

Council



Listening Learning Leading

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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2015 AT 10.30 AM

at

**THE FOUNTAIN CONFERENCE CENTRE, HOWBERY PARK,
CROWMARSH GIFFORD**

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. These include large print, Braille, audio cassette or CD, and email. For this or any other special requirements (such as access facilities) please contact the officer named on this agenda. Please give as much notice as possible before the meeting

MARGARET REED
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Note: Please remember to sign the attendance register.

Agenda

Map

A map showing the location of Howbery Park is attached, as is a plan showing the location of the Fountain Conference Centre on the Howbery Park site.

1 Apologies

2 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 8 - 9)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2015 (attached).

4 Chairman's announcements

5 Questions from the public and public participation

6 Questions under Council procedure rule 11

None.

7 Joint Statement of Licensing Policy (Pages 10 - 48)

At its meeting on 24 November 2015, the Licensing Acts Committee considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services. This proposed a statement of licensing policy, jointly developed with Vale of White Horse District Council. A copy of the draft policy agreed for recommendation to Council is attached.

The minutes of the Licensing Acts Committee held on 24 November are available on the council's website at:

<http://democratic.southoxon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=1844&x=1>

Recommendations to Council: to

1. adopt the Joint Statement of Licensing Policy;
2. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make minor editorial changes to the Joint Statement of Licensing Policy;
3. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to publish the Joint Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

8 Joint Gambling Policy (Pages 49 - 93)

(Cabinet member responsible: Mrs J Murphy)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 December 2015, considered the recommendations of the Licensing Acts Committee, made at its meeting on 24 November 2015, on the Joint Gambling Policy following the statutory consultation.

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, which Cabinet considered on 3 December, is attached.

Recommendations to Council: to

1. adopt the proposed Joint Gambling Policy;
2. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make minor editorial changes to the Joint Gambling Policy; and
3. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to publish the Joint Gambling Policy in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Authority Policy Statement)(England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

9 Council tax reduction scheme grant for town and parish councils (Pages 94 - 99)

(Cabinet member responsible: Mrs J Murphy)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 December 2015, considered a report on the council tax reduction scheme for town and parish councils.

The report of the Head of Finance, which Cabinet considered on 3 December, is attached.

Recommendations to Council: to

1. bring forward a new scheme of distributing the grant for consideration during 2016;
2. cease with immediate effect the current methodology for distributing the council tax reduction scheme; and
3. make £152,000 available for the new grant scheme when Council sets its revenue budget for 2016/17.

10 Council Tax Base 2016/17 (Pages 100 - 103)

(Cabinet member responsible: Mrs J Murphy)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 December 2015, considered a report on the council tax base for 2016/17.

The report of the Head of Finance, which Cabinet considered on 3 December, is attached.

Recommendations to Council:

1. that the report of the Head of Finance for the calculation of the council's tax base and the calculation of the tax base for each parish area for 2016/17 be approved;
2. that, in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by South Oxfordshire District Council as its council tax base for the year 2016/17 be 54,965.0; and
3. that, in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by South Oxfordshire District Council as the council tax base for the year 2016/17 for each parish be the amount shown against the name of that parish in Appendix 1 of the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 3 December 2015.

11 Review of political balance following Sandford and the Wittenhams and Sonning Common by elections

At the by-elections held on Thursday 8 October and Thursday 22 October 2015 Mrs Sue Lawson was elected as a councillor for the Sandford and the Wittenhams Ward and Mr William Hall was elected to the Sonning Common Ward.

Both councillors have formally joined the Conservative Group. This does not affect the political balance of the council and therefore the seat allocation on committees because the previous ward councillors were also members of the Conservative Group.

Recommendations

1. That Council allocates the vacant seats on the General Licensing Committee, Housing Appeals Panel, Joint Scrutiny Committee, Licensing Acts Committee, Planning Committee and Scrutiny Committee to the Conservative Group.
2. To authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make appointments to the above and vacant substitute places in accordance with the wishes of the Conservative Group Leader.

12 Councillors' allowances scheme

The councillors' allowances scheme allows for the allowances payable under the scheme to be increased by the same percentage as the annual staff pay increase and for travel and subsistence allowances to be increased to the maximum rates payable to officers of the council in line with the HM Revenue and Customs' rates.

Council is invited to agree whether to increase the basic and special responsibility allowances from 1 April 2016 and travel and subsistence in line with the rates payable to officers.

13 Review of the council's constitution (Pages 104 - 113)

To consider the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on proposed changes to the council's constitution attached.

14 Motions under Council procedure rule 41

None.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services