

County Council

5 April 2022

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 email democracy@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, 5 April 2022 at 10.30 am

Council Chamber - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on the link on the website. Please note, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting. If you still wish to attend this meeting you must contact the Committee Officer by 9am four working days before the meeting.

Requests to speak should be sent to chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Please note that in line with current government guidance all attendees are strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test in advance of the meeting



Stephen Chandler
Interim Chief Executive

28 March 2022

Committee Officer: **Chris Reynolds**
Tel: 07542 029441; E-Mail: chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that the meeting 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.

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022 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

Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection. In line with current Government advice, those attending the meeting in person are asked to consider wearing a face-covering.

Normally requests to speak at this public meeting are required by 9am on the day preceding the published date of the meeting. However, during the current situation and to facilitate 'hybrid' meetings we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting i.e. 9am on Wednesday 30 March 2022. Requests to speak should be sent to chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Dispensation from attending meetings (Pages 11 - 12)

Report by Director of Law and Governance

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) approve an extension of the dispensation for Cllr Alison Rooke from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council within a six month period from the last noted attendance;***
- (b) approve that the dispensation last up to and including 30 September 2022.***

10. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 13 - 20)

Report of the Cabinet meetings of 21 December 2021, 15 February 2022 and 15 March 2022

11. Appointment to the Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 21 - 28)

Report by Director of Law and Governance

Health Services have a legislative duty to consult a local authority's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee about any proposals they have for a substantial development or variation in the provision of health services in their area. When these substantial developments or variations affect a geographical area that covers more than one local authority, the local authorities are required to appoint a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for the purposes of the consultation

***Council is RECOMMENDED to -
Appoint the councillors shown in Annex 2 to the Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee subject to any changes reported at the meeting***

12. Code of Conduct (Pages 29 - 46)

Report by Director of Law and Governance

Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011 requires that a local authority must adopt 'a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity. A revised Councillors' Code of Conduct was considered and approved by the Audit and Governance Committee on the 16th March 2022.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to adopt the revised Councillors' Code of Conduct at Annex 1 for implementation from the 1st May 2022

13. Future Management of the Charlotte Coxe Trust (Pages 47 - 50)

Report by Director of Law and Governance

The Charlotte Coxe Trust is currently managed by the Director of Law and Governance on her own on behalf of OCC.

Council is RECOMMENDED to

1. ***Establish a Committee of Council to which responsibility for all decision making in connection with the Charlotte Coxe Trust is delegated, which is to be known as the "Charlotte Coxe Trust Committee".***
2. ***Appoint the five members to the Committee.***

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

14. Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky

Transgender and non-binary people face significant disadvantage in society, vulnerable to violence, isolation, homelessness, and lack of access to suitable healthcare provision.

Council believes that:

1. All UK law should clearly recognise that trans rights are human rights.
2. Transgender and non-binary people deserve respect and autonomy.
3. It's therefore our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open and tolerant society to speak out against transphobia and discrimination in all its forms.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.
2. State publicly that trans rights are human rights and affirm the legal rights of all protected groups under the 2010 equality act.
3. To work with healthcare providers to remove barriers transgender and non-binary people face when accessing medical care.
4. Work to provide at least one gender inclusive bathroom (accessible) where

possible in every public building owned or operated by the Council.

5. Ensure that the Council's constitution, policies, forms, and all internal and external communications are;

- a. Reducing the amount of gender information collected unless absolutely necessary,
- b. Respecting the pronouns individuals use for themselves,
- c. Providing opportunities for self-identification beyond the binary "man" and "woman".

6. Encourage and support a network of informal LGBTQIA+ allies across officers and councillors.

7. Support and embrace the development of a LGBTQIA+ guidance within OCC for employees and contractors."

15. Motion by Councillor Donna Ford

This council is committed to ensuring that active travel is fully inclusive all year round, including during the Winter, and accepts its responsibility to ensure that all feel safe on our streets and cycle paths.

This council recognises the need to ensure the safety and security of our residents engaged in active travel and its responsibility in deterring crime and anti-social behaviour.

In accordance with its statutory responsibilities this council further commits to maintaining Oxfordshire's publicly maintainable footpaths, cycle paths and rights of way network to make using active travel routes safer and more secure and encourage greater use of them.

This council resolves to ensure that wherever possible all overgrowth is cleared from publicly maintainable rights of way including footpaths and cycle paths without delay and ensure that any broken lighting along footpaths and cycle paths is resolved efficiently. Moreover, this council resolves to consider installing additional LED lighting in poorly lit areas and/or those along active travel routes where crime and anti-social behaviour are high or at risk of increasing.

This council agrees to engage more actively with stakeholders, including Network Rail, residents, landowners and businesses to ensure that they comply more fully with their obligations to clear vegetation on private land and keep public rights of way open. This council commits to ensure all residents, but particularly disabled, elderly and vulnerable residents, are able to walk and cycle safely and securely.

16. Motion by Councillor Freddie van Mierlo

In 2020, South Oxfordshire District Council was directed by the then Conservative Secretary of State for Housing, Robert Jenrick MP, to progress a local plan through examination and adoption that included Chalgrove Airfield as an allocated site.

In November 2021, Homes England restated its desire to develop Chalgrove Airfield with 3,000 new homes, despite having previously withdrawn its outline planning application, following significant concerns as to the suitability and safety of the site being raised by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The County Council notes that a massive and unprecedented package of infrastructure would be required to serve new dwellings in this remote and rural location, with no rail connection and uncertainty around viability of bus services. The construction of a large, car dependent community, distant from major employment centres and in a rural setting, runs contrary to the County Council's goals on climate emergency and biodiversity.

Without prejudice to the County Council's role as statutory consultee in the planning application process, the Council expresses reservations in the strongest terms as to the suitability of the site and its compatibility with climate change goals.

17. Motion by Councillor Kate Gregory

Oxfordshire County Council recognises

1. That Councillors have a duty to promote kind, respectful and honest discourse both on and offline.
2. Recognises that discussion, scrutiny and debate are important to a democracy but must be carried out without targeting or abuse.
3. That robust debate is a crucial part of the scrutiny process and should not be discouraged.
4. That social media is an increasingly aggressive space where abuse is normalised.
5. That misinformation is often the trigger for such abusive behaviour.
6. That public figures are often the target for abusive behaviour and that it inevitably has a significant detrimental impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

Oxfordshire County Council Proposes to

7. Introduce a councillor protocol for social media, that has an emphasis on promoting accurate discourse and encourages councillors to not write or share posts that contain obvious inaccuracies or aggression against colleagues across the council.

8. Create a digital citizenship guide for all elected members and staff.
9. Introduce social media training in all new councillor inductions and refresh for elected members on, focusing on harm of misinformation, rumours and slander.
10. Ask Councillors to declare the social media handle of any public accounts in their name, as an elected member in the community or related to party political activity.

18. Motion by Councillor Bob Johnston

Council welcomes recent legislation which, amongst other things, sets out an aspiration to restore nature. This reflects the fact that the UK is the most nature poor country in Europe. The legislation states that in each area there should be a lead body to oversee this initiative.

Council believes that Oxfordshire County Council should be a lead body in as much as it defines a clear geographical area of significant size, has significant and developing inhouse expertise and access to further expertise in local universities and many groups involved with wildlife conservation, for example BBOWT amongst very many others.

It should seek to build on the emerging work of the Local Nature Partnership as set up by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and other similar initiatives. It notes that additional resources will be required to ensure the success of this work

19. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

This Council notes that the Leader has acknowledged the challenging market conditions faced by Oxfordshire's excellent meat and dairy farmers.

This Council further notes that local authorities have an important duty to engage positively and proportionately in public discourse.

Given the privileged position in which this Council finds itself and the potentially damaging effects of its motion dated 14 December, this Council resolves to offer locally produced menus at Council-catered events, including meat, dairy and vegan options, or to make alternative provisions for members, staff and attendees to facilitate personal choice.

20. Motion by Councillor Nigel Simpson

Oxfordshire County Council has acknowledged the Climate Change Emergency.

A major contributor to excessive CO2 output are unnecessary car journeys. The proposal by Network Rail to shut the vital link between Yarnton and Kidlington by closing the rail crossing at Sandy Lane will result in a significant increase in carbon emissions.

Permanent closure would see drivers forced to use Frieze Way or Langford Lane

resulting in an average extra distance travelled of nearly two miles per journey.

Based on current trends this is estimated to result in an extra 4750 miles travelled on weekdays and an additional 3800 at weekends, resulting in 1.5 million unnecessary miles per year.

The cost of such surplus miles in money is hundreds of thousands of pounds to residents and businesses who rely on their cars; and extra pollution in the form of many tonnes of carbon emissions, contrary to the Council's environmental objectives.

This would go directly against the council's ambition to reduce CO2 output generated by transport and very significantly degrade the network of contacts that currently underpins the ancient and vital community nexus around the parishes of Yarnton, Begbroke, Kidlington and Gosford and Water Eaton.

This Council calls upon the Leader to urgently write to Network Rail to oppose the proposed closure and further to instruct her officers and relevant Cabinet colleague(s) to lobby for this vital link to be maintained with improvements, where possible, especially for cyclists and pedestrians.

21. Motion by Councillor Ian Corkin

Whilst the "leader and cabinet" model, enabled by the Local Government Act 2000, streamlines decision making, it invariably means that the majority of back bench councillors are not directly involved in the early stages of policy development, making access to information and effective scrutiny even more important

This council recognises that improving access to information, improves transparency and inclusion of all councillors in the scrutiny process. This is particularly true in respect of questions without notice on the "report of the cabinet", and resolves to ask the Audit and Governance Committee to consider that, where a written response is offered or requested, it is provided within 10 working days

22. Motion by Councillor Liam Walker

This council recognises the need to improve public transport in Oxfordshire to reduce emissions, tackle congestion and make sure our bus services are more sustainable.

Park and Ride sites are important transport hubs in Oxfordshire helping to reduce the need to drive into Oxford city.

To help meet the commitments as stated above this council calls on both the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Highways Management to:

- Establish a cross-party task force to explore the viability of making parking at our P&R sites free.
- Write to the Leader of Oxford City Council asking for the city council to join this new task force.
- Work with public transport providers in Oxfordshire to establish a Park & Ride improvement plan.

