

14 April 2008

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Council will be held at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden on Tuesday, 22 April 2008 at 7.45 pm, or at the conclusion of the question and answer session, whichever is the earlier.

Yours faithfully

JOHN MITCHELL

Interim 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.

Please note that, at 6.00pm, there will be a workshop for all Members on the Eco-towns consultation document. The workshop will conclude by no later than 7.00pm.

PART 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 February 2008 (attached).
- 4 Business arising.
- 5 Chairman's communications.
- 6 Leader's communications.
- 7 Matters arising from Committees-
 - (i) Constitution Task Group – 19 March 2008– Minute CTG 90(iii) (see attached) – to consider re-appointing the Constitution Task Group as a working group.
 - (ii) Constitution Task Group - 19 March 2008 – Minute CTG 91 (see attached) – to consider the recommendations of the Task Group relating to the future structure of area panels.

- (iii) Constitution Task Group - 19 March 2008 – Minute CTG 91 (see attached) – to consider the recommendation of the Task Group to ask the Housing Initiative Task Group to review the appropriate Member mechanism to carry out the housing service and report back to the Council via the Constitution Task Group within six months. The Housing Initiative Task Group was established by the Community Committee so its terms of reference can either be extended at this meeting, or be referred to the next scheduled meeting of the Community Committee on 19 June. The Group was time limited to the Annual Council meeting but it can be re-appointed if required.
 - (iv) Finance and Administration Committee – 27 March 2008 – Minute FA52 (see attached) – to consider the recommendation of the Committee to approve the 2008/09 – 2010/11 Medium Term Financial Strategy and the actions included in it.
- 8 To consider formulating the Council’s response to the NATS consultation on proposed changes to airspace (report attached). Please note that this matter has already been considered by STAAP and comments collected from a number of individual Members have been taken into account.
 - 9 To consider agreeing the Council’s timetable of meetings in 2008/09. Two versions of the timetable are attached. Version 1 is based on the existing committee structure. Version 2 assumes that the proposed changes to area panels are agreed at this meeting (see item 7 (ii) above).
 - 10 To receive proposed changes to the Constitution in the light of the recommendations listed under item 7 (ii) above. If that recommendation has been approved, the changes to the Articles of the Constitution and the Procedure Rules will, once proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council under Article 17.2. Other amendments (if approved) will take effect on a date specified by the Council or (if none) immediately.
 - 11 To consider the appointment of a politically balanced committee to deal with the appointment of a new Chief Executive (report attached).
 - 12 To consider nominations for the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council as required under Article 5.2.1.
 - 13 To receive the attached report on the Department for Communities and Local Government consultation document ‘Eco-towns – Living a greener future’.
 - 14 Notices of Motion under Procedure Rule 9.1.
 - (i) To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor S Barker:

‘This Council is totally opposed to the development of an Eco Town north east of Elsenham as proposed in the Department of Communities and Local Government’s consultative paper, “Eco-Towns – Living a greener future” published on Thursday 3 April and will campaign to have this proposal removed from the short list.’

- (ii) To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor P A Wilcock.

‘Greening their Communities

Uttlesford District Council notes:

1. That green and brown spaces - whether commercial developments or public owned, well-planted local streets and roads, and blooming private gardens are all integral components of a modern sustainable community.
2. That trees and shrubs contribute to the control of climate change effects (e.g. absorbing rainfall, anchoring riverbanks), to a better environment (visual, air, and sound) to reducing violence and to improving quality of life.
3. That national statistics suggest landscaped areas have been reduced by 50% in new development plans compared with 10 years ago and that only 50% of the landscapes specified in planning applications are being delivered.
4. That developers are failing to deliver local enhancements of the environment through their failure to deliver adequate landscaping projects.

Uttlesford District Council believes:

5. That improving the environment should include providing greener commercial and domestic building and infrastructure projects i.e. with a higher level of planting.
6. That the Council should place a greater emphasis on enforcing the delivery of green spaces and gardens included in submitted planning documentation.
7. That the Council should increase the scale of specification of green spaces/garden space within planning guidance across the range of plans from Regional Spatial Strategies to Local Area Action Plans.

Uttlesford District Council resolves to:

8. Urge the Council to increase the amount of tree and shrub planting required within planning approvals across the range of plans from Regional Spatial Strategies to Local Area Action Plans.
9. Support exemplar schemes, which reflect the importance of green space and green planting on both public and private land, including the use of planting to improve the council owned street scene.
10. Ensure, using enforcement powers, that the planting required by planning approvals is actually installed and maintained.

- 11 Call upon the local MP to support the principle of more, properly maintained planting of trees and shrubs and raise the issue within Parliament
 12. Ask the Regional Planning Authorities and the Regional Development Agency to support these proposals both politically and financially where appropriate'
- 15 To consider questions under Procedure Rule 8.2.
- 16 Any other items which the Chairman considers to be urgent.

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 may be discussed in the absence of the press or public, as they may 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 Peter Snow on 01799 510430, Maggie Cox on 01799 510369, Cathy Roberts on 01799 510434, 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.