

Wisbech Town Council



WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

24 July 2023 – 7.30 pm – Council Chamber, Wisbech Town Hall

All members of the council are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving the business to be transacted at the meeting, as set out below.

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend the meeting.

(A period not exceeding 15 minutes is made available at the beginning of the meeting, where residents so require, to raise issues relating to matters over which the council has duties, powers or influence (see notes at the end of the agenda).

AGENDA

1. To receive members' apologies for absence.
2. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda item (see guidance notes at the end of the agenda).
3. Cambridgeshire Constabulary – to consider any matters relating to crime and disorder in Wisbech, for reference to the local policing team. Police Inspector Morris will be attending the meeting.
4. Fenland District Council - to receive information in relation to District Council activities relevant to Wisbech.
5. Cambridgeshire County Council - to receive information in relation to County Council activities relevant to Wisbech.
6. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of Wisbech Town Council held on 19 June 2023 (attached).
7. Minutes of committees – to receive, for information, the minutes of committee meetings held since the last meeting of the Town Council, as follows:
 - (1) Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee – 19 June 2023 (circulated previously)
 - (2) Resources Committee – 19 June 2023 (circulated previously).
 - (3) Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee – 10 July 2023 (attached)
 - (4) Resources Committee – 17 July 2023 (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).
8. Wisbech Town Council accounts 2022/23 – further to minute 25/23, to consider the Accounting Statement section of the Annual Return 2022/23, for submission to the External Auditor (documentation to be circulated to members in advance of the meeting).
9. Wisbech Town Council's Standing Orders – to review Standing Order 44 (the Leader of the Council to report).

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10. Appointment of committees – further to minute 13/23 (at which Council appointed its committees for the municipal year 2023/24), to consider a request from the members of Independent Alliance (formed - comprising the four Independent members of the council – since the time of minute 13/23) to re-appoint the membership of committees to reflect the change in the political proportionality of the Council.
11. Mayor's report – to receive information in relation the activities and events attended by the Mayor since the last meeting of the Town Council.
12. Leader of the Council's report – to receive information from the Leader of the Council on matters affecting the town.
13. Clerk's report – to include: any updates on projects/initiatives; correspondence received by the council which is of relevance to members; advance notice of events/activities etc.
14. Date of next meeting - to note that the next meeting of Wisbech Town Council is scheduled for 4 September 2023, to commence at 7.30 pm, at the offices of Wisbech Town Council.

Members of the Town Council: Councillors Edwards, Foice-Beard, Hoy, Human (Chairman/Town Mayor), Imafidon (Vice-Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor), Ketteringham, Meekins, Monger, Oliver, Patrick, Pehlivanova, Rafique, Read, Roy, Sagoo, Tanfield, Tierney and Wallwork.

Agenda issued and published (on 18 July 2023) by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Jordan'.

**Mr T Jordan, PSLCC
Clerk to Wisbech Town Council
1 North Brink, Wisbech,
PE13 1JR
Tel: 01945 461333**

**E-mail: info@wisbechtowncouncil.org.uk
Website: www.wisbechtowncouncil.gov.uk**

NOTES:

The Council Chamber is situated on the first floor of the Town Hall and access is available via a stair-lift if required. However, if wheelchair access is required, please contact the office, on 01945 461333, so that the necessary arrangements (the installation of temporary ramping) can be made.

Members of the public, representatives of the press and councillors may film, audio-record, take photographs and use social media to report on meetings as they take place and the council shall make reasonable provision for this to happen. Those who wish to report on meetings in this way are advised to contact the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting so that any arrangements, if necessary, can be made. Further information regarding the situation is displayed on a notice at the entrance to the Council Chamber and in the guidance below.

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Guidance for the public attending Town Council meetings

Open Forum

A period not exceeding 15 minutes is made available at the beginning of the meeting, where residents so require, to raise issues relating to matters over which the council has duties, powers or influence.

There is no facility for a dialogue between members of the public and councillors during a meeting of the Town Council. If an issue raised by a member of the public during the Open Forum is the subject of an item on the agenda for the meeting, the comments of the member of the public may be taken into account by the council when discussing that item. If that is not the case, the matter could, if members consider appropriate, be the subject of an item on the agenda for a future meeting.

The Open Forum section of the agenda is not a mechanism for members of the public to make personal attacks upon members of Wisbech Town Council. Furthermore, if a member of the public is of the opinion that a Wisbech Town Councillor has, through his or her actions, brought the office of councillor into disrepute, the member of the public should refer the complaint to the Monitoring Officer at Fenland District Council; not raise it publicly at a meeting of the Town Council.

Recording of meetings

Members of the public, representatives of the press and councillors may (under the provisions of the Local Government and Accountability Act 2014 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014) film, audio-record, take photographs and use social media to report on meetings as they take place and the council shall make reasonable provision for this to happen.

The legislation and regulations allow the recording, broadcasting and use of social media to report on council, committee and sub-committee meetings if conducted in a non-disruptive manner during the course of the meeting. Such rights do not extend to the recorded material being used: out of sequence; in a way that misinterprets the proceedings; in a manner that misinterprets the views of those speaking at the meeting.

This means that there is a possibility that proceedings at this meeting are being recorded in some way by persons in attendance.

The Chairman of the meeting (Town Mayor) has the right to ask any person to leave a meeting or to suspend a meeting if the actions of those in attendance, including councillors, are deemed to be sufficiently disruptive to impede the business of the meeting.

Disturbance to meetings

The council's Standing Orders state that "If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings of any meeting, the Chairman (Town Mayor) may, after warning, order that the person(s) be removed from the meeting and may adjourn the meeting for such period as is necessary to restore order.

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Exclusion of the public from meetings for confidential items of business

To exclude the public (including the press) from a meeting of the Council, it is necessary for the following proposition to be moved and adopted "that, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for item number(s), which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated"

Notes on members' interests

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- (1) Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest and, unless the member has obtained a dispensation, he or she cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.
- (2) A member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it
 - (a) relates to him or her, or
 - (b) is an interest of -
 - (i) the member's spouse or civil partner; or
 - (ii) a person with whom the member is living as husband and wife; or
 - (iii) a person with whom the member is living as if civil partners and the member is aware that the other person has the interest.
- (3) Disclosable pecuniary interests include -
 - (a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;
 - (b) any financial benefit received by the member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a member (except from the Council);
 - (c) any current contracts with the Council;
 - (d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;
 - (e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;
 - (f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest;
 - (g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.

Other Interests

- (4) If a member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest, he or she is required to declare that interest but may remain and participate in discussion and voting.
- (5) A member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest where -
 - (a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of the member or a member of his or her family or a person with whom the member has a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which the member has been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or
 - (b) it relates to or is likely to affect any of the descriptions referred to above but in respect of a member of the councillor's family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom the member has a close association and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.