

When telephoning, please ask for: Helen Tambini
Direct dial 0115 914 8320
Email democraticservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: Wednesday, 24 February 2021



**Rushcliffe Community
Contact Centre**
Rectory Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 6BU

To all Members of the Council

Dear Councillor

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

Please note the attached documents below for the meeting of the Council to be held on Thursday, 4 March 2021, the agenda for which has already been published.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Sull'.

Sanjit Sull
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

7a Leave of Absence for Councillor Christine Jeffreys (Pages 1 - 4)

The report of the Monitoring Officer is attached.

Membership

Chairman: Councillor S Mallender

Vice-Chairman: Councillor T Combella

Councillors: R Adair, S Bailey, B Bansal, K Beardsall, N Begum, A Brennan, B Buschman, R Butler, N Clarke, J Cottee, G Dickman, A Edyvean, M Gaunt, P Gowland, B Gray, L Healy, L Howitt, R Inglis, Mrs C Jeffreys, R Jones, A Major, R Mallender, D Mason, G Moore, J Murray, A Phillips, F Purdue-Horan, S J Robinson, K Shaw, D Simms, J Stockwood, Mrs M Stockwood, C Thomas, R Upton, D Viridi, J Walker, R Walker, L Way, G Wheeler, J Wheeler and G Williams

In person
Monday to Friday
8.30am - 5pm
First Saturday of
each month
9am - 1pm

By telephone
Monday to Friday
8.30am - 5pm

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0115 981 9911

Email:
customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

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Rushcliffe Borough
Council
Rushcliffe Arena
Rugby Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7YG



Meeting Room Guidance

Mobile Phones: For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

Recording at Meetings

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control.

Rushcliffe Borough Council is committed to being open and transparent in its decision making. As such, the Council will undertake audio recording of meetings which are open to the public, except where it is resolved that the public be excluded, as the information being discussed is confidential or otherwise exempt.



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Rushcliffe
Borough Council

Council

Thursday, 4 March 2021

Leave of Absence for Councillor Christine Jeffreys



Report of the Monitoring Officer

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough Wide Leadership,
Councillor S J Robinson**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1) (“the Act”) requires Council to consider and authorise any absence of a Councillor from attendance at Council meetings.
- 1.2. Where a member of a Local Authority is absent for a period of six consecutive months from meetings of the Authority the member shall, unless the failure to attend has been approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of that Authority.
- 1.3. This report seeks Council’s approval for the absence of Councillor Christine Jeffreys having regard to the circumstances of her absence, from Council meetings for a six month period in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that

- a) Council resolve, having regard to the circumstances of the absence of Councillor Christine Jeffreys from Council meetings, to waive the requirements of Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 for a period of up to six months from 24 March – 24 September 2021; and
- b) Payment of the Councillor allowance continue for the duration of the authorised absence

3. Reasons for Recommendation

The provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 prescribe the process for approval.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 Where a member is unable to attend any meetings of the Authority for a period of six consecutive months following the date of their last attendance, they shall automatically cease to be a member of the Authority, unless Councillors resolve to approve an extended absence. Council is requested consider the reason for Councillor Jeffrey's non-attendance and seeks approval for her absence for an extended period of six months.
- 4.2 Councillor Jeffreys is experiencing a period of ill health and ongoing treatment, recovery prevents her from undertaking her full duties as a Councillor. Councillor Jeffrey's last attendance at a meeting of the Authority was at Council on the 24 September 2020.
- 4.3 Without a resolution of the Council pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Act, Councillor Jeffreys must attend any meeting of the Council prior to 24 March 2021. Councillor Jefferys is unable due to her health to attend a meeting within this period.
- 4.4 Council can only consider a reason to wave the requirements of the provisions of the Act prior to the end of the six month period. Councillors are not able to approve this retrospectively. Given the timetable of the meetings there are no opportunities for Councillor Jeffreys to resume her duties prior to the end of the six month period, and this meeting presents Council's last opportunity to consider an exemption to the attendance requirements.
- 4.5 In the circumstances, it proposed that an extension of the six month rule under the Act be considered to allow an additional recovery period, should it be required.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

Council could resolve not to approve the reasons for the absence as prescribed by the Act.

6 Risks and uncertainties

Where a Councillor loses their office as a result of a failure to attend a meeting for a consecutive period of six months, the disqualification cannot be overcome by the Councillor subsequently resuming attendance. Retrospective approval cannot be sought for an extension of time. If Council decided not to approve an extension and Councillor Jeffreys is unable to attend a meeting within the remainder of the six month period, a casual vacancy would arise.

7 Implications

7.1 Financial Implications

There are no budget implications associated with this report.

7.2 Legal Implications

This report complies with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.

7.3 Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

7.4 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 implications

There are no Section 17 implications arising from this report.

8 Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life Efficient Services Sustainable Growth The Environment	Attendance at meetings is critical to the Council’s decision making process so that it may deliver the Council’s Corporate Priorities.
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9 Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that

- a) Council resolve, having regard to the circumstances of the absence of Councillor Christine Jeffreys from Council meetings, to waive the requirements of Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 for a period of up to six months from 24 March – 24 September 2021; and
- b) Payment of the Councillor allowance continue for the duration of the authorised absence.

For more information contact:	Sanjit Sull Monitoring Officer 0115 9148 215 ssull@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices (if any):	None.

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