

# Council Agenda



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## **Summons to attend the annual meeting of Council**

to be held on Wednesday 11 May 2016 on the rising of the preceding special meeting of Council (which starts at 7pm)  
The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, 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. Election of chairman**

To elect a chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2016/17.

#### **2. Appointment of vice chairman**

To appoint a vice-chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2016/17.

#### **3. Apologies for absence**

To receive apologies for absence.

#### **4. Minutes**

(Pages 7 - 20)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the council minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2016 (attached).

#### **5. Declarations of interest**

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

#### **6. Chairman's announcements**

To receive any announcements from the chairman.

#### **7. 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.

#### **8. Petitions under standing order 13**

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

## **9. Questions under standing order 12**

To receive the following questions from councillors under standing order 12.

### **A. Question from Councillor Judy Roberts to Councillor Charlotte Dickson, Cabinet member for leisure.**

Could the Cabinet member please explain the reasons for the delay in publication of the Village and Community Halls Survey, which was due in July 2015?

### **B. Question from Councillor Helen Pighills to Councillor Charlotte Dickson, Cabinet member for leisure.**

In the consultation on Abbey Meadows the public were overwhelmingly in support of Scenario A: 'A place to swim and play'

The consultation leaflet stated 'We would aim to carry out essential repairs to the swimming pool and changing rooms'.

Furthermore under 'Improvements we can make', the leaflet listed 'Repair the outdoor swimming pool' with 'refurbish the changing rooms' appearing in the 'Additional improvements we will consider'.

Why then does the recently issued cabinet decision include refurbishment of the changing rooms with no mention of essential repairs to and upgrading of the pool including its ageing pool tank and heating/filtration system?

### **C. Question from Councillor Dudley Hoddinott to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for planning (development management and enforcement)**

Objectors to planning applications often raise the issue of cumulative harm. There may be many applications in one area that together cause significant harm. Or there may be many harms from a single application where each one alone is not reason enough to refuse but cumulatively they might be. How do we consider the impact of cumulative harm and what can the council do to prevent it?

### **D. Question from Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for planning policy**

The planning department's Statement of Community Involvement defines what the public can expect in term of communications and consultations from planning. It's so out of date it lists Dr Evan Harris as our MP to be consulted. Why hasn't this important policy document been kept up to date?

### **E. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for planning policy**

The Cabinet has promised to take care of my interests across the Vale with enterprise, energy and efficiency. I don't know what they mean by 'enterprise'. 'Energy' isn't enough if it doesn't produce a good result. Tonight I'm interested in 'efficiency'. Could the Cabinet member please report the total costs so far to create the emerging Local Plan? Please include all costs: officers, consultants, travel & food, phone calls, consultation, printing and distribution, and everything else that we have invested so far in producing our emerging Local Plan.

## **10. Corporate plan review**

(Pages 21 - 25)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 15 April 2016, considered a report on the council's corporate plan for the period 2016 – 2020.

The Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 14 April, considered the report and made a number of suggested amendments which the Leader of the council and Cabinet member for the corporate plan agreed to take into consideration before the submission of a final version to Council on 11 May.

An updated corporate plan is **attached**.

**RECOMMENDATION:** to adopt the Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020.

## **11. Appointment of chief executive**

(Pages 26 - 28)

To consider the report of the head of HR, IT & technical services on the appointment of a chief executive and head of paid service (**attached**).

The Joint Staff Committee will meet on 10 May 2016 to consider the appointment of a chief executive. The recommendations of the committee will be reported at the Council meeting.

## **12. Appointments to committees, panels and joint committees for 2016/17**

(Pages 29 - 34)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic services on the appointment to those committees required to be politically balanced together with the Licensing Acts Committee and joint committees and to agree any consequential changes to the constitution (**attached**).

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

(Pages 35 - 37)

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

## **14. Report of the leader of the council**

### **(1) Urgent cabinet decisions**

In accordance with the scrutiny committee 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.

To receive any details of urgent cabinet decisions taken since the last ordinary meeting of the council, (if any).

(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).

## **15. Notices of motion under standing order 11**

To receive the following notices of motion under standing order 11.

(1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Barber, seconded by Councillor Cox:

This Council supports the proposal by district council leaders for the abolition of existing councils and the creation of new local unitary councils for Oxfordshire. Furthermore this Council welcomes the appointment of Pricewaterhouse Coopers to examine all options ahead of a public consultation this summer.

(2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Jenny Hannaby, seconded by Councillor Dudley Hoddinott

This Council calls for our officers to work with Oxfordshire County Council (and other relevant local authorities, Network Rail and Great Western Railway) to produce a business case for an express rail link from Bristol to Milton Keynes via a new station at Grove/Wantage. It must include new track and signalling so as not to obstruct present and future high speed services from Paddington and link with the current electrification scheme.

(3) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Bob Johnston, seconded by Councillor Catherine Webber

Air quality in the Vale is deteriorating. Therefore, this Council calls on HM Government to tighten the regulations on diesel engine vehicles especially in respect of particulates and oxides of nitrogen to address this. Any such regulations should ensure that the new limits are rigorously enforced and they should make the removal of the particle filter from diesel engines a criminal offence.

## **16. Exclusion of the public**

**Purpose:** to consider whether to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 on the grounds that:

(i) it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part

1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and  
(ii) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

## **17. Application for voluntary redundancy**

The Joint Staff Committee will meet on 10 May 2016 to consider the report of the chief executive on a request for voluntary redundancy. The recommendation of the committee will be reported at the Council meeting.