



21 March 2022

To: The Town Mayor and all Members of Leighton-Linslade Town Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend an **extraordinary meeting** of Leighton-Linslade Town Council to be held on **Monday, 4 April 2022** commencing at **7.30 pm** in the Astral Park Sports & Community Centre, Johnson Drive, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 4AY.

This extraordinary meeting is convened in accordance with Standing Order 6, at the request of councillors R Goodchild and S Owen.

*THIS MEETING MAY BE
RECORDED*

Cllr Mrs F Kharawala
Town Mayor

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record be kept of the Members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Town Clerk.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (i) Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the Member's Register of Interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.
- (ii) Should any Member have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in an item on the agenda, the Member may not participate in consideration of that item unless a Dispensation has first been requested (in writing) and granted by the Council (see Dispensation Procedure).

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

To receive questions and statements from members of the public as provided for in Standing Order Nos.3 (e)(f)(g) and (h).

4. POLICING IN LEIGHTON BUZZARD AND LINSLADE

To consider the following Motion proposed and seconded by Councillors S Owen and R Goodchild:

- a) That this Council calls on the Police and Crime Commissioner to meet the promise in his 2021 Conservative election leaflet i.e. "I will bring back community-based policing for our rural and market towns by creating Police Contact Hubs in areas where Police Stations have closed", and to provide a firm Plan with timescale for doing so.
- b) That this Council requests the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel, to whom is the PCC is accountable, to ask the PCC how and when he plans to honour his May 2021 pledge, since the Panel has hitherto raised no issue with the PCC re. the absence of mention of a Leighton Buzzard Police Hub (or indeed Hubs for other Bedfordshire towns) in either his Policing Plan or his Annual Budget, both of which have received "scrutiny" at Panel meetings.
- c) That Cllr A Dodwell be requested to brief this Council at a future meeting on her activity as a member of the Police and Crime Panel to hold the PCC to account for his pledge re the Leighton Buzzard Police Hub.
- d) That the Town Clerk be asked to write to the Chief Constable to ask whether he will produce a Policing Plan for the town that addresses both on-site and on-call Police staffing numbers allocated to Leighton-Linslade, arrangements for easy contact for residents and businesses with the Police, and seek his willingness to a dialogue with the Town Council to identify a suitable town centre location (short-term if necessary to start with) for that contact to take place.

5. LEIGHTON LINSLADE HEALTH HUB

To consider the following Motion proposed and seconded by Councillors S Owen and R Goodchild:

That this Council

- a) Reaffirms the Town Council's commitment to local residents to reducing the strain, time and cost of travel by residents (particularly older persons) to hospitals, by localising hospital services into a Leighton-Linslade Health Hub.
 - b) Rejects the BLMKCCG's allocation of lowest priority to a Leighton-Linslade Hub that is based on statistics of current "spare" space at Leighton-Linslade surgeries which local GPs dispute, and ignores both the current lengthy travel to hospital distances for 60,000 local residents and the unnecessary costs to the taxpayer of basing diagnostic and treatment services in hospitals when they could be available at a local Hub.
 - c) Regrets the failure of BLMKCCG and CBC's Health and Well-being Board to consult with this Council or local residents on their chosen prioritisation
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- yardstick which is irrelevant to the needs of new space, equipment and staffing arising from the localisation of services.
- d) Deplores the action of the BLMKCCG/CBC H&WBB in approving a Health Hub programme that funds two Health Hubs but contains no plans for funding the other three.
 - e) Deplores the HWBB secrecy in refusing to provide this Council with their draft plans for a Leighton-Linslade Hub and being prepared to discuss them with this Council.
 - f) Notes that the HWBB officers are working on the basis of three unsuitable potential locations for a Leighton-Linslade Hub when central locations convenient for residents and bases are available and current Government policy is to seek central locations for such developments.
 - g) Notes with disappointment the lack of challenge on the part of many Leighton-Linslade CBC councillors to the actions of BLMKCCG, the CBC H&WBB, or the CBC Executive, and regrets the action of Leighton-Linslade CBC Conservative councillors Bowater, Berry, Wallace, Perham, Dodwell, Ferguson, and Spurr, in voting against the recent Motion at CBC from Cllrs Harvey and Snelling to promote the Leighton-Linslade Health Hub, as instructed by the Conservative CBC Executive.
 - h) Records its disappointment with the imperceptible progress by the Council's Health T&F Group in progressing the Council's objectives for both a Health Hub for Leighton-Linslade and a fourth surgery on the Eastern side of town, due in part to the absence of commitment from key stakeholders such as the Conservative CBC Portfolio-Holder to attend and contribute to T&F Group meetings, the HWBB refusal to share the draft Strategic Plan (with its listing of health services) with the Town Council or to engage with the Town Council to discuss practical funding and site options.

and therefore

- i) Asks the Chair of the T&F Group, Cllr Perham, who is also a senior CBC administration member, and the Leader of the Council, Cllr Jones, to explain what they propose to do to improve the current impasse and allow the voice of local residents to be heard.
 - j) Invites the town's CBC councillors to explain
 1. why they voted against the Harvey/Snelling Motion
 2. whether and how or whether they intend to begin real progress with the Leighton-Linslade Health Hub
 3. whether and how they will exert pressure on HWBB (i.e. BLMKCCG and CBC) officers to provide co-operation to the Council's T&F Group instead of saying publicly that they have no influence.
 - k) Resolves meantime in the interests of accountability to inform residents of the obstacles and lack of co-operation coming from the major bodies and most of the town's CBC councillors.
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6. LEIGHTON BUZZARD HIGH STREET TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS ("TROS")

To consider the following Motion proposed and seconded by Councillors S Owen and R Goodchild:

This Council, noting

- a) The failure of Central Bedfordshire Council to use the 18 month period of the June 2020 ETRO to plan and introduce workable solutions for ETRO compliance both for the use of delivery vehicles in the High Street and the day to day enforcement of the ETRO
- b) The absence from the CBC Traffic Management meeting on 1 February 2022 of Leighton-Linslade Conservative CBC councillors Bowater, Wallace, Ferguson, and Spurr, and so their non-input to the discussions on Leighton Buzzard High Street
- c) The stated promise of the CBC Portfolio Holder Cllr I Dalgarno at the 1 February 2022 CBC Traffic Management meeting to seek an improved dialogue with the Town Council over those issues during the 18 months currency of the new ETRO
- d) The passage of time since that meeting (1 February 2022 – 4 April 2022) without any apparent progress on that promise

- urges Central Bedfordshire Council to commit to urgent engagement with the Town Council, involving also the stakeholder groups that were omitted in the previous ETRO process, to seek a best possible working solution within the time frame CBC has set itself, and urges all Leighton-Linslade CBC councillors to contribute to those discussions.

7. SCHOOLS RE-ORGANISATION

To consider the following Motion proposed and seconded by Councillors S Owen and R Goodchild:

That this Council, noting that over a considerable period CBC have held private discussions with Leighton-Linslade schools' Head Teachers and Governing Bodies over a possible re-organisation, but that no public proposals have emerged, calls on CBC to share their plans and their educational rationale with parents and the public generally, accompanied by a proposed timeline for the process, and the effect on the town's current schools (i.e. which are to stay open which will be closed, the planned age-group for each school, the alterations required at each school and the estimated costs thereof, and the estimated capital receipts of disposal of current schools and sites), and state whether CBC plan to press local schools to become part of academy trusts, so that parents are able to plan sensibly for their childrens' education.

8. BUS USERS CONSULTATION

To consider the following Motion proposed and seconded by Councillors S Owen and R Goodchild:

That this Council notes the comments and complaints from bus users in local media, recognises the desirability of a forum to air those comments and get answers, and requests the Town Clerk to provide the Planning & Transport Committee with suggestions as to how regular consultation about local bus services involving bus users and bus companies might be organised.

9. LEIGHTON BUZZARD SOUTHERN BYPASS A505

To consider the following Motion proposed and seconded by Councillors S Jones and A Dodwell:

This Council welcomes the current urgent safety review into the A505 Leighton Buzzard Southern Bypass currently being undertaken by CBC Highways following the recent flooding and series of accidents and requests that an update be given to the Council's Planning and Transport Committee following its initial findings. In the interim the Council requests that temporary signage, lighting and cones continue to be provided at the new Stanbridge Road roundabout until such a time as permanent safety measures are completed.

10. UKRAINE

To consider the following Motion proposed and seconded by Councillors S Hemmings and S Jones:

That this Council agrees to set up a working party to look into the need for a co-ordinated approach to give support resulting from the current war in Ukraine (for example, the hosting of refugees in Leighton-Linslade) and if required assist centralised co-ordination, working through established groups and signposting / advertising as required.

The meeting is due to end by 2200 hours at the latest unless Standing Order 3(x) is suspended before this time.

**Phones and other equipment may be used to film, audio record, tweet or blog from this meeting by an individual Council member, Officer or a member of the public. No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming unless the meeting resolves to go into exempt session. The use of images or recordings arising from this is not within the Council's control.*
