



Council Offices,  
Urban Road,  
Kirkby in Ashfield  
Nottingham  
NG17 8DA

## Agenda

## Council

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Date: **Thursday, 3rd December, 2020**

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Time: **7.00 pm**

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Venue: **Ashfield District Council's YouTube Channel**

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For any further information please contact:

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## COUNCIL

### Membership

**Chairman:**

Councillor Andy Meakin

**Vice-Chairman:**

Councillor Arnie Hankin

**Councillors:**

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| John Baird         | Chris Baron       |
| Kier Barsby        | Jim Blagden       |
| Christian Chapman  | Ciaran Brown      |
| Melanie Darrington | Samantha Deakin   |
| Andy Gascoyne      | Dale Grounds      |
| Andrew Harding     | David Hennigan    |
| Tom Hollis         | Trevor Locke      |
| Rachel Madden      | Sarah Madigan     |
| David Martin       | Lauren Mitchell   |
| Keir Morrison      | Warren Nuttall    |
| Matthew Relf       | Kevin Rostance    |
| Phil Rostance      | Dave Shaw         |
| John Smallridge    | Helen-Ann Smith   |
| David Walters      | Lee Waters        |
| Caroline Wilkinson | Daniel Williamson |
| John Wilmott       | Jason Zadrozny    |

### FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

This meeting may be subject to filming or audio recording. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Members' Services on 01623 457317.

### SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at the time and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



**Carol Cooper-Smith**  
**Chief Executive**

| AGENDA   | Page    |
|--|---------|
| 1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.   |         |
| 2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.  |         |
| 3. To receive and approve as correct records the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 1 October and 22 October 2020.   | 9 - 26  |
| 4. To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service.  |         |
| 5. To receive questions from the Public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, if any.<br><i>(None received for this meeting)</i>   |         |
| 6. To receive and consider any petitions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, if any.<br><i>(None received for this meeting)</i>  |         |
| 7. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2 (viii) to receive reports from the Cabinet in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework, reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for debate and reports from Officers of the Council:- |         |
| a      Interim Review of Polling Places.   | 27 - 30 |
| b      Amendment to Appointment on an Outside Body.  |         |
| 8. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2 (ix), to receive recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and resolve in accordance with the Council's rules of debate as per the attached schedule.                                 | 31 - 46 |
| 9. Updates from Members of the Cabinet on their Portfolio Activity.  |         |
| 10. Notices of Motion.   |         |

Motion 1

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Daniel Williamson and seconded by Councillor Lee Waters, as follows:-

*"The roads and footways throughout Ashfield are in a state of disrepair.*

*If not all District Councillors, the majority have received complaints about pot holes, crumbling road and footway surfaces along with uneven and sloping footpaths which are particularly dangerous for our disabled residents.*

*It is a fact that Nottinghamshire County Council is fully responsible for the maintenance of the highways throughout Nottinghamshire after the Conservatives abolished the MOPS contract.*

*The Conservative led County Council has allocated more highway's money to areas with more roads. This however is flawed due to the fact that many of Nottinghamshire's roads are country roads and receive little use. It is time that a more realistic approach was taken to accurately reflect the situation on the ground and as such, addresses what is one of the biggest turnover of complaints made by our residents.*

*For the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 Ashfield had a total of £5,462,000 spent on Ashfield's roads, whilst Rushcliffe had £8,412,991 for their roads. This includes a decrease for Ashfield's busy roads and footways of £468,004 yet an increase of £320,053 for the country lanes of Rushcliffe.*

*I move that this Council writes to the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council outlining our concerns in regard to this unfair distribution of funding and urge her to put in place a more relevant policy that prioritises road usage, and as such, brings up to standard the roads and footways in Ashfield something that Ashfield residents pay for as well as Rushcliffe residents."*

## Motion 2

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Sarah Madigan and seconded by Councillor Christian Chapman, as follows:-

*"Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. And with this year being so depressing Bonfire Night with fireworks brought a brief moment of excitement and happiness.*

*However, fireworks do bring fear and distress for many animals including pets, farm livestock and wildlife. Animals affected not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries, sometimes very serious ones as they attempt to run away or hide from the loud and high intensity noises that many fireworks make.*

*To quote from the British Veterinary Association.*

*Around 1 in 14 vets across the country reported seeing animals with firework-related injuries over 2018 with most reports coming from equine vets. By far the most commonly reported cases were self-injuries caused by fireworks-related anxiety, for example, a dog who tried to escape from its kennel and in the process pulled out all of its front teeth, and a horse that suffered a fractured splint bone as it bolted from its field.*

*Further, the latest PDSA Animal Wellbeing report revealed that 3.6 million dogs could have suffered this Bonfire Night. During 2018, PDSA's Pet Hospitals treated 1,400 animals for firework related issues such as phobias and injuries, an increase from 1,200 the previous year, a clear indication that not only do fireworks adversely affect many animals but more and more are suffering.*

*There is no doubt it is particularly the loud noise from fireworks that causes anxiety and harm to animals, but it doesn't have to be this way because fireworks don't have to be noisy to be spectacular. There are wide ranges of quiet fireworks throughout the country that give all the colours without the bangs, these are easily available so therefore consumers do have a choice when making their firework purchases.*

*We are not killjoys and don't want to stop firework displays we do however want to stop animal suffering, and as such we propose the following.*

1. *All future Ashfield District Council firework displays will use low noise fireworks and will encourage all residents of Ashfield to do the same.*
2. *This Council resolves, to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals.*
3. *To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.*
4. *To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.”*

### Motion 3

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor David Hennigan and seconded by Councillor Jim Blagden, as follows:-

*“Ashfield District Council notes that from 1st May to 31st October – Value Added Tax (VAT) was set at a zero rate on supplies of PPE as defined by Public Health England’s coronavirus (COVID-19) PPE guidance on 24 April 2020.*

*This Council notes that from November 1st, face masks and gloves now cost more after the government said a waiver of VAT on personal protective equipment (PPE) would not be extended.*

*The Treasury has confirmed that the 20% sales tax would once more apply to protective equipment bought by firms and consumers after the six-month exemption.*

*This is a tax on safety and leaves the poorest vulnerable and is having an adverse impact on businesses and ordinary people, who are legally bound to use masks in shops and on public transport.*

*We note that food and convenience store owners and other businesses that are obliged to use PPE are now facing increased costs just when they are struggling most. An increase of 20% is a significant amount and has led to increases in price for PPE equipment, it has slowed demand and is acting as a barrier to buying PPE for some, at a time when many people's income has been reduced due to the pandemic.*

*This Council therefore resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak MP and Treasury Minister Jesse Norman MP to call for this decision to be reversed and a zero rate on VAT on supplies of PPE is reintroduced for the foreseeable future.”*

**11. To answer any questions submitted in writing by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, if any.**

**Question 1**

Question from Councillor Trevor Locke to the Portfolio Holder for Housing:

*“In previous Council meetings the Portfolio Holder has informed the Council of the most welcomed investment of £40M for improvements to Council owned homes. Would he now please up-date the Council on how his plans are progressing towards the use of this new funding and when any improvements will start?”*

**Question 2**

Question from Councillor Dale Grounds to the Leader of the Council:

*“As we know the whole country is living in some extraordinary times due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. During the height of the pandemic in the spring, this Council kept all services operating, something that only Ashfield District Council achieved throughout Nottinghamshire.*

*Would the Leader please inform the Council of the help been given to local businesses as we are now in the grip of the second wave of the pandemic?”*

**Question 3**

Question from Councillor Andrew Gascoyne to the Leader of the Council:

*"As an ex service man, and one who has served as a commando in challenging campaigns, I would like to thank the Leader for instigating the cleaning of War Memorials in the district. Would the Leader please inform me if this maintenance will be a regular service?"*

12. **To receive a list of minutes and a web link to access Cabinet and Committee meeting minutes that have been published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council for Members to give notice of their intention to ask a question of a relevant Chairman under Procedure Rule 13.2.** 47 - 48