

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council**

**AGENDA FOR THE  
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**TO BE HELD ON**

**TUESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2020**

**at 6.30 pm**

### Fire Evacuation Procedures

- On hearing the fire alarm, leave the building **at once** quickly and calmly by the nearest escape route (indicated by green signs).
- *There are two escape routes from the Council Chamber – at the side and rear. Leave via the door closest to you.*
- Proceed to **Willowbank Road car park**, accessed from Rugby Road then Willowbank Road.
- **Do not** use the lifts.
- **Do not** stop to collect belongings.

### Recording of meetings

At HBBC we are open and transparent about how we make decisions. We allow recording, filming and photography at all public meetings including Council, the Executive and Planning Committee as long as doing so does not disturb or disrupt the proceedings. There may occasionally be some reports that are discussed in private session where legislation requires this to happen, but this is infrequent.

We also allow the use of social media during meetings, which helps to bring the issues discussed to a wider audience.

Members of the public, members of the press and councillors are hereby informed that, in attending the meeting, you may be captured on film. If you have a particular problem with this, please contact us so we can discuss how we may accommodate you at the meeting.

### Use of mobile phones

To minimise disturbance to others attending the meeting, please switch off your phone or other mobile device or turn it onto silent or vibrate mode.

Thank you

Date: 06 January 2020



**Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council**

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council in the Council Chamber at these offices on **TUESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2020 at 6.30 pm**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RK Owen'.

Miss RK Owen  
Democratic Services Manager

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 1 - 4)  
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November.
3. Additional urgent business by reason of special circumstances  
To be advised of any additional items of business which the Mayor decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting. Items will be considered at the end of the agenda.
4. Declarations of interest  
To receive verbally from Members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's code of conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the Agenda.
5. Mayor's Communications  
To receive such communications as the Mayor may decide to lay before the Council.
6. Questions  
To deal with questions under Council Procedure Rule number 14.

7. Petitions

To deal with petitions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.

8. Leader of the Council's Position Statement

To receive the Leader of the Council's Position Statement.

9. Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission (Pages 5 - 8)

To receive for information only the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 19 December 2019.

10. Public space protection order (Pages 9 - 22)

To seek endorsement of a new Public Space Protection Order.

The Scrutiny Commission gave consideration to this at its meeting on 19 December. An extract from the minutes of that meeting is attached.

11. Motions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17

(a) Motion from Cllr Cartwright, seconded by Cllr Bray (Pages 23 - 24)

We all know how it is practically impossible these days to do anything without being subjected to health & safety risk assessment.

Yet despite this it is still legal to sell explosives, purchase explosives (so long as you are over 18 years of age), ignite explosives just so long as they are called fireworks.

Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals.

They can be a source of fear and distress for many animals (including our pet animals, farm livestock and wildlife). Animals affected, not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries – sometimes very serious ones – as they attempt to run away or hide from the noise created which has a far larger impact on their hearing than our own.

The unpredictable, loud and high intensity noises that many fireworks make can cause fear.

For example, studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs, and it is estimated that 45 percent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks.

Many cats are also terrified of the sudden noise caused by fireworks.

With Diwali, bonfire night, October and November is a nightmare for animals and their owners, as you never know exactly when a firework is going to be set off. New Years Eve and endless reasons for parties using fireworks over the winter months. Limiting the number of events to which fireworks can be set off, will much improve the situation, as you can try to be prepared.

Debris produced by fireworks, if found on the ground, can also pose a hazard to animals, such as horses and farm livestock.

Although there is limited direct evidence, it is also likely that fireworks and their

debris will cause disturbance to wildlife, and are likely to cause suffering or distress, depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level.

The short-lived nature of firework noise can make it difficult for the police or local authority's officers to pinpoint locations and take action.

The RSPCA believes that a licensing system would help with better enforcement of the law by allowing enforcement bodies to know where licensed events are being held.

Fireworks cause harm to people.

Just one accident to any child or adult by a firework could be prevented without the use of fireworks.

Professional organised displays significantly reduce the risk of harm to humans.

Carbon impact – climate change

My other concern is the carbon that is released by fireworks and bonfires over this period and also the use of fireworks to celebrate other occasions such as New Years, concerts etc.

The world has a carbon budget. Can we really justify spending part of that budget on entertainment, which already causes a great deal of distress and have such a far ranging impact on the carbon impact and overall climate change impact.

Imagine the amount of fireworks and unnecessary carbon footprint that are wasted worldwide in a year!

The RSPCA believes there is a real need to raise awareness amongst owners of animals about fireworks phobia.

This phobia can be treated (in dogs at least, not always successfully) in the long term but owners need to prepare themselves and their pets sooner, rather than just before the fireworks are let off. There is a need to raise awareness about the impact of fireworks on animals to the wider public to encourage them to be more considerate of those with pets, horses and livestock as well as wildlife.

The RSPCA believes the law is failing as it does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals.

We believe that further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and a number of things can be done to improve the situation for animals and people by:

- Introducing a limit on the public use of fireworks on or close to specific dates and times
- Tightening restrictions on the sale of fireworks in the run up to bonfire night
- Reducing the maximum noise level of fireworks sold to the public, ensuring they are labelled accurately
- Licensing all public firework displays – and ensuring displays are better

advertised to the public, especially those who have animals that could be affected.

Council resolves:

- (i) To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- (ii) To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- (iii) To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on the declared climate emergency in Hinckley & Bosworth
- (iv) To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display
- (v) To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- (vi) To lobby government to limit the number of days and events to which fireworks can be set off.

Some further information about silent fireworks is attached.

- (b) Motion from Cllr Cartwright, seconded by Cllr Webber-Jones

Council resolves that Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

- (i) Acknowledges the efforts that this Council has made and continues to make to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy
- (ii) Recognises that councils can play a central role in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity
- (iii) Further recognises
  - That very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity is a barrier to local customers resulting in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so
  - That making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier’s operation would create significant opportunities for councils to be the providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations and
  - That revenues received by councils that became local renewable energy providers could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities.
- (iv) Accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of MPs, and which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a Right to Local Supply; and
- (v) Further resolves to

- Inform the local media of the Borough Councils decision
- Write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and
- Write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, expressing its support.