

Council Agenda



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Date: 2 December 2014
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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 10 December 2014 at 7.00 pm
The Ridgeway (main hall first floor), The Beacon, (formerly Wantage Civic Hall), Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M Reed".

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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Agenda

Open to the Public including the Press

Council's vision

The council's vision is to take care of your interests across the Vale with enterprise, energy and efficiency.

1. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the council minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2014.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Chairman's announcements

To receive any announcements from the chairman.

5. Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting council.

Any statements, petitions and questions from the public under standing order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

6. Urgent business

To receive notification of any matters which the chairman determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent.

7. Petitions under standing order 13

To receive petitions from members of the council under standing order 13 (if any).

8. Questions under standing order 12

To receive questions from members of the council under standing order 12.

1. Question from Councillor Pat Lonergan to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for planning policy

What system was used to rank and evaluate potential strategic housing sites considered for inclusion in the Local Plan 2031?

2. Question from Councillor Andrew Skinner to Councillor Reg Waite, Cabinet member for human resources

Internal Audit has recently lost employees who had lengthy commutes. In the last 12 months, how many council employees have left, and, of these, how many mentioned difficulty affording housing in the area in their exit interview?

3. Question from Councillor Judy Roberts to Councillor Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for legal and democratic services

What response should petitioners expect when a petition is presented at full council?

4. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet member for economy leisure and property

What's the status of the free wifi the Vale planned to install in Botley?

5. Question from Councillor Judy Roberts to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council

In the light of hundreds of people objecting to the Doric plans and signing petitions asking the Vale to terminate their land sale contract with Doric, what does the Leader of the Council have to say to the people of Botley?

6. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet member for economy leisure and property

In June 2013, after completion of the Leisure and Sports Facilities Study, the Cabinet Member said there was to be a "follow up piece of work" that would include surveys of community or village halls. When is this survey due to be completed, and when will the report be available?

7. Question from Councillor Margaret Crick to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council

Councillor Lovatt has inferred in the press (Abingdon Herald, 9th April) that developers behind the north Abingdon housing schemes could also pay for the £12m conversion of Lodge Hill to a diamond interchange. Would the leader confirm or correct this?

8. Question from Councillor Tony de Vere to Councillor Elaine Ware Cabinet member for economy, leisure and property

Can the Leader inform Council what the position is with the redevelopment of the Charter area in Abingdon?

9. Question from Councillor Catherine Webber to Councillor Charlotte Dickson, Chairman of the General Licensing Committee

Please would the Chair update the Council on the state of the AQMAs in Abingdon, Botley and Marcham?

10. Question from Councillor Jenny Hannaby to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for planning

Please would the Cabinet Member give the Council a brief update on the Grove Airfield s106 negotiations?

11. Question from Councillor Julie Mavhew-Archer to Councillor Mike Murray, cabinet member for planning policy

Has land been reserved in the Local Plan 2031 for the necessary widening and/or dualing along Dunmore Road and Twelve Acre Drive, which would be needed if the housing proposed in the plan is delivered?

12. Question from Councillor Richard Webber to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet member for economy, leisure and property

Please could the Cabinet Member explain the thinking behind the “option packages” being offered as part of the consultation on Abbey Meadow?

13. Question from Councillor Jim Halliday to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for planning policy

Please could he state how many Local Plan leaflets and CIL leaflets were printed this Autumn, the cost of each print run, the number of households and business each leaflet was mailed to, and the cost of each mailshot ?

14. Question from Councillor Jeanette Halliday to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council

Did you review the content of the letters concerning individual election registration before they were sent out?

15. Question from Councillor Jim Halliday to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council

Please could he state how many letters were dispatched to residents about the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration, the cost of mailing these letters, and whether the Council received any funding from Government for this exercise, and if so how much ?

9. Council tax base

(Pages 8 - 11)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 5 December 2014, will consider a report on the council tax base for 2015/16.

The report of the Head of Finance, which Cabinet will consider on 5 December is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to councillors prior to the Council meeting.

10. Council tax reduction scheme grant to towns and parishes

(Pages 12 - 15)

Council tax reduction scheme grant to towns and parishes

Cabinet, at its meeting on 5 December 2014, will consider a report on the total amount of council tax reduction scheme grant that will be passed down to town and parish councils for 2015/16.

The report of the Head of Finance, which Cabinet will consider on 5 December is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to councillors prior to the Council meeting.

11. DCLG Building Foundations for Growth: Enterprise Zone Capital Grants Allocation to Milton Park

1. Vale of White Horse District Council, in partnership with MEPC, Milton Park, has been successful in winning Enterprise Zone grant funding of £7million for MEPC to build a bio-technology innovation centre at Milton Park.
2. Vale of White Horse District Council as accountable body, is asked to accept this grant and to administer its release to MEPC in accordance with the grant conditions applied by government.
3. Government will pay the money across to Vale in two tranches, which Vale must claim at the point MEPC achieve specified milestones, in January and February 2015.
4. We are awaiting formal notification of this grant from government, which we believe is imminent. Vale's financial procedure rules allow for us to accept this grant and incorporate it into the budget, however, given the scale of the funding officers ask that Council agree to establish a budget for the £7million. A detailed report on the allocation of and management of the grant will be the subject of an individual cabinet member decision and will be subject to the usual scrutiny arrangements.

Recommendation: Council is asked to agree to establish a budget on receipt of the grant funding of £7million Enterprise Zone grant funding for MEPC to build a bio-technology innovation centre at Milton Park.

12. Councillors' allowances scheme

(Pages 16 - 31)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic services and the appended report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (**attached**).

13. Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 - proposal to appoint a joint Independent Remuneration Panel

(Pages 32 - 34)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic services (**attached**).

14. Declaration of vacancy - Grove

(Pages 35 - 36)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic services (**attached**).

15. Elections fees and charges 2015

(Pages 37 - 56)

To consider the report of the returning officer on the setting of fees and charges for the 2015 district and parish elections (**attached**).

16. Report of the leader of the council

(1) Urgent cabinet decisions

In accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rules, a cabinet decision can be taken as a matter of urgency, if any delay by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the council's or the public's interest. Treating the decision as a matter of urgency must be agreed by the chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and must be reported to the next meeting of the council, together with the reasons for urgency.

Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council will report that on 10 October 2014 he took a confidential decision to enter into a new contract for an electoral management system to address problems with the current provider and to vire funds from the capital contingency budget for the purchase of the system and the revenue contingency to cover training on the new system and cover the existing contract costs. The chairman of the scrutiny committee agreed to waive call-in because any delay could impact on the council's delivery of Individual Electoral Registration (IER).

(2) Delegation of cabinet functions

To receive details of any changes to the leader's scheme of delegation.

(3) Matters affecting the authority arising from meetings of joint committees, partnerships and other meetings

To receive the report of the leader (if any).

17. Notices of motion under standing order 11

To receive notices of motion under standing order 11.

1. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Richard Webber, seconded by Councillor Catherine Webber

This council believes that the present system of s106 negotiations leaves much to be desired, and that council should begin immediately the revision of our present process to produce a system which is more open, more transparent and includes input from parish and town councils.

2. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Debby Hallett, seconded by Councillor Jim Halliday

Council recognises that residents have reported that they rely on written communications to get their council information. To better serve the people of the Vale, Council requests Cabinet to include in their 2015-16 budget, a programme for circulating, on a regular basis to all Vale households, written information about Vale activities, services and programmes.