

Open

Council

Agenda

6pm
Wednesday, 25 September 2024
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Council

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4. If you have any special requirements regarding access to the venue and its facilities including audio and visual needs please let us know in advance so that we can make arrangements for you.
5. This Agenda can be made available in larger print on request; if you require a copy please contact:

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COUNCIL MEETING

17 September 2024

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND HONORARY ALDERMEN

PRESS AND PUBLIC

Dear Member

YOU ARE INVITED to attend a meeting of the Wyre Forest District Council to be held **at 6.00p.m. on Wednesday 25 September 2024**, in the Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster.

The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I R Miller".

Ian Miller
Chief Executive

Disclosure of Interests

Members and co-opted Members of the Council are reminded that, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the statutory provisions of the Localism Act, they are required to consider in ADVANCE of each meeting whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), an other registrable interest (ORI) or a non-registrable interest (NRI) in relation to any matter on the agenda. If advice is needed, Members should contact the Monitoring Officer or other legal officer in good time before the meeting.

If any Member or co-opted Member of the Council identifies a DPI or ORI which they have not already registered on the Council's register of interests or which requires updating, they should complete the disclosure form which can be obtained from Democratic Services at any time, copies of which will be available at the meeting for return to the Monitoring Officer.

Members and co-opted Members are required to disclose any DPis and ORIs at the meeting. Where the matter relates to a DPI they may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not stay in the meeting unless granted a dispensation.

Where the matter relates to an ORI they may not vote on the matter unless granted an advance dispensation.

Where a Member or co-opted Member has an NRI which directly relates to their financial interest or wellbeing, or that of a relative or close associate, they must disclose the interest at the meeting, may not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not stay in the meeting unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter affects the NRI of a Member or co-opted Member, the Code of Conduct sets out the test which must be applied by the MEMBER to decide whether disclosure is required. Again please ensure you have spoken in ADVANCE to the relevant legal officer and determined whether it is appropriate to declare the NRI and leave.

(A) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council

1. Is the ultimate decision making Body.
2. Determines the Budget (but reserves powers to itself in relation to requirements).
3. Is responsible for appointing (and dismissing) the Leader of the Council.
4. Appoints at its Annual Meeting, the Regulatory Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other Committees/Forums necessary to conduct the Council's business.
5. Decides on matters where the Cabinet is not minded to determine a matter in accordance with Council policy.

(B) MATTERS RESERVED TO THE COUNCIL

1. Those reserved by Law e.g. levying a rate, borrowing money, promotion of or opposition to a Bill in Parliament.
2. Matters reserved to the Council by financial regulations.
3. The adoption and amendment of Standing Orders, including the powers and duties of Committees and other forums.
4. Power to make, amend, revoke or enact or enforce any byelaws.
5. The determination of the objectives of the Council.
6. Matters of new policy or variation of existing policy as contained within the budget and policy framework.
7. Local Development Framework adoption.

8. Any function where a decision would be contrary to a plan, policy, budget or strategy previously adopted by the Council, which would be contrary to the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or Executive arrangements.
9. The Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

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At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

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By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to be filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and or training purposes.

If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the Stourport and Bewdley Room where they can still view the meeting.

If any attendee is under the age of 18 the written consent of his or her parent or guardian is required before access to the meeting room is permitted. Persons under 18 are welcome to view the meeting from the Stourport and Bewdley Room.

If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.

* Unless there are no reports in the open session.

Wyre Forest District Council

Council

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Prayers To be read by Rev Simon Harry of Bewdley Baptist Church, High Street, Bewdley	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), an other registrable interest (ORI) or a non-registrable interest (NRI) in relation to any matter on the agenda. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024.	10
5.	Public Participation In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Public Speaking at Meetings of Full Council, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 16 September 2024. No requests for public participation were received by the deadline. <i>If you wish to speak on an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline and you could not reasonably have known about it at the time, you should register your interest in speaking no later than 9am on the day of the meeting of Council. In the case of a request to speak on an urgent matter, the Solicitor to the Council will rule on whether or not the matter is urgent and that ruling will be final.</i>	
6.	Chairman's Communications To note the engagements of the Chairman of the Council since the Council's last meeting.	19

7.	<p>Leader of the Council Announcements</p> <p>To receive announcements from the Leader of the Council.</p>	
8. (a)	<p>Policy and Budget Framework</p> <p>Matters which require a Decision by Council.</p> <p>Recommendations from the Licensing & Environmental Committee, 5 August 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavement Licensing - The Business & Planning Act 2020 <p>Please note that the reports and associated documents, referred to above, have been circulated electronically to Members.</p>	20
9.	<p>Questions</p> <p>To receive questions submitted by Members of the Council and the replies of the Leader of the Council, or relevant Cabinet Member, in accordance with Standing Order 1.9, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 16 September 2024</p> <p>Twelve questions have been received by the deadline.</p> <p><i>In the case of an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline above, and could not have been reasonably known at that time, it must be delivered in writing to the Solicitor to the Council no later than 9am on the day of Council.</i></p>	21
10.	<p>Motions Submitted under Standing Orders</p> <p>To consider Motions in the order in which notice has been received.</p> <p>1. Notice of Motion by the Conservative Group Proposed by Councillor D Morehead Seconded by Councillor M Hart.</p> <p>This Council expresses great concern at the Government's proposals to change the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>Whilst this Council agrees the need for more housing and in particular more affordable housing this Council opposes these top-down housing figures.</p> <p>Whilst this Council agrees that a standard methodology for setting housing figures has its merits and is clear and transparent, we do not support the methodology proposed.</p> <p>We believe that the standard methodology should be based on household projections, in line with the approach used to develop the Council's current adopted local plan.</p> <p>This Council totally opposes the proposed methodology which would see Wyre Forest District's requirement to deliver annual dwellings per annum increase from 276 to 617.</p> <p>This Council resolves to maintain its commitment to defending the</p>	

Green Belt and not to build one more house in the Green Belt than is necessary.

This Council **endorses** the response agreed by Cabinet on 10th September and acknowledging the official consultation closed at 11:45pm on 24th September, **resolves** to request that the Chief Executive formally writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing our objection to this proposal.

This Council further **resolves** to request that the Chief Executive write to our Member of Parliament Mark Garnier to notify him of this Council's position and request that he do all that he can to oppose the proposals and lobby the Government accordingly.

**2. Notice of Motion by the Conservative Group
Proposed by Councillor M Hart
Seconded by Councillor D Ross**

This Council **deplores** the Labour Government's decision to remove the universal Winter Fuel Allowance payments to all old age pensioners.

This Council believes that this will lead to many thousands of pensioners who are amongst the most vulnerable in our society across Wyre Forest having to decide whether to heat their homes or eat this winter.

This Council expresses outrage that this key decision affecting circa 10 million pensioners nationally and circa 21,000 in Wyre Forest has been taken arbitrarily and was not in the Labour Party's Manifesto for the 4th July General Election.

This Council **agrees** that this is an act of bad faith and it will unfairly punish and adversely affect the many pensioners just above the threshold that can claim pension credit at a time when energy costs are set to rise again this winter by at least 10-15%.

This Council **resolves** to request that the Chief Executive writes on behalf of the Council to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that this decision is reversed with immediate effect.

This Council further **resolves** to request that the Chief Executive write to our Member of Parliament Mark Garnier to notify him of this Council's position and request that he do all that he can to lobby the Government to reverse this decision.

**3. Notice of Motion by the Liberal Democrat Group
Proposed by Councillor F Oborski MBE
Seconded by Councillor S Miah**

Council is appalled that, when an increase in Gas and Electricity Charges has been announced, HMG has chosen to spitefully punish thousands of pensioners by withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Payment.

Council recognises that of 24,553 State Pension Claimants in Wyre Forest only 2,743 benefit from Pension Credit and will continue to receive Winter Fuel Payments.

	<p>Council further recognises that some of the 21,810 State Pensioners who will be deprived of this payment there will be some with good private pensions who do not need the payment.</p> <p>However, Council is concerned that several thousand pensioners with pensions just above Pension Credit Level, often by only £10-£15 will suffer severe hardship from this spiteful cut.</p> <p>Council believes that it is completely unacceptable for any pensioners to have to choose between heating and eating this winter.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <p>Work with partner agencies such as Registered Social Landlords to ensure maximum take up of Pension Credit.</p> <p>Utilise any available funding eg Household Support Fund to assist pensioners just above Pension Credit Level.</p> <p>Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging her to use a different indicator such as Council Tax Band or Higher Rate Income Tax Band to assess whether or not a Pensioner Household should receive Winter Fuel Payment.</p>	
11.	<p>Emergency Motions submitted under Standing Orders</p> <p>To consider Emergency Motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.1 (i).</p>	
12.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
13.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

14.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER**

17 JULY 2024 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: J F Byng (Chairman), P Harrison (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, E Bourne, B Brookes, L Carroll, V Caulfield, G Connolly, N J Desmond, R Drew, H E Dyke, P Dyke, K Gale, N Gale, J Griffiths, I Hardiman, M J Hart, K Henderson, D Little, M McDonnell, S Miah, D Morehead, F M Oborski MBE, T L Onslow, M Rayner, C Rogers, D Ross, D Russell, A Sutton, L Whitehouse, N Wilson and P W M Young.

C.23 Prayers

Prayers were read by Rev David Hildred, Team Rector Kidderminster East.

Councillor N Wilson entered the meeting at 6.03pm.

C.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor: N Martin.

C.25 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

C.26 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.27 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

C.28 Chairman's Communications

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting. The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman for attending events in his absence. He announced that he was holding a charity quiz night on Saturday 26 October at St George's Hall, Bewdley. Further details would be circulated in due course.

C.29 Leader of the Council Announcements

The Leader of the Council referred members to his tabled report. A copy of the announcements is available for viewing on the Council's website. https://forms.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/docs/doc59604_20240717_council_report.pdf

C.30 Community Governance Review (CGR): Kidderminster Foreign

Council considered a report from the Chief Executive that sought to agree various matters relating to the community governance review of Kidderminster Foreign Parish, which is to commence on 1 September 2024.

The Leader presented the report. He gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

Councillor B Brookes seconded the recommendations.

Upon a show of hands, the proposal was agreed.

Decision: Council APPROVED:

- 1.1 The terms of reference for the review in Appendix 1, commencing on 1 September 2024;**
- 1.2 The question to be asked in the local advisory poll on 1 May 2025 under section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003, together with the franchise and other procedural rules for the poll, set out in Appendix 3;**
- 1.3 The Returning Officer (as counting officer) be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to supplement the rules for the advisory poll as set out in rule 12 in Appendix 3.**

C.31 Review of the May 2024 local elections and July 2024 UK Parliamentary election

Council received a report from the Returning Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioner and Kidderminster Town Council elections held on 2 May 2024, and the UK Parliamentary election held on 4 July 2024.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the report and formally moved the report for noting. He thanked the Returning Officer and the Acting Returning Officer for the UK Parliamentary election for providing the comprehensive report.

The Cabinet Member gave a summary of the background detailed in the report.

Agenda Item No. 4

A discussion ensued. In response to comments from a couple of members, the Chief Executive assured Council that any issues raised as part of the 'wash up' de-brief session had been addressed.

The Leader seconded the recommendation.

Upon a show of hands, the proposal was agreed.

Decision: Council NOTED the report.

C.32 Annual report of the Audit Committee, 2023/2024

Council received the annual report of the Audit Committee for the municipal year 2023/2024.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report. He outlined the key areas as detailed in the report and was pleased to advise that there were no areas for concern. He thanked the Head of Resources and S151 Officer and her team for their hard work and formally asked Council to note the report.

The Vice-chairman of the Committee seconded the proposal. He echoed the thanks conveyed to the Head of Resources and S151 Officer and her team. He said the training provided to members had been invaluable and looked forward to the continued development opportunities over the next three years.

Decision: Council NOTED the annual report of the Audit Committee.

C.33 Questions

Nine questions had been submitted by members of the council in accordance with standing orders.

1. Question from Councillor L Carroll to the Leader of the Council

Do you believe that members of this council have the right to scrutinise your administration?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

Yes.

Supplementary question

At the Overview and Scrutiny a few months back, there was one important item of business about the garden waste bins. I was a bit concerned a couple of your backbenchers made comments about it being a waste of time as there was only one item on the agenda. Are they right or are you as it can't be both?

Supplementary answer

We are both right and I noted the pun and I congratulate whichever one of my backbenchers said it was a "waste of time" because we are talking

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about waste. I think what they were referring to, is that there was rather a storm in a teacup with the brown bin collections and the information, which was soon remedied. Ultimately, it is a matter for the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to decide what they wish to scrutinise but it is right and proper that the Conservative members play their part as they did and if they didn't feel that it was worthy of scrutiny, I absolutely echo and endorse that. Indeed, on that particular instance, I 100% agree with them. If you have major concerns about wanting to scrutinise this executive, as the Leader of the Labour Group, you would be lobbying the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that Scrutiny meetings take place. Whilst of course the last meeting was cancelled because of the day of the General Election, it could easily have taken place the following Monday or on some other convenient date.

2. Question from Councillor M McDonnell to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

The St George's Park Paddling Pool is an important community resource in an area of need. It also gives the opportunity for pre-school children across Kidderminster to access water safely during the summer months. However, the pool has been closed since the end of 2022 due to structural problems. Is the Council able to offer any assistance to get this vital resource back up and running?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

As I am sure you are aware, the ownership of the park was transferred to Kidderminster Town Council in January 2023. The transfer was part of a package and it was accompanied by a support grant of £186,000. As this asset is owned by Kidderminster Town Council, I suggest this is a matter for them and not for this Council.

Supplementary question

Is there a pot of money that could help? I have to be careful because I wasn't a Councillor at the time but, I understand there was also a sum of £20,000 offered at one point in 2012. I am speaking from what people have told me, is that right and will it ever be paid?

Supplementary answer

Thank you, Councillor McDonnell. I, like you, was not a member of the Council in 2012 so I have no idea if that is correct so I cannot comment on that.

3. Question from Councillor V Caulfield to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

Is this council committed to protecting local biodiversity?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

In short, the answer is yes. However, this is in a number of ways. As you will be aware in December 2023, Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) Climate Action Plan was completed and this does include biodiversity, and

Agenda Item No. 4

the measures that we are already taking. Wyre Forest Wild is a great example of this, as it is promoting pollination across the district through pollination patches. As part of our manifesto, we have also committed to planting 10,000 trees, which will support an increase in biodiversity and, in the last 15 months, over 2,500 of those have already been planted. We continue to look at opportunities to protect biodiversity across the thousand acres of land, 15 nature reserves and 8 parks under the Council's ownership. We also work well together with local groups such as the Wyre Forest Green Alliance, who identify options to work together. Furthermore, the Council's adopted Local Plan also sets out the expectation for any proposed developments to deliver measurable net gains in biodiversity for the promotion and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection of recovery of legally protected and priority species populations. The planning authority is, therefore, committed to protecting local biodiversity, as set out in statutory legislation. Furthermore, WFDC is a partner in the Worcestershire Biodiversity Partnership, an association of organisations working together to deliver the Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan, which sets out plans to protect and conserve priority habitats and species in the county. At WFDC, we are also currently completing our Biodiversity Action Plan, and this will be completed in autumn this year so, as you can see, we are not just protecting local biodiversity but actively trying to increase it.

Supplementary question

I think we are all proud of our record on biodiversity here in the Wyre Forest. I think it is a shame, therefore, that we are no further forward with reducing our use of pesticides. Would the Cabinet Member, and possibly other Cabinet Members, agree to looking into this issue and how we can reduce our use of pesticides, as this would further protect our local biodiversity, particularly our pollinators, as you mentioned?

Supplementary answer

Thank you for that follow up and that probably sits with Councillor Brookes in his role in Operational Services. However, obviously as Cabinet Member for the Green Agenda, I should respond. We use pesticides across the district but the reassurance that I would give is that it is very limited. We do use Glyphosate in as small a quantity as possible, with individual problem plants being targeted by trained skilled operatives, using spot applicators to negate any spread of the chemical to non-target plants or environments. There is no mass spraying in the district and, therefore, it cannot contaminate any further. As Council can see, the use is minimal, targeted and controlled but, I am sure, if you speak to the Cabinet Member, he will be able to elaborate further.

4. Question from Councillor M Rayner to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Please can you tell us when the bridge in Springfield Park is going to be replaced? We were originally promised May this year. We are now two months further in the year and the time is passing very quickly.

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

It was certainly mine, and this Council's ambition to have this bridge replaced before the summer period, and as you are aware and have been previously briefed by officers, it was discovered that this bridge was owned by Worcestershire County Council and therefore within their remit to replace the bridge. I believe the current estimated date for the County Council works to commence is in the autumn.

Supplementary question

The current process for the reinstatement of this bridge has been rather protracted, accompanied by the spurious stories, including fish contents of the river brook. How do you think you can rectify this situation swiftly and avoid the repetition of such a scenario in the future?

Supplementary answer

The protracted timeframe that you refer to and the reasoning is all down to the Environment Agency and their need for a licence with regards to salmon in the water course. Unfortunately, that's not within my remit to control the Environment Agency, much as I would like it, or indeed as much as you would like it to be.

5. Question from Councillor P Young to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

What is the current position regarding the redevelopment of the former Leisure Centre in Bromsgrove Street?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

As part of the administration's manifesto it was to develop Worcester Street and the former Glades site on Bromsgrove Street. I am delighted to share that Hemmingway Design have been appointed to prepare the feasibility study for this site, which also includes Crown House and the Worcester Street sites. The first site visit took place on 23rd May and an inception meeting with the Council team took place on 25th June. We expect the feasibility study to be completed by October 2024. The key principle is to identify a deliverable scheme which will strengthen the town centre's viability and vitality, and the town centre businesses will be consulted as part of the stakeholder engagement process. Now we were, like you all, looking forward to a further £20million from the Conservative government if they were re-elected, and we were shocked, as you were all, at the outcome of the election, we all expected a sea of blue not of red that we got. But on a serious note, we are looking forward to understanding what the new Labour government will announce in terms of Levelling-Up funding and make sure that we are ready to secure this, whilst also making the town an attractive proposition for private investment.

Supplementary question

If I can just clarify then, did I hear right that the development will be completed, or is it just going to be started in October of this year, and it is going to be a residential development presumably. Is that right?

Supplementary answer

So, the feasibility study has been commissioned, that will happen this year. The feasibility study for those sites will be completed in October 2024. From there, obviously we need to understand what the most viable options are for those sites, then afterwards, as I have said securing funding to be able to do that either a private investment or government grant will obviously be the way for us being able to realise that.

6. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

The new Government has announced that it will be imposing top down house building targets on local councils and apparently requiring Green Belt Reviews. Given that WFDC has an adopted Local Plan and held a Green Belt Review as part of the Local Plan Process what is his response to the Government's Proposals?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

As you have clearly called out there, at this point we don't have any of the detailed information from the government on how they intend to approach this or any target numbers for our district. We currently have an adopted Local Plan that is based on the mandatory housing targets that were in place in 2019 plus 20%, and there is no obligation to review the Local Plan at this current time. The Council continues to deliver against the Local Plan meeting the annual housing delivery target. Any revision to the National Planning Policy Framework will be consulted on, and we will then consider if a review of the plan is required as a consequence of any changes introduced. However, I wish to make it absolutely clear we have a manifesto pledge not to allocate any green belt land unless we are mandated to by government, and that will remain the case for the lifetime of this administration.

Supplementary question

Do you agree with me that any suggestion of a further green belt review being imposed on this council will actually be met with horror and alarm by a considerable number of local residents, many of whom are still not happy about the decisions that we made when we took land out of the green belt?

Supplementary answer

Yes, just to reiterate the last part of what I just said, absolutely we will, as everybody else in this chamber will, and we will only progress with that if we are absolutely mandated by government.

7. Question from Councillor P Young to the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Well-being

Regarding the former Post Office site in the Horsefair, damaged by fire some years ago, I understand that there was to be a Compulsory Purchase Order so that the site could be made available for redevelopment. What is the present position?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Well-being

I cannot confirm the timetable as there are other parties involved not only the landowner, but we will take a fresh decision through Cabinet as soon as possible to do so. We have engaged a consultant with expertise in this work, and they have outlined a number of steps the Council needs to take, including identifying a deliverable end use.

8. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Already this year the Brinton Park Splash Pad has had to be closed because of a "fouling" incident. What steps are being taken to educate parents of young children using the facility to ensure that adequate "protection" is being worn by young children?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Unfortunately, this is the nature of the beast, and it is an issue faced by all splash pad and pool operators. Clear information advising parents whose children are not toilet trained is displayed at both the Brinton Park facility and on our website and it advises them that they should be wearing a swim nappy. Our media team has also reinforced the message on social media, and we would hate for this Council to be a nanny state and perhaps pamper our residents.

Supplementary question

Could you tell me what the additional cost to this Council of every such incident is?

Supplementary answer

No, I can't but I can happily find that out for you and send that onto you afterwards.

9. Question from Councillor P Young to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

Are there any plans to develop the site on New Road, which was the site of the former British Heart Foundation also destroyed by fire some years ago?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

Yes, absolutely and that is included in the feasibility study that I mentioned when I answered the previous question. It is included in the same timeframe.

Supplementary question

The similar timeframe?

Supplementary answer

Yes.

C.34 Motions Submitted under Standing Orders

No motions were received by the deadline.

C.35 Emergency Motions submitted under Standing Orders

There were no emergency motions.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.06pm.

The meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website.

<https://wyreforestdc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>

Chairman's List of Functions – 2024

July 2024 to Sept 2024

Sat 27 th July 2024	Mayor of Worcester, Three Choirs Festival
Sat 3 rd Aug 2024	Mayor of Evesham, The Battle of Evesham Parade and Festival.
Sat 17 th Aug 2024	Mayor of Pershore's Coffee Morning
Sun 18 th Aug 2024	Mayor of Bewdley's Civic Service, St Anne's Church, Bewdley
Sun 25 th Aug 2024	Mayor of Stourport's Charity Shenanigans, War Memorial Park, Stourport
Tue 3 rd Sept 2024	Raising of Merchant Navy flag – (both Chairman and Vice Chairman attended)
Sat 7 th Sept 2024	Mayor of Stourport, Stourport-on-Severn Carnival
Sun 8 th Sept 2024	Mayor of Bewdley Hog Roast and Craft Fayre – (both Chairman and Vice Chairman attended)

* Denotes attendance by Vice Chairman

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
25 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATIONS
LICENSING & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
5 AUGUST 2024**

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Licensing & Environmental Committee on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the committee agenda pack. A public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council’s website. See the report on page 8 of the pdf at this link:

https://forms.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/docs/doc59635_20240805_1_and_e_agenda.pdf

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE
<p>Pavement Licensing - The Business & Planning Act 2020</p> <p>The Licensing & Environmental Committee recommend to Council that the fees with effect from 1 October 2024 shall be £350 for a renewal application and £500 in any other case.</p>	<p>Councillor C Rogers</p>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
25 SEPTEMBER 2024**

QUESTIONS

1. Question from Councillor M Rayner to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Please can the relevant cabinet member tell us how negotiations with the environment agency are progressing with the reinstatement of the bridge in Springfield Park?

2. Question from Councillor L Carroll to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Well-being

Do you support more social housing in Wyre Forest?

3. Question from Councillor S Miah to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety

Could the cabinet member set out the District Council's view on the importance of the Remembrance Sunday parade both to remember the veterans of the wars but also for community engagement?

4. Question from Councillor V Caulfield to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Well-being

Across the country there is widespread concern about the state of our rivers, what can we as a council do to protect and restore the health of our local rivers?

5. Question from Councillor P Young to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

The previous administration was looking into the possibility of arranging the collection of food waste for re-cycling. What is the current position please?

6. Question from Councillor H Dyke to the Leader of the Council

Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether he and the Conservative administration still support the practice of the "No Surprises" protocol please?

7. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

Is the Cabinet Member aware of the impact that delays in completing the work on the former Magistrates Court Complex has had on the neighbouring Boars Head pub?

8. Question from Councillor M Rayner to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Please can the relevant cabinet member tell us how much household waste is recycled?

9. Question from Councillor H Dyke to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Can the Cabinet Member responsible for Operational Services advise if there has been any effort to reduce the amount of glyphosate used by this council over the past 12 months?

10. Question from Councillor M Rayner to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Can the relevant cabinet member tell us how and when the roads are swept across the district?

11. Question from Councillor H Dyke to the Leader of the Council

In the recent council press release concerning the government's plans for future housebuilding numbers, the cabinet member commented "our current local plan was adopted in 2022 which means we are well placed for now" and the Leader at the last Council meeting stated "Wyre Forest benefits from an up to date Local Plan". Taking these comments into account would the Leader of the Council now agree that the then Administration made the correct decision to propose and vote for the Local Plan in April 2022 with the aim to protect our Greenbelt as much as possible?

12. Question from Councillor H Dyke to the Cabinet Member Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

Could the Cabinet member responsible for the EVC roll out please advise if everything is going to plan as per the press release issued by this council a while ago?