

AGENDA



For a meeting of the
COUNCIL
to be held on
THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2017
at
2.00 PM
in the
COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, ST. PETER'S HILL, GRANTHAM. NG31 6PZ
Beverly Agass, Chief Executive

Members of the Council are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed below.

For those Councillors who wish to attend, prayers will be held in the Council Chamber at 1:55pm before the commencement of the meeting. Please be seated by 1:50pm.

1. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

The public open forum will commence at **2.00 p.m.** and the following formal business of the Council will commence at **2.30 p.m.** or whenever the public open forum ends, if earlier.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2017

(Enclosure)

5. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS)

(Enclosure)

Your council working for you

6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGET 2017/18 (AND INDICATIVE FOR 2018/19 AND 2019/20) - GENERAL FUND, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND ASSOCIATED CAPITAL PROGRAMMES

Report number CFM409 of the Leader of the Council, the Executive Member, Resources and the Executive Member, Housing. **(Enclosure)**

7. ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SIZE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS

8. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Report number LDS202 of the Chief Executive. **(Enclosure)**

9. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Report number LDS203 of the Chief Executive. **(Enclosure)**

10. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION

To note the list of questions asked under Council procedure rule 11.1 as circulated at the start of the meeting and their reference to the relevant Policy Development Group.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION GIVEN UNDER ARTICLE 4.9:

1. From Councillor Phil Dilks

Illegal hare-coursing in Lincolnshire is a growing menace which can be described at best as an unwelcome resource challenge for our already stretched Lincolnshire Police and at worst an epidemic affecting the lives of decent law-abiding citizens who regularly feel threatened and intimidated by gangs of men with dogs.

In the last so-called hare-coursing 'season' from September 2015 to March 2016, there were 2,169 incidents involving hare coursing reported to Lincolnshire Police who made 174 arrests or reports for summons. Sadly, there has been a noticeable increase in hare- coursing incidents in the current 'season'.

Over one weekend last month (11th and 12th February 2017), 31 incidents were reported to police across the county, with more arrests and seizures of vehicles with our police officers spending a total of 168 hours on 'Operation Galileo' patrols and dealing with hare-coursing incidents.

At the last meeting of Deepings Neighbourhood Police Forum, residents of Deeping Fen and Langtoft Fen told shocking accounts of how they live in constant fear of gangs of up to 20 men with lurcher-type dogs arriving from all corners of the country, damaging property and threatening violence to anyone who gets in the way of their illegal activities:

A father told how he was forced to move his children away after hare-courers barricaded a local road and threatened to burn down his family home. A mother described how she is frightened to let her children play outside for fear of the courers dogs.

The National Farmers Union locally recently complained that illegal hare-coursing is getting 'out of control'.

As part of their ongoing 'Operation Galileo' to tackle hare-coursing, Lincolnshire Police recently confronted courers on Deeping High Bank and near Hall Meadow Road, Deeping St James and have had some success with arrests and convictions.

In his first media interview since taking over, our new Chief Constable Bill Skelly said he was committed to tackling illegal hare-coursing and when he met with more than 100 South Lincs farmers concerned at the rise in hare-coursing, promised more resources to tackle the issue.

However, in discussions with myself and other local community representatives to explore what more can be done, Chief Inspector Jim Tyner - District Commander for North & South Kesteven and district tactical lead for Operation Galileo - suggested that a formal Public Spaces Protection Order may be helpful in policing and preventing hare-coursing in our area.

Such an order could be made by this council, using the powers of Section 71 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, and in consultation with Lincolnshire Police, to prohibit would-be hare-courers from using certain public roads, and creating an offence for failure to comply.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Welcome the new Chief Constable's commitment to tackling illegal hare-coursing.
2. Work closely with Lincolnshire Police to take all reasonable steps possible to combat hare-coursing in South Kesteven including full consideration of a formal Public Spaces Protection Order as appropriate to help improve the quality of life for local residents whose lives are being adversely affected by these illegal activities.
3. Publicise the issue of hare-coursing and the action being taken to combat it through all appropriate means including an educational article in 'South Kesteven Today'.

The deadline for notices of motion for the Council meeting on Thursday, 20 April 2017 is 2pm on Wednesday 5 April 2017