

21st February 2006

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

A MEETING OF KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL will be held in the Council Chamber, Browfort, Devizes at 2.15pm on **Tuesday 28th February 2006**, to which all Members are summoned to attend for the transaction of the business specified in the agenda below.

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Solicitor to the Council

Browfort
Bath Road
Devizes
Wiltshire

To: All Members of Kennet District Council

AGENDA

All enquiries on this agenda should be directed to
Phillip Hamilton, Tel. 01380 734617

THE MEETING WILL OPEN WITH A PRAYER

Part 1

Items to be considered whilst the meeting is open to the public

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20th December 2005, copy attached for Members and Officers.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Kennet Code of Conduct.

If in doubt, Members are asked to seek advice from the Chief Executive, Solicitor to the Council or the Democratic Services Team Leader prior to the meeting.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

5. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule no. 9. to deal with any relevant questions from members of the public.

Anyone wishing to ask a question should contact Mr S Giles, Tel: 01380 724911. Advice to the public and a leaflet about the scheme is available from the Democratic Services Section.

6. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

To receive the minutes, including any recommendations, of the meetings of the following Committees (copies attached for Members and Officers) and to take such action and make decisions as may be required arising therefrom.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting date</u>
Community Development Executive	17 th January 2006
Planning Policies Executive	16 th December 2005
Joint Executive Committees (the recommendation in minute no 4 will be taken with agenda item no. 9 following)	2nd February 2006
Resources Executive	7th February 2005
Regulatory	15 th December 2005, 4 th January 2006 (site meeting), 5 th January and 26 th January 2006.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, Councillor G Brewer, supported by Councillor B Twigger, has submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“That Kennet District Council

(i) expresses its concern at

- the decline of local services and facilities which affects local communities and in particular the elderly and people on the lowest incomes;
- the resulting decline of local jobs and local economies and the resulting extra traffic and pollution caused by the need to travel further

(ii) and notes that this combination of factors increases people’s feelings of exclusion and lack of involvement; and so

(iii) supports measures to reverse this process and

(iv) supports the concept of local sustainability as envisaged in the Sustainable Communities Bill, namely;

- the promotion of local economies
- the promotion of local services and facilities
- the protection of the environment
- the reduction of social exclusion and
- measures to increase involvement in the democratic process

(v) and accordingly resolves to support the Sustainable Communities Bill which

- requires the government to assist councils and communities in promoting local sustainability in ways decided by those councils and communities; and
- sets up a participative process whereby councils and communities can drive the way in which government uses its power and influence to assist with the promotion of local sustainability; and
- recognises therefore that the Bill provides for a ‘bottom-up’ rather than a ‘top down’ one-size-fits-all process
- notes that this Bill is therefore fully in accord with current thinking in local government in that it impacts on central authorities and does not impose any new duties on councils but instead enables them to

influence how government uses its resources and influence to help councils and communities; and

- specifically provides that where councils themselves decide to take action to promote local sustainability that they should be given the resources to do so; and so

(vi) and further resolves

- to inform the local media of this decision;
- to write to our local MP, asking him to support the Bill; and sign EDM (Early Day Motion) No. 641; and
- to write to the Local Works Campaign (at 94 White Lion St, London N1 9PF) expressing its support.”

Note:- In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, once moved and seconded, the matter will automatically stand referred to Community Development Executive Committee for consideration and report unless the Chairman of Council decides that the matter should be dealt with at this meeting.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11

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- (i) expresses its concern at
 - the decline of local services and facilities which affects local communities and in particular the elderly and people on the lowest incomes;
 - the resulting decline of local jobs and local economies and the resulting extra traffic and pollution caused by the need to travel further
- (ii) and notes that this combination of factors increases people's feelings of exclusion and lack of involvement; and so
- (iii) supports measures to reverse this process and
- (iv) supports the concept of locally sustainability as envisaged in the Sustainable Communities Bill, namely;
 - the promotion of local economies
 - the promotion of local services and facilities
 - the protection of the environment
 - the reduction of social exclusion and
 - measures to increase involvement in the democratic process

- (v) and accordingly resolves to support the Sustainable Communities Bill which
- requires the government to assist councils and communities in promoting local sustainability in ways decided by those councils and communities; and
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 - specifically provides that where councils themselves decide to take action to promote local sustainability that they should be given the resources to do so; and so

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- to inform the local media of this decision
- to write to our local MP, asking him to support the Bill; and sign EDM (Early Day Motion) No. 641; and
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Note:- In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, once moved and seconded, the matter will automatically stand referred to Community Development Executive Committee for consideration and report unless the Chairman of Council decides that the matter should be dealt with at this meeting.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, Councillor Mrs P M Winchcombe, supported by Councillor Mrs J M Giles, has submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council seek clarification from the Secretary of State for Health on her recent statement about Community Hospitals and its implications for the residents of Kennet.”

Note:- In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, once moved and seconded, the matter will automatically stand referred to

Community Development Executive Committee for consideration and report unless the Chairman of Council decides that the matter should be dealt with at this meeting.

10. COUNCIL TAX 2006-2007

To set the Council Tax, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for the Kennet District for the financial year 2006-2007 having regard to the recommendations set out in minute no. 4 of the minutes of the Joint Executive Committees held on 2nd February 2006.

The draft proposed recommendations are set out in the Appendix to this agenda (page nos. 9 to 19) and will be moved by the Leader of the Council.

Background papers – none

11. APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

To appoint a Special Selection Committee to make recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 9th May about:-

1. the annual review of political balance ; and
2. representatives on outside bodies.

The size of the Committee is suggested at 8 Members, in which case the political balance would be: - Conservative & Independent 5, Independent 2 and Liberal Democrat 1.

Background papers – none

12. SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

In accordance with the Council's selection procedure to select a Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2006-2007 for nomination for election at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 9th May 2006.

Council Procedure Rule no. 18 sets out the selection procedure, including that there shall be a secret ballot if there is more than one nomination.

Background papers – none.

13. SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

In accordance with the Council's selection procedure to select a Vice-Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2006-2007 for nomination for election at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 9th May 2006.

Council Procedure Rule no. 18 sets out the selection procedure, including that there shall be a secret ballot if there is more than one nomination.

Background papers – none.

14. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Standards Committee has been unable to fill one of its Parish Councillor posts for some time but an application to be considered has now been received.

From time to time replacement appointments will need to be made but power to make appointments lies with the full Council. To make the process more manageable Council has previously delegated this function to a small panel of members.

RECOMMENDED

THAT:

A panel of three members, consisting of two Conservative Group members and one Independent Group member, be set up with full delegated powers to make appointments to the Standards Committee.

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 100 (A) (4)

To consider a motion –

THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 8 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

PART 2

Item to be considered whilst the meeting is closed to the public

16. THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF ASTER HOUSING GROUP

To consider the report of the Housing Services Manager, copy attached (pages 20 to 28)

Background Papers – None

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER