



COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 16th March, 2016

7.30 pm

Town Hall, Watford

Publication date: 8 March 2016

CONTACT

If you require further information or you would like a copy of this agenda in another format, e.g. large print, please contact Caroline Harris on 01923 278372 or by email – legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk .

Welcome to this meeting. We hope you find these notes useful.

ACCESS

The Council Chamber's Public Gallery is situated at the rear of the Town Hall between the main building and the side entrance to the Colosseum. Access is via the visitors' and Members' car parks.

Visitors may park in the staff car park after 4.00 p.m. and before 7.00 a.m. This is a Pay and Display car park; the current charge is £1.50 per visit.

The Council Chamber is on the mezzanine floor of the Town Hall and a lift is available.

Induction loops are available in the Council Chamber.

TOILETS (including disabled)

Toilets are situated on the first floor, near the Committee Rooms.

FIRE/EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS

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- Go to the assembly point at the Pond and wait for further instructions
- Do not re-enter the building until authorised to do so.

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Please note: this meeting might be filmed / photographed / recorded / reported by a party other than Watford Borough Council for subsequent broadcast or publication.

If you do not wish to have your image / voice captured you should let the Chair or Democratic Services Officer know before the start of the meeting.

An audio recording may be taken at this meeting for administrative purposes only.

8 March 2016

Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Watford to be held on Wednesday, 16th March, 2016 starting at 7.30 pm at the Town Hall, Watford to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects, namely: -

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**
- 3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2016 to be submitted and signed.

Copies of the minutes of this meeting are usually available seven working days following the meeting.

(All minutes are available on the Council's [website](#).)

- 4. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 5. MAYOR'S REPORT**

(To follow)
- 6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.0**
- 7. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11.0**

The following question has been received from Omar Ismail:

“Can anybody running this Council explain as to why such major development in the Meriden ward which has been recently agreed was allowed to happen without a proper consultation by the Council with residents and local business?”

- 8. PETITIONS PRESENTED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12.0**
- 9. BUSINESS ESPECIALLY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.**

10. MOTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13.0

1. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Crout and seconded by Councillor Rindl:

“This council values the role played in our community by local pharmacists and is concerned by Government plans that could lead to the closure of chemist shops throughout our town.

It asks our MP Richard Harrington to call on the Government to shelve these plans and protect this vital and highly valued service.

Council also feels that such attacks on the very fabric of our health system give a lie to Prime Minister David Cameron’s statement that the NHS is “Safe in Our Hands.””

2. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Bell

“This Council notes that;

1/The 5th May will be the 14th anniversary of the election of the Mayor and the date the Liberal Democrats took responsibility for the administration of the Council.

2/The Council notes that after 14-years, the Liberal Democrats continue to blame the former Labour administration rather than accept responsibility for their own failures and mistakes.

This Council believes that;

3/The Liberal Democrats have put their party interests above those of the residents of Watford by supporting the coalition with the Conservatives and this has led to the imposing of such massive cuts to Local Government finance and cuts to vital services, implementing cuts to housing benefit, applying the detested and unnecessary bedroom tax, and failing to campaign for the proper funding of a new hospital for Watford.

4/Millions of pounds have been wasted by the Liberal Democrats resulting in Watford still having the highest Council Tax in Hertfordshire despite the Mayor’s original promise to reduce it to the County average back in 2002.

This Council calls upon the Mayor to acknowledge her party’s responsibility for these failures, to retire to the House of Lords and invites the electorate of Watford to vote for a change for the better on May 5th by electing a Labour Council.”

3. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Silver and seconded by Councillor Mehta:

“This Council notes the importance of Watford's historical position within the print industry and that Watford has a proud heritage as a printing hub, which continues to this day with the production of noteworthy literature.

We also recognise the contribution of Watford-based libraries to the promotion of books and reading within Watford. Schemes to improve the commercial viability of

libraries such as introducing coffee shops into public libraries and the creation of more attractive reading areas to encourage visits and reading has proved successful elsewhere.

We also believe that as a proud print town, the lack of a specialist bookshop in the town centre should be remedied. Whilst this Council cannot demand that a private company sets up a shop in Watford, we should do more to attract the investment and demonstrate the viability of such an enterprise by showing the virtues of our town.

This Council therefore calls on Hertfordshire County Council to guarantee the future of Watford's libraries and work to enhance the facilities available to readers and to promote them as community hubs and centres of learning.

Additionally, we call on the Mayor's Office to facilitate relationships with the necessary public bodies, as well as Richard Harrington MP and the Town's commercial partners, to actively attract a specialist book store to Watford's town centre and support the further development of public library facilities."

4. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor S Williams and seconded by Councillor Turmaine:

"With a deepening housing crisis and homeless crisis.

We call upon the council to carry out a mid way review of the current homeless and housing strategy to ensure that we are doing all that we can to support those in need"

11. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Report of Cabinet 7 March 2016 (to follow)

12. CHIEF OFFICER PAY POLICY (Pages 7 - 28)

Report of Head of Human Resources.

13. POLLING STATIONS (Pages 29 - 44)

Report of Head of Democracy and Governance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Lewis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Manny Lewis, Managing Director