

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT AMENDMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BY NO LATER THAN 9.30AM ON TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2014

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

A MEETING of the **MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Tiverton on Wednesday 3 September 2014 at 6.00 pm.

ALL MEMBERS of the **COUNCIL** are summoned to attend for the purposes of transacting the business specified in the Agenda which is set out below.

[The next ordinary meeting is scheduled to be held in Tiverton on 29 October 2014 at 6.00 pm]



KEVIN FINAN
Chief Executive

26 August 2014

Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place

Father Paul Rea, St James Catholic Church, Tiverton will lead the Council in prayer.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes** - To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2 July 2014.

The Council is reminded that only those Members present at the previous meeting should vote and, in doing so, should be influenced only by seeking to ensure that the minutes are an accurate record.

3. **Chairman's Announcements** - To receive any announcements which the Chairman of the Council may wish to make.
4. **Public Question Time** - To receive any questions relating to items on the agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.

Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

5. **Petitions** – to receive any petitions from members of the public
6. **Notices of Motion**

(1) Motion 485 (Councillor Mrs N Woollatt - 21 August 2014)

To consider the following Motion of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 13.1:

“That this council writes to the relevant Minister to lobby for the legislative proposals referred to in Early Day Motion 277 (see below) to be brought forward.

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON DERELICT AND ABANDONED BUILDINGS

Session: 2014-15

Date tabled: 21.07.2014

Primary sponsor: Gilbert, Stephen

Sponsors:

That this House recognises the devastating effect that derelict and abandoned buildings can have on a community, both commercially and on its landscape; notes that such sites can pose a serious health and safety risk, especially as an attraction to homeless and younger people; further notes the effect of land banking as a barrier to regeneration and to sustainable development; and calls on the Government to bring forward legislative proposals to allow local planning authorities to tackle sites in their communities including allowing an administration charge to be levied against property owners to cover costs of safeguarding and assessing the site and to introduce a land value tax on vacant sites, similar to that already imposed in Denmark and discussed in the Barker Review 2003, in line with the value of business rates which would be payable if a permitted development had already taken place”.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 13.4 the Chairman of the Council has decided to allow this Motion (if Moved and Seconded) to be dealt with at this meeting.

2) Motion 486 (Councillors Mrs J Roach and Mrs N Woollatt – 21 August 2014)

To consider the following Motion of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 13.1:

'This Council resolves to change from the cabinet system of governance to a modernised committee system within the next two years. The Council recognises that in order for the taxpayers to have faith in the ability of the Mid Devon District Council to make effective and transparent decisions that there has to be a fundamental change in the decision making process. The Council also acknowledges that in a mature democracy there is a need for inclusive government which enables all members to make a valuable contribution in the running of the Council.'

In accordance with Procedure Rule 13.4 the Chairman of the Council has decided to allow this Motion (if Moved and Seconded) to be dealt with at this meeting.

3) Motion 487 (Councillor D F Pugsley – 21 August 2014)

To consider the following Motion of which Notice has been given pursuant to

Procedure Rule 13.1:

This Council regrets that it has had to pay so much towards the costs of successful planning appellants.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 13.4 the Chairman of the Council has decided to allow this Motion (if Moved and Seconded) to be dealt with at this meeting.

4) Motion 488 (Councillor D F Pugsley – 21 August 2014)

To consider the following Motion of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 13.1:

This Council approves of the Constitution, article 1.03, 5, whose purpose is to "create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account."

In accordance with Procedure Rule 13.4 the Chairman of the Council has decided to allow this Motion (if Moved and Seconded) to be dealt with at this meeting.

5) Motion 489 (Councillor Mrs J Roach – 22 August 2014)

To consider the following Motion of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 13.1:

TOWNS AGAINST TAX DODGING

The council notes:

It has been estimated that the UK Treasury loses as much as £12 billion to tax dodging by multinational companies every year. Developing countries lose three times more to tax dodging than they receive in aid each year – enough to give a basic education to the 57 million children currently missing out. The UK has a particular responsibility to end tax dodging, as it is responsible for 1 in 5 of the world's tax havens in the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. The use of tax havens by UK companies is rife, with 98 of the FTSE 100 companies routinely using tax havens. Large multinational companies pay as little as 5% in corporate taxes globally, while smaller businesses pay up to 30%.

This council believes:

As a local authority we have a duty to provide the best possible public services. Our ability to provide quality local services would be significantly enhanced by the increased revenues from the government tackling tax dodging. All who benefit from public spending should contribute their fair share. The UK must take a lead role in creating a fairer tax system and combatting tax dodging.

This council resolves:

To support the campaign for tax justice, supporting the motion:

“While many ordinary people face falling household income and rising costs of living, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share. Local governments in developing countries and the UK alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide quality public services. The UK government must listen to the strength of public feeling and act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies, in developing countries and the UK.”

In accordance with Procedure Rule 13.4 the Chairman of the Council has decided to allow this Motion (if Moved and Seconded) to be dealt with at this meeting.

6) Motion 490 (Councillor D F Pugsley – 22 August 2014)

To consider the following Motion of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 13.1:

Article 1.03, 5 of the Council's Constitution says that its purpose is to "create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account." The Council notes that the expression "decision-makers" applies to both officers and members.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 13.4 the Chairman of the Council has decided to allow this Motion (if Moved and Seconded) to be dealt with at this meeting.

7. Committee Reports (attached) - To receive and consider the reports, Minutes and recommendations of Committees as follows: -

(1) Cabinet

- 3 July 2014
- 31 July 2014

(2) Scrutiny Committee

- 14 July 2014
- 11 August 2014
- 28 August 2014 (to follow)

(3) Audit Committee

- 9 July 2014

(4) Managing the Environment Policy Development Group

- 8 July 2014

(5) Decent and Affordable Homes Policy Development Group

- 15 July 2014

(6) Community Well Being Policy Development Group

- 22 July 2014

(7) Planning Committee

- 16 July 2014
- 13 August 2014
- 27 August 2014 (to follow)

(8) Standards Committee

- 30 July 2014
- 28 August 2014 (to follow)

8 **Questions** - To deal with any questions raised pursuant to Procedure Rule 12 not already dealt with during the relevant Committee report.

9. **Access to Information - Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To consider passing the following resolution to protect the financial and business affairs of the authority.

Recommended that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

10. **Tiverton Town Centre Development** – to consider a report of the Head of Housing and Property Services.

11. **Questions to Cabinet Members** – Cabinet Members will answer questions from Members on their Portfolios.

12. **Members' Business** - To receive any statements made and Notice of future questions by Members.

Note: the time allowed for this item is limited to 15 minutes.