 3. Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community;**
 - 4. Tackle discrimination in the grounds of mental health in our community;**
 - 5. Proactively listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health; and**
 - 6. Each committee will look carefully at their current and future work programs to assess how their initiatives and standard operations affect the Mental Health and Wellbeing of our residents, Members and staff.**

(b) Reduction of Single Use Plastic in the Stroud District

Subject to the addition of the following wording, the motion was proposed by Councillor Braun and seconded by Councillor Denney.

"8. Seek to eliminate single use plastic items at all SDC facilities by 2020 and from the Council supply chain by 2025."

There was an extensive discussion on the harm caused by Single Use Plastics and several Members commented that existing supplies should be used rather than simply thrown away.

Upon the vote it was unanimously

- RESOVLED: The Council:**
- 1. Become a 'single use plastic free' authority as soon as possible by ending:**
 - a. the purchase and procurement of single use plastics through the Council's supply chain and**
 - b. the sale and provision of single use plastic products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws at Ebley Mill and at all Council events.**
 - 2. Form a task and finish group which will report to the July 2018 meeting of Strategy and Resources, setting out an action plan to deliver this commitment.**
 - 3. Encourage the District's businesses and institutions to commit to reducing single use plastic waste in their organisation, for example, by taking the 'plastic free pledge'.**
 - 4. Encourage local shops, cafes, restaurants and market stall**

holders to:

- a. provide a discount to customers who purchase drinks or food in their own reusable containers and invite customers to bring their own; and
 - b. support the Refill initiative, and where possible, offer free tap water refills.
5. Provide information to residents on how to minimise use of single use plastic products and how to avoid disposal of plastic items via waste water.
 6. Investigate the possibility of requiring pop-up food and drink vendors at large events in the District to avoid single use plastic as a condition of their contract.
 7. Explore the creation of a 'plastic free network' that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses and organisations transition from single use plastic to sustainable alternatives.
 8. Seek to eliminate single use plastic at all SDC facilities by 2020, and from the Council supply chain by 2025.

(c) Single Use Plastic in the Stroud District

In view of the change made by Councillor Braun to the previous motion (CL.053(b) above), this motion (c) was withdrawn by Councillor Cooper.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chair of Council