

10 October 2005

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Council will be held at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, on Tuesday 18 October 2005 at 7.45 pm, or at the conclusion of the question and answer session, whichever is the earlier.

Yours faithfully

ALASDAIR BOVAIRD

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 P A R T I

- 1 Members' question and answer session (up to 15 minutes).
- 2 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.
- 3 To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2005 (attached).
- 4 Business arising.
- 5 Chairman's communications.
- 6 Leader's communications.
- 7 Matters arising from Committees
 - (i) Community and Leisure Committee 6 September – Minute CL70 (iv) – Forward Programme (Children and Young People Strategic Partnership) (attached).
 - (ii) Community and Leisure Committee 6 September 2005 Minute CL76 Bridge End Gardens (attached).

8 Proposed Constitution.

This item, having been moved and seconded, stood adjourned to this meeting (See Minute C38).

Item for decision

9 Review of the Constitution.

This report advises Members of the results of the consultation on the proposed revised constitution, on the costs of the proposed new structure and on certain issues regarding the implementation of the new structure. It recommends that the revised constitution be adopted with effect from December 14, 2005.

Item for Decision.

10 Role of the Chairman.

This report has been prepared at the request of group leaders following the annual meeting held in May 2005. It recalls the unsatisfactory nature of the proceedings for the election of the chairman of the council at that meeting and makes suggestions to avoid such difficulties in the future.

Item for Decision

11 Licensing Committee.

In relation to the current unusual workload of the Licensing Committee, the Panel considered that Members of that committee should receive an allowance of £24 per meeting. This figure was based on one third of the daily rate used for calculating allowances (£71.14). It was emphasised that this was a one off solution due to the exceptional workload and did not set a precedent.

It is RECOMMENDED that the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be adopted.

12 Notices of Motion

(i) Microgeneration

To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Freeman and seconded by Councillor Thawley:

“That the Uttlesford District Council

- 1 Recognises that microgeneration (that is the generation of energy by householders installing micro-units in their own homes) is a valuable new approach to engaging people as consumers and citizens in the important issues of climate change and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

- 2 Therefore, welcomes the introduction of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Bill and the Management of Energy In Buildings Bill into Parliament by a cross party group of MPs on 22nd June, noting that together these Bills will:
- (a) Require the Prime Minister to report annually to parliament on the level of greenhouse gas emissions
 - (b) Require the Chancellor of the Exchequer to implement a fiscal strategy to assist with microgeneration and energy efficiency
 - (c) Require the government to set national targets for microgeneration and **enable** local authorities to set such targets **if they deem it appropriate**
 - (d) Extend permitted development status to the installation of microgeneration subject to the specifying of safeguards relating to visual and noise effects
 - (e) Require utility companies to purchase at a reasonable rate any surplus energy generated by householders via microgeneration
 - (f) Require future revisions of Building Regulations to take into account the desirability or promoting microgeneration and of introducing an energy generating rating system in new buildings
 - (g) Enable householders who generate electricity by microgeneration to have access to ‘renewables obligation certificates’; and
 - (h) Establish a ‘renewable heat obligation’ requiring utility companies to support certain amount of heat from renewable sources

And therefore

- 1 Supports the Bills and resolves to inform the Government of the Council’s view
- 2 Urges the government to support the Bills; and
- 3 **Urges our local MP to be present in Parliament to back these Bills when they are debated in the House of Commons on 11th November; and**
- 4 Resolves to inform the local media and the Micropower Council of this resolution and
- 5 Resolves also to support the Sustainable Energy Partnership’s submission to the government consultation on the draft microgeneration strategy (held under section 82 of the Energy Act 2004) which proposes that policies (b) – (g) above should be included in the final strategy.

(ii) Sustainable Communities Bill

To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Gayler and seconded by Councillor Hibbs.

“That Uttlesford District Council

- (i) expresses its concern at
 - the decline of local services and facilities which affects local communities and in particular the elderly and people on the lowest incomes;

- the resulting decline of local jobs and local economies and the resulting extra traffic and pollution caused by the need to travel further
- (ii) and notes that this combination of factors increases people's feelings of exclusion and lack of involvement; and so
- (iii) supports measures to reverse this process and
- (iv) supports the concept of local sustainability as envisaged in the Sustainable Communities Bill, namely;
 - the promotion of local economies
 - the promotion of local services and facilities
 - the protection of the environment
 - the reduction of social exclusion and
 - measures to increase involvement in the democratic process
- (v) and accordingly resolves to support the Sustainable Communities Bill which
 - requires the government to assist councils and communities in promoting local sustainability in ways decided by them; and
 - sets up a participative process whereby councils and communities can drive the way in which government uses its power and influence to assist with the promotion of local sustainability; and
 - notes that this Bill is therefore fully in accord with current thinking in local government in that it impacts on central authorities and does not impose any new duties on councils but instead enables them to influence how government uses its resources and influence to help councils and communities; and
 - specifically provides that where councils themselves decide to take action to promote local sustainability that they should be given the resources to do so; and so
- (vi) and further resolves
 - to inform the local media of this decision;
 - to write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill; and sign EDM (Early Day Motion) No. 641; and
 - to write to Local Works, the Campaign behind the Bill, (at 94 White Lion Street, London, N1 9PF) expressing its support
 - to write to Parish Councils to seek their support for this motion".

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

To: All Members of the Council.

Lead Officer: Alasdair Bovaird

Committee Officer: Mick Purkiss

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 now permitted to speak at the meetings. You will need to register with the Committee Officer by 2.00 pm on the Friday 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 Mick Purkiss on 01799 510430, Maggie Cox on 01799 510369, Cathy Roberts on 01799 510434 or Peter Snow on 01799 510431 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 Mick Purkiss on 01799 510430 or email mpurkiss@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.