

County Council

14 April 2015

Agenda

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?.

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*.

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Glenn Watson on (01865) 815270 or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

To: Members of the County Council

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 14 April 2015 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND



Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

April 2015

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 9 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an *aide-memoire* to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.

A buffet luncheon will be provided

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 24 March 2015 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant items. This applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.

4. Official Communications

5. Appointments

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

6. Petitions and Public Address

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 9 - 16)

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

10. Motion From Councillor Patrick Greene

“This Council is concerned and alarmed at the recent number of major traffic accidents that have occurred on the A34 in the Oxfordshire County area in recent months that have caused real damage not only to the Oxfordshire economy but to that of the country.

It is recognised that much of the problems arise from the volume of heavy goods vehicles that are restricted to 60mph. Much frustration to fast lane vehicles arises when two heavy vehicles are in the process of overtaking and with vehicle governors that may well be slightly at variance causing the overtaking procedure to last much too long.

In recent times there has been talk of making heavy goods vehicles travel in convoys, however the matter is extremely urgent and this Council asks the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask that he makes urgent representation to Highways England to request that there is an enforcement order

made to restrict all heavy goods vehicles to only use the slow lane between junction 13 on the M4 to junction 9 on the M40. This measure will in all respects make these vehicles travel in convoys and make the road safer and less liable to accidents.”

11. Motion From Councillor Bob Johnston

“After decades of a lack of support by this Council for the rail infrastructure, the promotion of the East West rail link and the developments on the Cowley branch are welcome news. However more could be achieved by a comprehensive plan encompassing the whole County, reducing strain on our road infrastructure that we have responsibility for maintaining. This could include the re-opening of stations at places like Grove/Wantage and Yarnton and the line to Witney and Carterton as well as the redoubling of the remainder of the Cotswold line within Oxfordshire. Rail services can play an important part in the future economic and social life of the County. For example the proposed services directly to Heathrow could be extended to both Banbury and Bicester rather than terminating in Oxford.

In the meantime the Council needs to lobby the Department For Transport and others for modern electric rolling stock for the newly electrified lines to Oxfordshire.”

12. Motion From Councillor Tanner

"The Council calls on each of the candidates in the five Oxfordshire constituencies:

- (a) to speak up for local government;
- (b) to pledge to build the homes and provide the improved transport that Oxfordshire desperately needs;
- (c) to support our schools, colleges and universities;
- (d) to back a vibrant low carbon economy;
- (e) to commit to a Living Wage and a more equal society;
- (f) to promote an international, tolerant and safer county;
- (g) to respond to the needs of our scientific, automotive, agricultural and military communities;
- (h) to invest in our hospitals and the National Health Service in the county;
- (i) to support and safeguard our elderly and disabled residents, and our young people;

We expect those elected to represent Oxfordshire in the House of Commons to work tirelessly for a prosperous, fairer, greener and more beautiful Oxfordshire for all and urges every resident who can to use their vote in the General Election on May 7th.

13. Motion From Councillor Neville Harris

“I move that, at the earliest possible time following the General Election, the Oxfordshire County Council decant (travel) to the House of Commons Westminster en - bloc to meet, at individual members own expense or otherwise, and to enable its unified case in relation to Oxfordshire's future to be put directly to the County's Members of Parliament. The discussions and representations to include 'cross council' concerns on present and future Government funding and policies on all matters affecting Oxfordshire's residents including: all types of infrastructure, the Council's full range of services and the discharge of its statutory duties.

Detailed organisational arrangements to be made by the relevant officers in conjunction with group leaders and other pertinent members.”

14. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“Knowing the impact that the reductions in revenue support grant have had over the last 5 years on vital services and the likely impact of even stronger cuts will have on the most vulnerable in our Community in future years, Oxfordshire County Council calls on the party leaders of the Conservative Labour and Liberal Democrats to abandon their plans to impose even further cuts on local Government and to recognise that local Government plays a vital role in our community and should no longer bear the burden of an economic policy known as ‘Austerity’ that is of dubious merit and limited effectiveness.

The Chief Executive to write to all three party leaders with a copy of this motion.”

15. Motion From Councillor Coates

“Having undertaken a deep review of the future Transport Strategy the County Council is of the opinion that one of the key issues to easing congestion on Oxfordshire roads is to encourage more travellers to take non car options such as walking, cycling and public transport by bus and train.

Knowing that choices of transport modes essentially comes down to an economic decision based on the cheapest options this Council calls on the Government to divert part of the £18billion already committed for road building to rail expansion and reductions in rail fares , bus subsidies and new cycle support networks.

The County Council also considers that now is maybe the time to consider bringing ALL of the rail system back into public ownership and control and to end rail franchises that see large scale public funding underpinning massive profit taking by private companies.

The Chief Executive to forward copies of this motion to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Transport on the 11 May 2015.”

16. Motion From Councillor Coates

“The County Council is concerned at the recent report by the World Wildlife Fund Living Planet Index that 50% of wildlife has gone from the planet over the last 45 years. Clearly this includes substantial numbers of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish disappearing from, the Oxfordshire ecosystem since 1970.

One estimate for UK wildlife decline since 1970 is about a 58% reduction. The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust has said this report is valid for our area, in terms of their observations.

The County Council has already shown its concern with bee colony collapse and is

pledged to support the species with a programme designed to assist bee communities to prosper. However the WWF Living Index Research suggests a deeper and even more serious concern across a wide spectrum of creatures that constitute our local Oxfordshire Wildlife.

The Council requests that the report currently being undertaken by the Local Nature Partnership is circulated to all members and considered by Cabinet to illustrate what may be done to reverse the decline in wildlife population numbers here in Oxfordshire.”

17. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“This Council notes with dismay the continued expansion of the Academy and Free Schools programme endorsed in the 2015 manifestos of the Conservative and Labour Parties. The Council calls on the Leaders of the Parties to follow the example of the Swedish Government and end this experiment in Governance and return all schools to democratic control and accountability with clear universal professional standards, commitment to a similar curriculum, non-selective criteria and general equity in funding.

The Council is concerned at the billions of pounds that have been diverted from mainstream education to try to make Free Schools work and the dramatic impact this has had on local authority schools funding.

The Council would seek to illustrate to the Secretary of State for Education the advantages of maintaining and enhancing the ‘ Local Education Authority ’ with its excellent central role in providing collective services to schools in a wide range of areas. The Council is concerned that the obvious advantages in collectively improving the quality of local education provision provided via the LEA are being wasted in the fragmentation and atomisation that Academies and Free Schools generate.

The Chief Executive to forward copies of this motion to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education on the 11 May 2015.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 13 April at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders