

QUESTION TIME

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting, Councillors will receive questions from members of the public for a period not exceeding ten minutes.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Local Authorities [Model Code of Conduct] Order 2007.

3. WRITTEN REPORTS

To receive written reports from the following:-

Wootton Bassett Police
Wootton Basset Town Council Vandalism/Crime Log
Member of Parliament
Wiltshire Council – Councillor Peter Doyle
Area Board representatives-copy of latest submission
Representatives appointed by the Council

Copies of documents as detailed above are attached, Appendix A

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 15th July 2010 [WBTC/3/2010-2011]. Copy previously circulated.

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

6. TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

With and without notice received under Standing Orders

7. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report on meetings of the Planning Committee held on Thursday, 15th July 2010 [P/4/2010-2011], Wednesday, 18th August 2010 [P/5/2010-2011] and Thursday 2nd September, 2010 [P/6/2010-2011]. Copies previously circulated.

8. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Report on a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 2nd September 2010 [A/3/2010-2011]. Copy previously circulated.

9. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report on a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 23rd September 2010 [R&/3/2010-2011]. Copy previously circulated.

10. REVIEW OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

At the last meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee, consideration was given to a review of the Councils standing orders following the publication of model standing orders by the National Association of Local Councils, together with a review of the Grant Aid Application form, guidelines and check list.

With the standing orders the Committee resolved to check the legal position with regard to standing order 1.6.2 as there was a desire to increase the number of Councillors required to call an extra ordinary meeting from 2 to a higher number. Also to see if there is an opportunity to lengthen the time that the meeting must be called within from 7 days to 14 days.

It was then resolved to recommend adoption of the standing orders subject to a resolution of that query.

The right to convene meetings is covered by Sections 9(1) and (2), Part II, Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 9(1) advises that “an extra ordinary meeting of the Parish Council may be called at any time by the Chairman of the Council”. Section (2) goes on to advise that *“if the Chairman refuses to call an extra ordinary meeting of the Council after a requisition for that purpose, signed by two members of the Council, has been presented to him, or if, without so refusing, the Chairman does not call an extra ordinary meeting within 7 days after such a requisition has been presented to him, any two members of the Council, on that refusal or on the expiration of those 7 days, as the case may be, may forthwith convene an extra ordinary meeting of the Council.”*

As members will note both the number of Councillors required and the timing of extra ordinary meeting are covered by the legislation. In practice the Chairman would have seven days in which to deal with any request for an extra ordinary meeting and thereafter if two members were to call such a meeting the normal notification periods would still apply. Therefore, if the Chairman was to receive a requisition for a meeting on day 1 and chose not to action that requisition the agenda for the meeting could not be sent until day number 8, there would then be 3 clear days notice and so the meeting could not be held until day number 12.

Noting the above the Council is ask to confirm the recommendation of the Revenue & Resources Committee in adopting the revised standing orders and associated documentation.

The Grant Aid checklist [Copy attached Appendix B] has now been revised in accordance with the Council's wishes in order to seek a yes bias on all questions. A supporting note has also been put in the guidelines requiring applicants to indicate a precise amount of grant being applied for.

The Council is asked to adopt the revised Grant Aid documentation.

11. WOOTTON BASSETT AND CRICKLADE AREA BOARD - LOCAL TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS GROUP

On Tuesday, 21st September 2010 the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board – Local Traffic and Highways Group met to consider the prioritisation of some 32 proposed minor highway improvement schemes for the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade area. The scheme requests have been received by the Highways Department from a range of sources including Parish and Town Councils, Schools, Clubs, Groups and individuals.

The meeting was advised that each Community Area has only £12,000 allocated to it and with even modest schemes costing more than this the list needs to be reduced to perhaps three or four schemes that could be worked on over the next year or so. Even here such schemes are likely to require some additional funding to bring them to fruition.

At the meeting the Wootton Bassett schemes were reduced to three, namely:

- New Road – pedestrian crossing
- Longleaze – traffic calming
- Gainsborough – traffic calming

The Town Council has been asked to choose a single scheme from these which would represent the town's highest priority. Lyneham, Purton and Cricklade are being asked to make similar choices.

The above information was circulated to all Councillors by e-mail on Wednesday 22nd September and an early indication was sought as to Members' preferences.

At the time of drafting this agenda, three responses have been received, two favouring traffic calming in Longleaze and one favouring traffic calming in Gainsborough Avenue.

The Council is asked to decide which of the above schemes it would like to choose as its highest priority for the town.

12. APPRECIATION EVENTS AND GIFTS

To receive a report from the Town Clerk, copy attached, Appendix C.

