

**Council meeting: Wednesday, 19 October 2022**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Warwick District Council will be held at the Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, on Wednesday, 19 October 2022 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 27 July, 7 September and 9 September 2022. **(Pages 1 to 15)**

**4. Communications and Announcements**

**5. Petitions**

To receive a petition that asks the Council to be pesticide-free by 2025 by taking the following actions:

1. Commit to phasing out all pesticides, (which include herbicides such as glyphosate, fungicides, insecticides and synthetic insecticides) - in all council managed spaces, including but not limited to parks, playgrounds, gardens, verges, pathways, roads, pavements and street infrastructure. Contractors must also use pesticide-free weeding methods.
2. Run trials of non-chemical weed management alternatives over full-year seasonal cycles and create an adapted plan to replace pesticides. There are many viable and cost-effective alternatives which are available and already in use by many other councils across the UK. The council should evaluate alternatives ready for full-scale

adoption by 2025 at the latest. The only acceptable use of toxic weed killers will be to treat illegal and notifiable noxious weeds, e.g. Giant hogweed, but only when these are not responding to treatment by non-toxic alternative methods.

3. Create and run a comms campaign to accompany the pesticide phase-out to help residents to understand the change in management and its benefits to their health and biodiversity. The campaign is to run for at least six months and include: signs, news articles and events.

The petition as submitted has 1145 valid signatures of which 641 were from within Warwick District.

The petitioner will have five minutes to address Council. The Council will then have 15 minutes to debate the petition and will need to decide to

- (a) Not support the petition.
- (b) Support the petition and ask for it to be passed to Cabinet for consideration along with an officer report.

## **6. Notices of Motion**

To consider a Notice of Motion to be proposed by Councillor Kohler and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that as read follows:

*"This Council notes:*

- *The National Biodiversity Network 2019 State of Nature report, concluded that 1,188 of the 8,431 species assessed in Great Britain are threatened with extinction. The July 2022 statement of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Sustainable Use Assessment provides compelling evidence that humans are overexploiting wild species and habitats and the government's Chief Scientific Advisor made it clear that we need to change if we are to survive;*
- *Under the Environment Act of 2021 the Government aims to clean up the country's air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and make better use of our resources. The provisions of the act will "halt the decline in species by 2030 and require new developments to improve or create habitats for nature";*
- *Warwickshire County Council Highways Department has developed a new policy which considers a sustainable County wide approach to verge maintenance and wildflower planting in order to increase biodiversity whilst still ensuring the over-riding importance of road safety is maintained;*
- *Warwick District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has created an action plan to address the 3 stated ambitions: to become a net zero council, to reduce the carbon emissions of the district as a whole and to enable our environment and communities to adapt to the coming rise in global temperatures, including an ambitious tree planting programme;*
- *Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, numerous charities and community groups, many gardeners, allotment holders and some local farmers are actively engaged in trying to improve biodiversity across the District.*

*This Council therefore resolves to declare an Ecological Emergency and develop a new Biodiversity Action Plan to complement the Climate Action Plan and position the Council as the leading organisation to enhance biodiversity in the District. A report containing an outline Biodiversity Action Plan will be brought to Cabinet in February 2023 and have these aims:*

- 1. To improve biodiversity in the green spaces managed by WDC and its contractors, taking full account of public safety and amenity requirements, including events;*
- 2. To set out options for further reducing the amount of Glyphosate and other toxic chemicals that is used by WDC and its contractors, including at least one option to completely eliminate their use;*
- 3. To ensure that the provisions of the Environment Act 2021 for Biodiversity Net Gain are fully implemented in all developments in the District and that Biodiversity Net Gain is maximised in all developments that WDC has a financial interest in;*
- 4. To ensure that biodiversity runs through the new South Warwickshire Local Plan, for example, by creating green corridors;*
- 5. To work with the Environment Agency, Severn Trent and other relevant bodies to improve the biodiversity of areas supported by the natural water systems in the District including the development of natural flood management and drought resistant water courses and bodies of water;*
- 6. To seek opportunities to invest the Carbon Offset Fund in projects that both sequester carbon and increase biodiversity;*
- 7. To develop a public awareness and education plan for biodiversity in collaboration with WWT, charities and community groups, focussing on what individuals and groups can do in their own local areas."*

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

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

**9. Cabinet Report**

To consider an excerpt from the Cabinet meeting of 29 September 2022

**(To follow)**

**10. Employment Sub-Committee**

To consider the recommendation from the Employment Sub Committee of 3 October 2022 that Andrew Rollins, who has accepted the offer to be Head of Finance, be appointed as the s151 Officer for the Council.

**11. Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To consider an excerpt from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting of 28 September 2022.

**(To follow)**

**12. 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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