



24 November 2020

Dear Councillor,

The next Meeting of the Council will be held virtually on Wednesday, 2 December 2020 at 6.30 pm.

The Agenda for the Meeting is attached at Appendix 'A'.

Yours faithfully,

M. Trillo
Executive Director & Monitoring Officer

**Available in an alternative format by prior request and
on the Council's website: www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk**

Prayers will be offered prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence, if any.
2. Minutes of the previous meetings
 - 2.1 Full Council - 26 February 2020 (**Pages 7 - 16**)
 - 2.2 Council Assembly - 9 September 2020 (**Pages 17 - 20**)
3. Urgent items of business, if any (24 hours notice to be provided to the Chairman).
4. Declarations of interest
 1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
 2. Other Interests
5. Chairman's or Leader's announcements and correspondence, if any.
6. Receipt of petitions, if any.
7. Decisions made under the Council's urgency provisions
 - 18 March 2020 - Temporary Management Structure and Appointment of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.
 - 18 March 2020 - Appointment of Authorised officers - Neil Rodgers (Executive Director - Place) and Claire Hazeldene (Acting Executive Director – Finance and Customer Services).
 - 30 March 2020 - The affixing of the Council's Common Seal be attested by the Chief Executive or Monitoring Officer or by some other person authorised by either of them in writing to do so.
 - 7 May 2020 - Dispensation granted to all councillors for non-attendance at meetings until 30 September 2020.

Recommendation

That the decisions be noted.

8. To consider and debate any recommendations from the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Panels and Committees, if any.
 - 8.1 Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-2020 (**Pages 21 - 30**)

Recommendation

That the report be noted.
 - 8.2 Standards Committee - Annual Report (**Pages 31 - 38**)

Recommendation

That the report be noted.
 - 8.3 Audit and Accounts Committee - Annual Treasury Management Report 2019/20 (**Pages 39 - 54**)

Recommendation

That the Annual Treasury Management Report 2019/20 be recommended for approval.

- 8 .4 Audit and Accounts Committee - Treasury Management Update 31 May 2020
(Pages 55 - 64)

Recommendation

That Members note the current Treasury Management position as at 31st May 2020.

- 8 .5 Audit and Accounts Committee - Treasury Management Update - 30 September 2020 **(Pages 65 - 80)**

Recommendation

That Members note the current Treasury Management position as at 30th September 2020.

- 8 .6 Audit and Accounts Committee - 2019/20 Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Audit & Accounts Committee **(Pages 81 - 98)**

Recommendation

That the Audit & Accounts Committee's terms of reference be approved.

9. Recommendations from meetings in the interim period prior to the Council Meeting, if any.
10. Notices of Motion in accordance with Procedure Rule No. 8, if any.

- 10 .1 Organisation of Local Government - Cllr S. Ralphs MBE

"Councillors will be aware of recent reports in the media with regards to potential changes to the organisation of Local Government including reference to the creation of a 'Greater Stoke' unitary authority.

In the Staffordshire Moorlands we have a strong track record of working in partnership with Staffordshire County Council, town/parish councils and the voluntary sector to improve the quality of life for our residents and ensuring that the voices of our communities are heard. The Coronavirus Pandemic has illustrated how we can successfully work together to support the population in the Staffordshire Moorlands by quickly addressing local needs whether by delivering food parcels to vulnerable people or by issuing grants to businesses.

I therefore propose that this Council writes to Government to make clear our view that the current two tier working between Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Staffordshire County Council be retained and that there should not be a move to create a 'Greater Stoke' unitary authority."

- 10 .2 Use of fireworks - Cllr. L. Malyon

"Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals. They can be a

source of fear and distress for many animals (including pet animals, farm livestock and wildlife). Animals affected not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries – sometimes very serious ones – as they attempt to run away or hide from the noise. I therefore propose that this Council resolves:

- To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.”

10 .3 Ban on the burning of peatlands - Cllr J. Porter

“Peatland occupies around 12% of the land area in the UK and is a natural carbon sponge. Our peatlands are worth around 15 years of UK carbon emissions and are a vital carbon lock. They are the UK’s rainforests and a vital part of addressing climate change.

Unfortunately, they can currently be developed on, dug up and used for horticulture, or burned. The lack of protection has resulted in many peatland fires in recent years, including the fire at The Roaches in the summer of 2018. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Staffordshire Police have been working hard to address this locally.

Research has found that burning peatland degrades habitats, releases carbon emissions, reduces biodiversity and increases flood risk. The burning of peatland is believed to be the most environmentally damaging of this activity.

Peatlands are an important habitat for plants and wildlife, can store water to prevent flooding and also stores carbon if it is in a healthy state. But when peatland is degraded, drained and burned it releases carbon, worsening climate change.

As a District Council, we call upon the Government to introduce an outright ban on the practice of peatland burning and to ensure the protection of peatlands across the UK for the sake of future generations. It would demonstrate the UK’s climate leadership in the run up to next year’s UN climate talks being held in the UK and would show the Prime Minister’s commitment to protecting 30 percent of the UK’s land for nature.”

11. To answer questions asked under Procedure Rule No. 10, if any.

(At least two clear days notice required, in writing, to the Proper Officer in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.3.)

12. To consider any political group appointments or changes to membership, if any.

13. Exclusion of the Press and Public:

The Chairman to move:-

“That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 100 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.”

14. To consider and debate any recommendations from the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Panels and Committees, if any.

15. To answer questions asked under Procedure Rule No. 10, if any.

At least two clear days notice required, in writing, to the Proper Officer in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.3.)