



Wednesday, 8 November 2023

TO EACH MEMBER OF GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** of the **CITY OF GLOUCESTER** to be held at the Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP on **Thursday, 16th November 2023** at **6.30 pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business:

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **MINUTES (Pages 13 - 54)**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 September 2023.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 19 October 2023.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non-pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes.

4. **CALL OVER**

(a) Call over (items 9-11) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for discussion.

(b) To approve the recommendations of those reports which have not been reserved for discussion.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

The opportunity is given to members of the public to put questions to Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs. Questions may be provided that questions do not contravene the provisions set out in Council Procedure Rules 10(2).

To ask a question at this meeting, please submit it to democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk by 12 noon on Friday 10 November 2023 or telephone 01452 396203 for support.

6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

A period not exceeding three minutes is allowed for the presentation of a petition or deputation provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to:

- Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or
- Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements from:

- a) The Mayor
- b) Leader of the Council
- c) Members of the Cabinet
- d) Chairs of Committees
- e) Head of Paid Service

8. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- a) Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time (45 minutes)

Any member of the Council may ask the Leader of the Council or any Cabinet Member any question upon:

- Any matter relating to the Council's administration
- Any matter relating to any report of the Cabinet appearing on the Council's summons
- A matter coming within their portfolio of responsibilities

- b) Questions to Chairs of Meetings (15 Minutes)

Questions and responses will be published at least 24 hours before the meeting. Supplementary questions will be put and answered during the meeting, subject to the relevant time limit.

ISSUES FOR DECISION BY COUNCIL

9. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION ACQUISITION PROGRAMME (Pages 55 - 78)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy and the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources setting out a programme of capital investment to increase the Council's temporary accommodation portfolio to reduce the costs associated with providing temporary accommodation.

10. CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTER AND TEWKESBURY STRATEGIC AND LOCAL PLAN - PUBLIC CONSULTATION (REGULATION 18) (Pages 79 - 126)

To consider the report the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy seeking approval for public and stakeholder consultation in relation to the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan Consultation Document.

11. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP - DISPENSATION (Pages 127 - 130)

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer seeking approval to grant a dispensation, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, to Councillor Pullen whose current leave of absence will exceed six months on 4 December 2023.

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

1. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR TRIMNELL

"This council notes the two conifer trees over 50+ years on the corner of St Mary's Street and the controversy over imminent felling of one of them.

This council notes the boundary wall to Kings School nearby is unstable due to the tree, but that most of the wall came down in February last year.

The council notes that to rebuild the wall in the same place would invalidate the council's insurance, but to relocate and erect an alternative boundary structure may not.

This council believes a compromise needs to be found with Kings School for the said tree to remain in situ and for an alternative measure of boundary security to be found."

2. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS

"This council notes that bulk item waste disposal for families and individuals on low income is disproportionate to their household revenue.

Matson, Podsmead and Coney Hill have a large proportion of families on low

income and many without vehicles. Therefore the use of the city council landfill is not possible.

This council requests that families and individuals on Universal Credit are included in the reduced fee for bulky item waste collection.

At present not all benefit users are able to use the discounted rate.

I therefore request that all members support this motion to ensure that families and individuals on universal credit have the opportunity to use this discounted collection rate.

Discounted rates for universal credit will help reduce those struggling to dispose of waste legally due to no funds available in a cost of living crisis and will undoubtedly reduce illegal fly tipping.”

3. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS

“The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us clearly that the Internet is no longer a luxury, a convenient enhancement for lifestyles for those who can afford it. Rather, Internet access has become a basic necessity.

During the lockdown, it has become vital for everyday activities. It often is the only way we can contact and care for close friends and family. In some instances, it even has become the only way to [say goodbye to loved ones quarantined in hospital](#). Yet, online access is also necessary during non-emergencies for fair opportunities to work, study, to engage with government, and to exercise our political freedoms. We thus have weighty reasons to accept a right to Internet access. If we doubted this before, few will doubt this now.

This council notes that WiFi internet access is a basic need and not a luxury. Therefore this motion is to provide FREE fast access WiFi for all Gloucester city residents on every City Council ward.

Free WiFi will be provided to all areas of the Gloucester city by 2026.”

4. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS

Pump Tracks offer a fun, safe space for all ages and abilities to enjoy a range of wheel based activities including BMX bikes, scooters, skateboards and rollerblades.

The proposed Coney Hill Pump Track will be a much-used and valued asset by its community and we're keen to work with partners to help more areas such as Saintbridge/ Matson/ White City and Robinswood enjoy these same benefits.

What is a Pump Track?

So what is a pump track? A pump track is designed to create a safe, fun and inclusive playground for all wheels-based users regardless of age or gender.

They provide a playground for kids and adults from beginners to professionals, and a sustainable and fun-packed activity for everyone in the community.

Their design combines rolling jumps with turns that teach the basic skills of carrying momentum, balance and speed by using your arms and legs to pump your bike/ skateboard/ scooter around the track....

‘A Moment to Learn, a Lifetime to Master’.

Community benefits

Pump Tracks not only offer a space to exercise and improve skills, such as balance and coordination, they also provide a community focal point. Coney Hill Pump Track will become a key feature of the community, with regular meet-ups, litter picks and events.

A planned track at Coney Hill park next to the pond will create a Hub in the area for those walking and cycling, with rest stops and community events. A Coney Hill Community Pump Track group hopes to be situated alongside environmental and nature-based projects while a Track.

Support

This Council notes that children and adult well being, fitness and mental health is priority. Therefore this council will allocate an area of City Council land at Coney Hill park off Metz Way by Stanway Road and Boughton Way for the construction of a Pump track.

This location is far enough away from houses and homes to ensure no associated ASB will be generated.

It’s an ideal location for a pump track.

This Gloucester City council will work with City Council Planning department, Gloucestershire County Councillor for the ward as well as NHS and city Council Cil & S106 budgets to ensure that this pump track will be built and operational before April 2026

This is a great motion helping keep children off the streets, build community’s, support mental health and well being and promote health equalities to one of the County Councils most deprived areas and one the top 10 most deprived areas in England. Please support.”

5. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS

“Gloucester City Council created a set of rules and regulations on the 1st August 2014 for the Coney Hill Cemetery and Crematorium.

Following complaints from hundreds of families about their child’s, brothers, mothers fathers, & grandparents graves vases/ personal possessions and

borders being removed by the council as they don't fit into the councils ridged set of rules and regulations has caused much hurt and upset around the families who manage their beloved members final resting place.

Some personal possessions, gifts, pictures, lights and borders have been removed from the graves over night without the families being made aware. I am sure council letters in some cases may have been sent. However this does not help the situation when your beloved family's members picture/ gift or toy has been removed because it was an inch too big.

This council notes that the rigid cemetery and crematorium rules needs reviewing urgently as currently there are many families who have been given a deadline by the council which have threatened to remove personal items from their beloved ones final resting places.

Graves and resting areas of loved ones should be a place of peace for family members. A place to visit loved ones and feel close. A place of sanctuary where family members are able to make the resting places bespoke to their past family member, a resting place of a beloved family member should have the option to be able to use colours that they liked, as well as pictures and ornaments. The current rules and regulations are too specific and too rigid.

There are fixed rules for set edgings, many families can not afford to buy solid granite sets for edgings and they have used an alternative to mark out their family members resting place. As a result the Council have removed these edgings and the gravel infill leaving the resting place bare and empty. A further 12 letters have been sent by the City council to family members to advise they will have items removed from their loved ones graves if they do not follow the strict council rules.

The council cemetery and crematorium rules need to be reviewed and current family members/users consulted as well as a City wide consultation to reach a fair balance of new rules and regulations which will include a more modern, flexible approach to these final resting places. This council will also postpone any grave / resting place removal till these new rules and regulations have been consulted on, therefore protecting the 12 current graves which are set to be dismantled by Gloucester City Council.

I therefore ask City Council to support this motion to review the current rules and regulations, while working with family members that maintain the resting places to reach a fair & flexible outcome. The consultation must be conducted within a maximum 8 weeks from this council motion and the new cemetery and crematorium rules and regulations will be in action before the 1st May 2024. The graves under threat of dismantle/ removal of edgings and toys etc will be postponed till the new rules and regulations are created as some of these edgings and toys would fit in the new modern rules approach."

6. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR O'DONNELL

“This council notes that there are 20 plus rough sleepers each night in and around our Gloucester City Streets.

After speaking to other organisations who want to remain confidential at this point they have advised that the current system is not fit for purpose.

Rough sleepers who do not own mobile phone devices are unable to receive help as they are missed off the system if they move at the point when the out reach team visit.

This city council owes the rough sleepers a duty of care and protection. Currently there have been numerous incidents of rough sleepers tents and bedding being set on fire.

Not only that there are many rough sleepers who have mental health conditions and also pose a risk to the general public and themselves with several incidents occurring recently.

There are also more worryingly British military veterans that have served our country sleeping rough with no help or assistance.

Temporary hotel places for rough sleepers and ex British military veterans are becoming increasing harder to obtain due to the fact over 2 large Hotels in our city are full to the brim of small boat economic illegal immigrants. These economic immigrants are predominately male of working age. This therefore has left British ex military veterans and nationals out in the cold.

Moreover, the city's missions night shelter has closed this year meaning many U.K. nationals will be left out in the frost and snow over our harsh winter.

This council notes that a solution is urgently required to safe guarding our cities rough sleepers and make our city overall a safer place.

This motion is for the City Council to find an empty building within the city and form a night shelter within 14 days of this motion with a capacity of 100 people.

This will then enable a safe space and shelter for the rough sleepers and any families that find themselves homeless this Christmas.

This night shelter must remain open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

The saving of housing people in the temporary night shelter will ensure that the City Council save enormous costs charged by hotels.”

7. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR WILSON

“At the September meeting of Full Council the non availability of audited accounts for Gloucester City Council for the financial years of 2022/22 and 2022/23 was debated. During the course of the debate it was explained that this was partly due to a crisis in local government auditing that was also affecting other councils in the country.

Openness and transparency are nonetheless important, especially in these times of great financial uncertainty.

Council notes that Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Stroud District Council and The Forest of Dean District Council have all published draft (unaudited) accounts for 2022/23.

Council therefore requires Gloucester City Council to adopt this practice and ensure that fully audited accounts for 2021/22 and **draft (unaudited) accounts** for 2022/23 are published on the council’s website by January 2024.”

8. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR PATEL

“This council strongly condemns the horrific atrocities by Hamas on the people of Israel on 7th October 2023.

We not only condemn those atrocities, but also the current campaign of bombings (over 10,000 bombs so far) by Israel on residential towers, schools, hospitals, ambulances and refugee camps killing and injuring thousands of innocent Palestinian people. Since 7th October, approximately 10,000 Palestinians have died (40% of those were children) and over 1,400 Israeli’s in this latest conflict.

We call on the council leader to write to the MP Richard Graham and PM Rishi Sunak urging Israel to immediately stop the bombings and collective punishment against 2 million Palestinian people, and also call on Hamas to free the innocent kidnapped Israeli citizens back to Israel. We also support a call for a ceasefire by both IDF and Hamas.

A blockade preventing access to the most basic human necessities such as food, water, electricity, medical supplies etc is also classed as a war crime under International Law.

This council agrees with the world that Hamas are terrorists and that they don’t represent the Palestinian people, and furthermore acknowledges that Israel’s fight is with Hamas, not the Palestinian people.

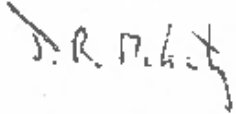
We therefore call on the British Government and all its allies to listen to us and the world, and request an immediate end to the siege and the constant bombardment of Gaza.

We also call on the Home Secretary to cease her unacceptable attempts to

suppress the democratic rights of the British people to peaceful protests.

This council prays for peace not only in Israel/Palestine, but all over the world and we condemn all forms of hate crimes such as Antisemitism, Islamophobia etc.”

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. R. McGinty".

Jon McGinty
Managing Director

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Prescribed description</u>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area. For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and (b) either – i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share

- capital of that body; or
- ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, “securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

Access to Information

Agendas and reports can be viewed on the Gloucester City Council website: www.gloucester.gov.uk and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For enquiries about Gloucester City Council’s meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

If you, or someone you know cannot understand English and need help with this information, or if you would like a large print, Braille, or audio version of this information please call 01452 396396.

Recording of meetings

Please be aware that meetings may be recorded. There is no requirement for those wishing to record proceedings to notify the Council in advance; however, as a courtesy, anyone wishing to do so is advised to make the Mayor aware before the meeting starts.

Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the Public and Press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.