

Agenda

Council

Date: **Thursday, 1st October, 2020**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Venue: **[Ashfield District Council's YouTube Channel](#)**

For any further information please contact:

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01623 457317

COUNCIL

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Andy Meakin

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Arnie Hankin

Councillors:

John Baird
Kier Barsby
Christian Chapman
Melanie Darrington
Andy Gascoyne
Andrew Harding
Tom Hollis
Rachel Madden
David Martin
Keir Morrison
Matthew Relf
Phil Rostance
John Smallridge
David Walters
Caroline Wilkinson
John Wilmott
Vacancy

Chris Baron
Jim Blagden
Ciaran Brown
Samantha Deakin
Dale Grounds
David Hennigan
Trevor Locke
Sarah Madigan
Lauren Mitchell
Warren Nuttall
Kevin Rostance
Dave Shaw
Helen-Ann Smith
Lee Waters
Daniel Williamson
Jason Zadrozny

FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

This meeting may be subject to filming or audio recording. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Members' Services on 01623 457317.

SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at the time and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



Carol Cooper-Smith
Chief Executive

AGENDA

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1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.
2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.**
3. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 July 2020. 7 - 14
4. To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service.
5. To receive questions from the Public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, if any.
(None received for this meeting)
6. To receive and consider any petitions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, if any.
(None received for this meeting)
7. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2 (viii) to receive reports from the Cabinet in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework, reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for debate and reports from Officers of the Council:-
 - a Report on Urgent Key Decisions.
 - b Interim Review of Polling Places. 15 - 18
8. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2 (ix), to receive recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and resolve in accordance with the Council's rules of debate as per the attached schedule. 19 - 88
9. Updates from Members of the Cabinet on their Portfolio Activity.
10. Notices of Motion.

Motion 1

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor David Martin and seconded by Councillor Lee Waters, as follows:-

“This Council welcomes the fact that Ashfield District Council has one of the most robust, vigorous Codes of Conduct governing Councillors in the country. It is our strong belief that any official elected to public office should be bound by a strict set of rules to ensure the public have confidence in their councillors ability to best represent the interests of all residents.

This Council further notes that this Council’s Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee led our response to a consultation by the Local Government Association. This consultation was to develop a uniform Code of Conduct for every local authority in the country. Part of this Council’s submission included the lack of penalties for those who break the code and the fact that social networking wasn’t included in any Code of Conduct.

This Council notes that Councillors work to far higher standards than Members of Parliament.

This Council believes that the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament needs modernising and take into account the use of social media where the messages transmitted must be truthful. We further believe that the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards the ability to apply sanctions.

We call for the bullying of officers, members of local authorities and the public to be taken seriously with the ability of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards to apply sanctions.

All options for sanctions available for breaches of the Code of Conduct must include apology, censor and a period of disqualification. This includes all elected politicians including Parish and Town Councillors, District, Borough, and County Councillors and Members of Parliament.

That this Council writes to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards asking that a full review of the MP’s Code of Conduct is undertaken, to bring into force a code that is at least equally as rigorous as a Councillor’s Code of Conduct which will hold MPs to account for their behaviour both in Parliament and outside.”

Motion 2

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Tom Hollis and seconded by Councillor John Wilmott, as follows:-

“Throughout the height of the pandemic Ashfield District Council, both members and officers worked day and night to help the homeless of this district.

This included offers of accommodation to every rough sleeper and those threatened with rough sleeping. Due to the Council’s close working with Framework’s street outreach initiative more people

presented themselves to the authority therefore, this was a greatly elevated number. Councillors and officers even went that extra mile to ensure the properties were furnished and then delivered meals in order to assist those in need.

This is in complete contrast to the actions of the Conservative MPs who represent wards of Ashfield. Both MPs in January of this year voted in Parliament against restoring funding for local housing allowances and £100M a year for emergency accommodation.

Ashfield Independents put forward the motion to ask this council to write to both MPs, Lee Anderson and Mark Spencer asking them to work with this Authority to positively improve the quality of life for the homeless and to prevent loss of life in our community of Ashfield. Further, to use their position within Government to bring the national homeless strategy more in line with the experiences suffered by rough sleepers using Ashfield as an example.”

Motion 3

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor Dale Grounds, as follows:-

“This Council notes the positive difference that Ashfield District Council made to so many lives during the COVID-19 Lockdown. We are incredibly proud of the efforts of all staff and volunteers of this authority.

This includes being the only Council in Nottinghamshire to have maintained a full waste collection service. In fact, this Council offered an enhanced service with the ‘Bag It’ and ‘Skip into Summer’ campaigns – the only Council in the country to have done this.

This Council also paid out nearly £20million in business grants in quick time, we answered over 40,000 enquiries from residents, dealing with tens of thousands of problems. We ensured that our Housing Tenants continued to receive an excellent service with all emergency checks done and the vast majority of housing repairs done. Whilst many, bigger Councils went into lockdown. Ashfield District Council went into overdrive.

This Council would like to place on record its thanks to each and every member of staff in the Ashfield District Council family. We note that in uncertain many of our staff put their lives at risk to continue to provide the services that residents desperately needed.

Never before has the importance of local Councils like Ashfield been demonstrated than during the current Coronavirus Pandemic. They worked alongside other key organisations to ensure that the most vulnerable received continued service. This Council welcomes the fact that preparatory work has already been started by the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Scrutiny Panel for a permanent memorial to all key workers.

This Council is bitterly disappointed that Nottinghamshire County Council have now started the process of scrapping Councils like Ashfield District Council. Our brave workers are being rewarded by the Conservatives by being told their jobs are under threat. This Council is hugely concerned about the lack of engagement from the County Council. They only engaged with Chief Executives of the seven authorities in the County at the last minute.

This Council notes that the Leaders of all 7 Boroughs and Districts in Nottinghamshire are against these proposals. Now is not the time for a massive reorganisation of local councils. Mass reorganisation at this time risks scarce resources being diverted away from the Covid recovery and other vital public services.

We therefore call for the Chief Executive and Leader of Ashfield District Council to write to:

- The Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Council*
- The Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council*
- Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government*

To express that this Council is firmly against any proposals to scrap Ashfield District Council and the six other Boroughs and Districts in Nottinghamshire.”

11. To answer any questions submitted in writing by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, if any.

Question 1

Question from Councillor Dave Shaw to the Leader of the Council:

“Would the Leader please clarify the decision to extend the 2 hour parking scheme, how the decision was taken, for what reason and the benefits already achieved.”

12. To receive a list of minutes and a web link to access Cabinet and Committee meeting minutes that have been published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council for Members to give notice of their intention to ask a question of a relevant Chairman under Procedure Rule 13.2. 89 - 90