

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

Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: Wednesday, 22 February 2023

To all Members of the Council

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday, 2 March 2023 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

This meeting will be accessible and open to the public via the live stream on YouTube and viewed via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>
Please be aware that until the meeting starts the live stream video will not be showing on the home page. For this reason, please keep refreshing the home page until you see the video appear.

Yours sincerely



Gemma Dennis
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

Moment of Reflection

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2022 (Pages 1 - 8)

To receive as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2022

4. Mayor's Announcements
5. Leader's Announcements
6. Chief Executive's Announcements
7. Citizens' Questions

To answer questions submitted by Citizens on the Council or its

Rushcliffe Borough
Council Customer
Service Centre

Fountain Court
Gordon Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 5LN

Email:
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Telephone:
0115 981 9911

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

Opening hours:
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
8.30am - 5pm
Wednesday
9.30am - 5pm
Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm

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



services.

8. Petitions

To receive any petitions in accordance with Standing Order No.10 and the Council's Petition Scheme.

9. 2023/24 Budget and Financial Strategy (Pages 9 - 130)

The report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services is attached.

10. 2023/24 Council Tax Resolution (Pages 131 - 140)

The report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services is attached.

11. Independent Review of Councillors' Allowances (Pages 141 - 182)

The report of the Chief Executive is attached.

12. Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (Pages 183 - 186)

The report of the Chief Executive is attached.

13. Notices of Motion

To receive Notices of Motion submitted under Standing Order No.12

- a) Council recognises the problems faced in recent new estates where ownership and management of Public Open Space (POS) is under private companies, with residents subject to a charge on their homes and unregulated and uncapped charges for POS, plus additional fees not directly related to maintaining the public areas.

Council commits to undertaking a full and detailed options appraisal of ownership and ongoing management of public open space with a view to changing the policy for future new housing estates by April 2024, evaluating the following options:

- RBC takes ownership of the POS and responsibility for management with no additional charge to residents, with a commuted sum paid by the developer to support this for a number of years via a S106 agreement. (i.e. revert to the previous policy);
- RBC takes ownership of the land and itself charges residents for maintenance, undertaking the work in-house or procuring the services;
- Ownership of the land passes to a properly constituted and regulated not-for-profit co-operative residents'

association responsible for ongoing maintenance and any charges to residents.

Council further commits to investigate ways that Rushcliffe could change the existing arrangements for recent new estates affected by the current policy.

Councillor Thomas

- b) Council believes that artificial grass is detrimental to the environment and will do everything possible to eliminate its use in residential settings, parks, and other open spaces, through policy changes and media campaigns.

Councillor Way

- c) Council:
- notes with concern that the new requirements for Voter ID create a barrier to residents exercising their democratic right to vote and may lead to some residents being disenfranchised. The requirements entail additional administrative burdens on Electoral Services and a risk of abuse to Poll Staff from anyone denied a vote due to lack of ID;
 - asks Officers to send appropriate information to all voters who have become 18 since the last Borough election unless registered for a postal vote;
 - asks the Leader to call on government to halt the further roll out of Voter ID, and if not, an expansion of the 'accepted' forms of photo ID to include those valid for young people.

Councillor Jones

- d) Council recognises the importance of soil health in food production, combatting climate change, storing carbon, regulating water flow and quality, and as the basis for biodiversity. However Rushcliffe's soil is under multiple threats including industrial farming methods, the ever-increasing built environment, flooding, and climate change. Council will:
- Include policies to help protect soil in the next round of the local plan, including measures to minimise impermeable surfaces in development;
 - Review its own operations with a view to improving soil health on the council's own land and land it manages;
 - Engage with Rushcliffe's farming community to discover barriers to more natural and organic methods of farming that nurture soil health;

- Target future grant opportunities such as REPF towards projects that can demonstrate improved soil health as one outcome (e.g. agroforestry);
- Create a register of such projects locally that can be used for purchase of offsite Biodiversity Net Gain credits;
- Engage with residents to promote small scale improvements in soil health in a garden setting, including possible extension of the “free tree” scheme to include seed packets for nitrogen fixing vegetables and lawn plants;
- Call on the government to strengthen soil protection in legislation and planning policy.

Councillor Thomas

14. Questions from Councillors

To answer questions submitted by Councillors under Standing Order No. 11(2)

Membership

Chairman: Councillor T Combellack

Vice-Chairman: Councillor D Mason

Councillors: R Adair, S Bailey, B Bansal, M Barney, 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, R Mallender, S Mallender, G Moore, J Murray, A Phillips, V Price, 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



Rushcliffe
Borough Council

Meeting Room Guidance

Fire Alarm Evacuation: In the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble at the far side of the plaza outside the main entrance to the building.

Toilets: Are located to the rear of the building near the lift and stairs to the first floor.

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

Microphones: When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.

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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