

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 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: 17 February 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, 25 FEBRUARY 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 14 January 2020.
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 joint meeting of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny held on 6 February 2020.

10. Budget reports

To consider separate reports relating to the budget. These were considered by a joint meeting of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny on 6 February. The minutes of that meeting are included earlier on the agenda at item 9.

(a) General Fund budget (Pages 9 - 26)

(b) Calculation of council tax for 2020/21 (Pages 27 - 34)

(c) Housing revenue account (Pages 35 - 46)

(d) Capital programme and capital strategy (Pages 47 - 68)

(e) Fees and charges (Pages 69 - 104)

(f) Treasury management and prudential indicators (Pages 105 - 144)

11. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' allowances (Pages 145 - 154)

Recommendations in relation to members' allowances are contained in the attached report of the Independent Remuneration Panel. A joint meeting of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny considered this report on 6 February. The minutes of that meeting are included at item 9 on this agenda.

12. Motions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17

Motion received from Councillor Pendlebury, seconded by Councillor LJ Mullaney:

This Council proposes a ban on the use and release of sky lanterns and helium balloons meant for release on all borough council owned public open space. We call upon our partners in parish councils, Leicestershire County Council and indeed the government to follow our lead. We also propose that this council promotes information to local people, leading to better understanding of the damage they cause.

Sky lanterns and helium balloons are easily available and sold in their thousands each year to mark important events and, while they look pretty for a few moments, many people are completely unaware of the dangers they pose to wildlife, livestock, pets and buildings. There are many different varieties of lantern, but even the biodegradable bamboo lanterns will take a decade to decompose and will continue to pose a threat to animals throughout that time. This is also true of helium balloons which are generally made of latex but can take months to degrade and pose a similar risk of entrapment.

The RSPCA report that "when ingested, sharp parts like the wire frame can tear and puncture an animal's throat or stomach causing internal bleeding. Animals can also become entangled in fallen lantern frames, where they can suffer from injury and stress trying to get free or starve to death from being trapped."

Sky lanterns and helium balloons can travel miles, with the lanterns taking a naked flame into unknown areas which can lead to thatched roofs and other buildings facing the threat of fire damage.

As you may have seen reported, at 12:38am on 1 January 2020 a zoo in Germany caught fire and 30 animals were lost in a blaze that saw the ape house destroyed with five orangutans, two gorillas and several monkeys dying an agonising death, thought to have been caused by debris from the lanterns which were found in the remains. Locally, only 26 miles from Hinckley, what was reported at the time as the “largest fire ever in the west midlands” was caused by a sky lantern landing on a plastic recycling plant in Smethwick causing £6million worth of damage with images of the sky lantern that caused the damage caught on CCTV.

Organisations including the Countryside Alliance, Women’s Food & Farming Union (WFU), the Soil Association and the National Farmer’s Union (NFU) and many more are also in support of this ban.