

Standards

Committee

Thu 25 Jul
2013
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL


*making
a
difference*

www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect lists of background papers used in the preparation of public reports.
- Access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Access to a public register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc.
- A reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports relating to items to be considered in public must be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council and its Committees etc.
- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
- Access to a summary of the rights of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees etc. and to inspect and copy documents.
- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
- (Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council’s Website:
www.redditchbc.gov.uk

**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact
Debbie Parker-Jones
Committee Support Services**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: (01527) 881411 Fax: (01527) 65216
email: d.parkerjones@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk**

Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Committee Support Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

Running Order

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

Refreshments : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

Decisions

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

Members of the Public

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Committee Support Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Support Officer (see foot of page opposite).

Fire/ Emergency instructions

If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.

If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.

The emergency **Assembly Area** is on **Walter Stranz Square**.



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25th July 2013

7.00 pm

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Committee Room 2, Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Redditch Borough Councillors: Pat Witherspoon (Chair)
 Michael Braley (Vice-Chair)
 Joe Baker
 Michael Chalk
 Andrew Fry
 Phil Mould
 Brenda Quinney
 Luke Stephens
 Derek Taylor

Feckenham Parish Council
 Representative (non-voting
 co-opted): Fiona Hawker

Observers: Michael Collins (Independent Observer)
 Wreide Poole (Deputy Feckenham Parish
 Council Representative)

<p>1. Apologies</p>	<p>To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend this meeting and notification of any substitutes.</p>
<p>2. Declarations of Interest</p>	<p>To invite Councillors to declare any interests they may have in items on the agenda.</p>
<p>3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6) Chief Executive</p>	<p>To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 8th April 2013. (Minutes attached)</p>
<p>4. Monitoring Officer's Report (Pages 7 - 10) Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services</p>	<p>To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer on any matters of relevance to the Committee. (Report attached) (No Direct Ward Relevance)</p>

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<p>5. Parish Council Report (if any)</p>	<p>To consider any report from the Feckenham Parish Council Representative on any matters of relevance to the Committee.</p> <p>(Oral report)</p> <p>(Astwood Bank & Feckenham Ward)</p>
<p>6. Localism Act 2011 - Updated Arrangements for Handling Standards Complaints Against Members</p> <p>(Pages 11 - 26)</p> <p>Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services</p>	<p>To consider a report on a 12 month review of the working of the adopted Arrangements for Handling Complaints against Members under the new Standards regime.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(No Direct Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>7. Work Programme</p> <p>(Pages 27 - 32)</p> <p>Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services</p>	<p>To consider and review the Committee's Work Programme.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(No Direct Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>8. Exclusion of the Public</p>	<p>Should it prove necessary, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, to exclude the public from the meeting at any point during the proceedings in relation to any item(s) of business on the grounds that either exempt and/or confidential information is likely to be divulged, the following resolution(s) will be moved:</p> <p>"That under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, it/they involve the likely disclosure of <u>exempt</u> information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant paragraphs of that part being (<i>...to be specified by the Chairman at the meeting</i>), and that it is in the public interest to do so.", and/or</p> <p>"That under Section 100 A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, it/they involve the likely disclosure of <u>confidential</u> information which would be in breach of an obligation of confidence."</p>