

**Council meeting: Wednesday 26 July 2023**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Warwick District Council will be held at the Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, on Wednesday 26 July 2023 at **6.00pm**.

**Agenda**

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**

Members to declare the existence and nature of interests in items on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. Declarations should be disclosed during this item. However, the existence and nature of any interest that subsequently becomes apparent during the course of the meeting must be disclosed immediately. If the interest is not registered, Members must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days.

Members are also reminded of the need to declare predetermination on any matter.

If Members are unsure about whether or not they have an interest, or about its nature, they are strongly advised to seek advice from officers prior to the meeting.

- 3. Minutes**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2023.

**(Pages 1 to 3 and Appendices 1 to 5 )**

- 4. Communications and Announcements**

- 5. Petitions**

To receive the petition of 2318 signatures as follows

*"Built in 1814 to be Leamington Spa's main attraction for residents and visitors and very successful as it is*

*The new WDC have not yet abandoned the plan to locate customer services of WDC Housing Department in the space currently occupied by VIC shop selling local arts and crafts. There is an empty room for this in the Town Hall - where it belongs."*

*This item is continued on the next page.*

For Councillors information of the 2318 signatures 47.5% were from within Warwick District as follows:

CV8	56	2.40%
CV31	458	19.80%
CV32	342	14.80%
CV33	12	0.50%
CV34	216	9.30%
CV35	16	0.70%
<b>Total WDC</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>47.50%</b>

In addition 1047 signed between 13 and 24 February 2023 and 1271 signed between 28 June and 15 July 2023

The Council will be addressed by Chris Bowen, on behalf of the petition organiser, for a maximum of 5 minutes. Council will then have 15 minutes to debate the petition.

The petition relates to an Executive Function therefore Council can decide how to respond to the petition. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee. Where the issue is one on which the Council's Executive is required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.

**6. Notices of Motion**

**7. Leader and Portfolio Holders' Statements**

**8. Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders**

**9. Cabinet Report**

To consider a report from the Cabinet meeting of 5 July 2023.

**(Pages 1 to 13 and appendices 1 & 2)**

**10. Item From Councillor Boad under Council Procedure Rule 7 – Advisory Committee.**

Four years ago all members, from all parties, met in response to the climate emergency, at the time when wild fires were spreading across the world, to agree and personally pay to finance a referendum to raise £5 per household on the Council Tax to be spent on tackling the Climate Emergency locally. The CAN (Climate Action Now) campaign was formed using outside consultants to develop the necessary referendum campaign. Unfortunately the presence of Covid over two years resulted in the momentum being lost, and the campaign folded since a positive result was then unlikely to be achieved.

CAN has been shelved, but now we have the opportunity to step up a gear in our commitments.

The election in May resulted in a change of control and returned 50% of newly elected members. Given that half of the new council did not vote for the declarations of either the Climate Change or the Biodiversity Emergencies it is

important that the Council should reaffirm, or otherwise, its continuing support for the declarations of the Emergencies.

The Council itself, both in operations and properties, has set a target of being a Net Zero Carbon Council by 2025. The challenge is that we will have failed if we have to default to carbon offsetting to achieve our target.

Following other Councils leading the way, this Council should consider giving higher priority to our Declarations of both the Climate Change and the Biodiversity Emergencies by the setting up of a fully serviced advisory committee for Climate Change and Biodiversity.

The Advisory Committee will conduct research and advise the Climate Change Portfolio holder on what technologies and solutions, both emerging and current, are best placed for us to achieve our aims. Its outcomes will also be available to local residents and businesses.

The proposed Advisory committee would be timetabled, would meet in public, be minuted, and able to call on expert evidence and advice. It will demonstrate that this Council takes seriously our commitment to taking real action on our declared emergencies. A dedicated Advisory Committee would be a 'working committee' where members can give the time for research and enable a clear focus to the Council on its declared emergencies.

#### Recommendations

1 This Council reaffirms its continuing support for the previous Council's declarations of Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergencies.

2. The setting up of a fully serviced and timetabled Climate and Biodiversity Advisory Committee (CBAC) to be investigated with the final recommendations and Constitutional Changes presented for decision no later than the 15th November Council meeting

### **10. Appointments to Committee & Outside Bodies**

- a) To appoint Councillor Sullivan in place of the Labour vacancy on the Audit & Standards Committee
- b) To appoint Councillor Browne in place of the Labour Vacancy on Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- c) To appoint Councillor Sinnott in place of Councillor Kang on Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- d) To appoint Councillor Kang as a substitute for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- e) To appoint Councillor Redford to Overview & Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Hales
- f) To appoint Councillor Hales as substitute for Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- g) To appoint Councillor Phillips to Planning Committee in place of Councillor Day;
- h) To appoint Councillor Day as a substitute for Planning Committee in place of Councillor Phillips.
- i) To note the appointments to outside bodies as made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority from Council on 15 May 2023.

**(Pages 1 and 2)**

## 11. Common Seal

To authorise the affixing of the Common Seal of the Council to such deeds and documents as may be required for implementing decisions of the Council arrived at this day.



Chief Executive  
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For enquiries about this meeting please contact Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5HZ

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