

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2021

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: West Faversham Community Centre, Bysing Wood Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 7RH*

RECORDING NOTICE

Please note: this meeting will be recorded and the recording will be published on the Council's website.

At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being audio recorded. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

Therefore by entering the Chamber and speaking at Committee you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of those sound records for training purposes.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact Democratic Services.

Quorum = 16

Pages

Information for the Public

*Members of the press and public can listen to this meeting live. Details of how to join the meeting will be added to the website on 27 July 2021.

Privacy Statement

Swale Borough Council (SBC) is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your personal information. As data controller we ensure that processing is carried out in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations. In calling to join the meeting your telephone number may be viewed solely by those Members and Officers in attendance at the Skype meeting and will not be shared further. No other identifying information will be made available through your joining to the meeting. In joining the meeting you are providing the Council with your consent to process your telephone number for the duration of the meeting. Your telephone number will not be retained after the meeting is finished.

If you have any concerns or questions about how we look after your

personal information or your rights as an individual under the Regulations, please contact the Data Protection Officer by email at dataprotectionofficer@swale.gov.uk or by calling 01795 417179.

1. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

The Mayor will advise the meeting of the evacuation procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. This is particularly important for visitors and members of the public who will be unfamiliar with the building and procedures. The Mayor will inform the meeting that: There is no scheduled test of the fire alarm during this event. If the alarm does sound, please leave the building quickly without collecting any of your possessions, using the doors signed as fire escapes, and assemble in the car park at the front of the building. Await instructions from the Fire Marshal before entering the building. Should anyone require assistance in evacuating the building, please make the volunteer staff in the front office aware of any special needs so that suitable arrangements may be made in the event of an emergency.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 23 June 2021 (Minute Nos. 109 - 117) as a correct record.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves or their spouse, civil partner or person with whom they are living with as a spouse or civil partner. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

The Mayor will ask Members if they have any interests to declare in respect of items on this agenda, under the following headings:

(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DPI, the Member must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or vote. This applies even if there is provision for public speaking.

(b) Disclosable Non Pecuniary Interests (DNPI) under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in May 2012. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DNPI interest, the Member may stay, speak and vote on the matter.

(c) Where it is possible that a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Member might be predetermined or biased the Member should declare their predetermination or bias and then leave the meeting while that item is considered.

Advice to Members: If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or DNPI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Legal or from other Solicitors in Legal Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

5. Mayor's Announcements

6. Leader's Statement

7. Questions submitted by the Public

To consider any questions submitted by the public. (The deadline for questions is 4.30 pm on the Wednesday before the meeting – please contact Democratic Services by e-mailing democraticservices@swale.gov.uk or call 01795 417330).

8. Questions submitted by Members

To consider any questions submitted by Members. (The deadline for questions is 4.30 pm on the Monday the week before the meeting – please contact Democratic Services by e-mailing democraticservices@swale.gov.uk or call 01795 417330).

9. Motion for free Saturday parking in town centres

To help town centre traders, this council would support the piloting of a scheme to allow free parking on Saturdays. Council therefore requests the cabinet member to undertake the necessary work to determine whether such a pilot is feasible and to bring a report to a future council meeting for a decision.

Proposed by: Councillor Oliver Eakin

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Whiting

10. Motion - Southern Water

This Council notes that

- Southern Water (SW) has recently been fined a record £90m for deliberately dumping between 16 billion and 21 billion litres of raw sewage into the seas off North Kent and Hampshire over a 7 year period.
- The judge in the case stated that these offences show a shocking and wholesale disregard for the environment, for precious and delicate ecosystems and coastlines, for human health and for fisheries and other legitimate businesses that operate. He also stated that the company had a history of criminal activity because of its previous and persistent pollution of the environment.
- The dumping afforded the company considerable financial advantages at a time when infrastructure in the 17 wastewater treatment works (including 4 in Swale) investigated was crumbling

and SW did not maintain, repair or replace vital machinery

- This criminal activity has put the health of residents and visitors to Swale at risk through the contamination of the seas of the North Kent coast and the contamination of local sea food, damaged the reputation of local beaches and the local environment and harmed local businesses involved with the harvesting of sea food.
- The water industry has accumulated debts of £48 billion since 1989 which cost £1.3 billion in annual interest. In that time the industry has paid £57 billion in shareholder dividends, while customer bills have increased by 40% above inflation.

It therefore resolves to

- Demand a meeting with SW to gain further information on the damage caused to the local environment, resident's health and the economy by SW's criminal activity and the actions that SW is taking locally to mitigate the impact of its criminal damage and ensure that local water treatment works are functioning legally safely.
- To write to Ofwat and the Environment Agency urging them to provide compensation to local authorities and local businesses that have suffered from the criminal activities of SW.
- To write to local MPs and the Department of the Environment asking that the current managements arrangements for the Water industry are revised so that private companies like SW cannot secretly pursue criminal activities over many years in order to avoid financial penalties and the cost of upgrading infrastructure.

Proposed by: Councillor Julian Saunders
Seconded by: Councillor Monique Bonney

11. Updated Cabinet Portfolio Responsibilities 7 - 12
12. Allocation of Committee Seats and Committee Appointments - report to follow
13. Exclusion of Press and Public

To decide whether to pass the resolution set out below in respect of the following item:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2.

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

14. Request for Extended leave of Absence (EXEMPT) 13 - 16

Issued on Monday, 19 July 2021

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEMOCRATIC SERVICES on 01795 417330**. To find out more about the work of Council, please visit www.swale.gov.uk

**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
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