

1 May 2009

Dear Councillor

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden on Tuesday 12 May 2009 at 7.45 pm or at the conclusion of the question and answer session whichever is the earlier.

Yours faithfully

JOHN MITCHELL

Chief Executive

Commencing at 7.30 pm, there will be an opportunity of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions and make statements subject to having given two working days prior notice.

A G E N D A PART I

- 1 To appoint a Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. Councillor A D Walters has already been nominated for this post under Article 5.2.1.
- 2 Chairman to make the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 3 To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. Councillor S V Schneider has already been nominated for this post under Article 5.2.1.
- 4 Vice-Chairman to make the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 5 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.
- 6 To appoint a Leader of the Council.
- 7 To appoint a Deputy Leader of the Council.
- 8 Member's question and answer session (up to 15 minutes).
- 9 To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2009 (attached).
- 10 Business arising.

- 11 Chairman's Communications.
- 12 Leader's Communications.
- 13 Formally to review the political balance on the Council (report attached).
- 14 Appointment of Committees for 2009/10 (To follow - list of nominations from the political groups).

To appoint the following Committees:

Policy Committees

- Finance and Administration (14)
- Environment (15)
- Community (15)

Scrutiny and Regulatory Committees

- Development Control (15)
- Licensing (11)
- Performance Select (8) *(9)
- Scrutiny (11) *(10)

* if the proposal in the political balance report is agreed.

Other Committees

- Standards Committee – 4 Members (1 from each political group and one other member) + 3 independent persons and 3 representatives of town and parish councils
- Staff Appeals – 8 Members
- Emergency Committee – Leader, Deputy Leader, Chairman of the Council and Chairman of Finance and Administration Committee
- Appointments Committee – 5 members.

All Committees to then appoint their Chairman and vice chairman except Standards, Emergency and Staff Appeals committees.

Area Forums

- North and South Area Forums (based on ward membership). Those Forums to then appoint their Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- 15 To review and, where necessary, appoint Task Groups and Working Groups (to follow – list of nominations from political groups).
 - 16 To appoint representatives on outside bodies.

Name of Organisation	Number to be Appointed	PROPOSED REPRESENTATIVE 2009/2010
Alzheimers Disease Society - Uttlesford Branch	1	Cllr Hicks
Birchanger Wood Management Committee	1	Cllr Godwin
Board of Turpins Indoor Bowling Club	2	Cllr Ketteridge Cllr Eden
British Red Cross Society - Essex Branch	1	Cllr Cant
Business Development Services (North West Essex)	1	Cllr Sell
Campaign to Protect Rural Essex	1	Cllr Knight
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership	1	Cllr Menell
Committee of the Friends of the Maltings (The Dunmow Maltings Preservation Trust)	1	Cllr Clover
Council for Voluntary Service - Uttlesford	1	Cllr Hicks
Crawley Prize Endowment Charity	1	Cllr Chambers Cllr Loughlin
Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme	1	Cllr Godwin
Dunmow Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr Cant
Dunmow Museum Management Committee	1	Cllr Clover
Dunmow Society - Executive Committee	1	Cllr Hicks
Dunmow Town Strategy Group – Management Committee	1	Vacant
East of England Regional Assembly	1	Cllr Cheetham
Essex County Strategic Partnership	1	Cllr Ketteridge
Essex Local Government Association	1	Cllr Ketteridge (Sub Cllr Cheetham)
Friends of Bridge End Gardens	1	Cllr Morson
Greater Cambridge Partnership	1	Cllr Rolfe

Local Government Association

- General Assembly	1	Cllr Ketteridge
- Rural Commission	2	Cllr Barker Cllr Howell
- Rural Community Partnership	1	Cllr Barker
Museums in Essex Committee	1	Cllr Eden
National Housing and Town Planning Council Eastern Region Council	1	Cllr Cheetham (Sub-Cllr Cant)
Parking and Traffic Regulation outside London Adjudication Joint Committee	1	Cllr Barker
Saffron Walden Arts Trust	1	Cllr Chambers
Saffron Walden Cinema	1	Cllr Eden
Saffron Walden Day Centre Management Cttee	1	Cllr Rolfe
Saffron Walden Initiative Partnership Board	1	Cllr Mason
Saffron Walden Museum Society	1	Cllr Eden
Stansted Airport Community Trust	1	Cllr C Dean
Stansted Airport Consultative Committee	1	Cllr Cheetham (Sub Cllr Wilcock)
Stansted Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr C Dean
Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group	1	Cllr Cheetham (Sub Cllr Wilcock)
Supporting People - Essex Commissioning Body	1	Cllr Chamberlain
Takeley Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr Cheetham
Thaxted Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr Wattebot
Thaxted Guildhall Management Committee	2	Cllr Foley Cllr Wattebot
Uttlesford Buffy Bus Association	1	Cllr Schneider
Uttlesford Carers	1	Cllr Bellingham- Smith
Uttlesford Citizens' Advice Bureau	1	Cllr Knight

Uttlesford Futures	4	Cllr C Deanl Cllr Lemon Cllr Menell Cllr Rolfe
Uttlesford Community Safety Action Team	1	Vacant
- Safer and healthier communities	2	Cllr Menell Cllr Sadler
- Road Safety Sub-Group	1	Cllr Bellingham-Smith
- Youth Initiatives Working Group	2	Cllr Sherer Cllr Yarwood
Uttlesford Community Travel	1	Cllr Wilcock
Uttlesford Over Sixties Association	1	Cllr Ketteridge
Uttlesford Police and Community Consultative Group	2	Cllr Clover Cllr Barker
Waste Management Advisory Board	1	Cllr Barker (Sub Cllr Sherer)
West Essex Primary Care Trust	1	Cllr Menell
West Essex Area Highways Panel	1	Cllr Salmon

17 Notices of Motion under Procedure Rule 9.1.

- (i) To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Wilcock and seconded by Councillor Gower:

‘That Uttlesford District Council note the increased anxiety regarding the fate of honey bees in this area, and that being mainly a rural community, the council be aware of a number of facts, and spread their concerns as widely as possible.

This Council notes that honeybees are dying in great numbers in USA, Europe and now in the UK. The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) conducted a study of their members last winter and found that 30% of colonies had died (normal losses are about 5-10%). These losses are now reaching the levels experienced in the USA where the phenomenon has been called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The symptoms here are slightly different but it is believed that the underlying causes may be similar.
The likely candidates are

- a) the Varroa mite, that has recently started to attack European honey bees and has resulted in the loss of virtually all wild colonies of honey bees,

b) Nosema, a microsporidium that has jumped species on to our honey bees in the last 20 years and a collection of viruses that are vectored by these two pathogens.

The problems are compounded by a lack of medication for these diseases and a lack of understanding on how they affect the bee and how to protect honeybees. The BBKA is running a campaign to require the government to invest more into research into this problem and to help beekeepers maintain healthy and productive colonies.

Honeybees contribute over £165 million to the agricultural economy of this country through pollination. This equates to over £600 per hive of bees. Beekeeping is predominantly an amateur activity in UK and virtually none of the pollination benefit is derived by beekeepers. The Government spends only £1.5 million pa on bee health. Of this, £1.3 million pays for a statutory inspection service and only £200,000 is left for investigations. The BBKA has developed a programme of research over the next five years that would require a modest £1.6 million. The Government has refused to consider this work and hides behind a Bee Health Strategy document that is out for consultation. The government, parliament, researchers and beekeepers all know this work is important and if not conducted could result in a collapse of pollination stocks in the country. The minister even stated in parliament that if nothing was done we could lose all out honeybees within 10 years and yet he was not prepared to find any money for the vital research programme.

It is proposed that Uttlesford District Council note the concerns of the BBKA and agree to press this government to wake up to the crisis and allocate sufficient funds to research programmes identified by the BBKA.

18 To consider questions under Procedure Rule 8.2.

19 Any other items which the Chairman considers to be urgent.

To:- All Members of the Council

Lead Officer: John Mitchell
Committee Officer: Maggie Cox

MEETINGS AND THE PUBLIC

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Council's Committee meetings and listen to the debate. All agendas, reports and minutes can be viewed on the Council's website www.uttlesford.gov.uk.

Members of the public and representatives of parish and town councils are permitted to speak or ask questions at any of these meetings. A time limit of three minutes per speaker is in operation. You will need to register with the Committee Officer by 12 noon at least two working days before the meeting. An explanatory leaflet has been prepared which details the procedure and is available from the Council offices at Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow.

The agenda is split into two parts. Most of the business is dealt with in Part 1 which is open to the public. Part II includes items which must be discussed in the absence of the press or public, as

they might deal with information which is personal or sensitive for some other reason. You will be asked to leave the meeting before Part II items are discussed.

You are entitled to see any of the background papers that are listed at the end of each report.

If you want to inspect background papers or speak before a meeting please contact either Maggie Cox on 01799 510369, Rebecca Procter on 01799 510433, Cathy Roberts on 01799 510434 or Peter Snow on 01799 510430 or by fax on 01799 510550.

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Council Offices has facilities for wheelchair users, including lifts and toilets. The Council Chamber has an induction loop so that those who have hearing difficulties can hear the debate.

If you are deaf or have impaired hearing and would like a signer available at a meeting, please contact Peter Snow on 01799 510430 or email psnow@uttlesford.gov.uk as soon as possible prior to the meeting.

FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by Committee staff. It is vital you follow their instructions.

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts.
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings.
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building.
- Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.