

Council



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Thursday, 26 January 2023 at 1.00 pm
Council Chamber - Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Members: Councillor Helen Crawford, Chairman of the Council
Councillor Gloria Johnson, Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor David Bellamy
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Pam Bosworth
Councillor Robert Broughton
Councillor George Chivers
Councillor Louise Clack
Councillor Richard Cleaver
Councillor Kelham Cooke
Councillor John Cottier
Councillor John Dawson
Councillor Phil Dilks
Councillor Richard Dixon-
Warren
Councillor Barry Dobson
Councillor Paul Fellows
Councillor Ben Green
Councillor Breda-Rae Griffin
Councillor Graham Jeal

Councillor Anna Kelly
Councillor Jane Kingman
Councillor Philip Knowles
Councillor Matthew Lee
Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor Annie Mason
Councillor Penny Milnes
Councillor Virginia Moran
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Julia Reid
Councillor Robert Reid
Councillor Kaffy Rice-Oxley
Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Penny Robins
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Lee Steptoe
Councillor Judy Stevens

Councillor Adam Stokes
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Jill Thomas
Councillor Rosemary Trollope-
Bellew
Councillor Sarah Trotter
Councillor Murray Turner
Councillor Dean Ward
Councillor Hannah Westropp
Councillor Hilary Westropp
Councillor Amanda Wheeler
Councillor Mark Whittington
Councillor Mary Whittington
Councillor Jane Wood
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Sue Woolley
Councillor Linda Wootten
Councillor Ray Wootten

Agenda

This meeting can be watched as a live stream, or at a later date, via the [SKDC Public-I Channel](#)

For those Councillors who wish to attend, prayers will be held at 12:55pm before the commencement of the meeting. Please be seated by 12:50pm.

1. Public Open Forum

The public open forum will commence at **1.00 p.m.** and the following formal business of the Council will commence at **1.30 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 24 November 2022

(Pages 5 - 24)

5. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

6. Designation of Interim Monitoring Officer

(Pages 25 - 28)

To provide Full Council with an opportunity to consider the recommendation from Employment Committee as to the designation of the Council's Monitoring Officer.

7. Interim Review of Polling Places

(Pages 29 - 69)

This report details proposals for changes of some polling places following an interim review of polling places and polling stations.

8. Budget Framework Proposals

(Pages 71 - 102)

The purpose of this report is to seek budget framework amendments to the 2022/23 financial year and Budget Framework proposals for the period 2023/24 – 2024/25.

9. Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24

(Pages 103 - 115)

This report reviews the Council's Localised Council Tax Support Scheme in advance of the 2023/24 financial year, as well as proposals made in relation to the discount for care leavers, discount for Special Constables and Discretionary Hardship Fund.

10. Political Proportionality, Allocation of Seats on Committees and Appointment to Outside Bodies

(Pages 117 - 123)

To provide Full Council with an update on the political proportionality and allocation of seats on Committees since the last meeting, taking into account the results of a by-election held on 15 December 2022 and the formation of a new political group on the authority.

11. Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman Protocol

(Pages 125 - 130)

This report provides Full Council with an opportunity to consider a draft protocol for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen, which seeks to set out a clear process for bestowing such an honour.

12. Proposed amendments to the Constitution

(Pages 131 - 152)

This report provides Full Council with an opportunity to consider recommendations from the Constitution Committee.

13. Members' Open Questions

A 45-minute period in which members may ask questions of the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and opposition group leaders excluding the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Licensing and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committees and Governance and Audit Committee.

14. Notices of Motion

a) Councillor Amanda Wheeler

The UK's current voting system (known as First Past the Post) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.

Currently in Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use the archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. These countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation. MPs better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

Proportional Representation ensures all votes count, have equal value, and those seats won match votes cast.

PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. So why not Westminster?

South Kesteven District Council therefore resolves to write to Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general elections.

b) Councillor Phil Dilks

To ensure members of the public, councillors and council officers can have confidence that the highest standards of probity and integrity are followed and that any alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct are dealt fairly, impartially and in a timely manner:

Council resolves to:

1. *Establish a Standards Committee or sub-committee of this Council, its remit and responsibility to include:*
 - *Hearing and determining complaints of alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct following initial consideration by the Monitoring Officer and/or independent Investigating Officer*
 - *Providing advice and promoting appropriate training to assist Councillors in observing the Members' Code of Conduct*
 - *Reporting to the Council on updates and revisions to the Local Government Association's Model Members' Code of Conduct*
 - *Monitoring and advising on the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and the Council's ethical framework and standards related issues as appropriate*
 - *Developing recommendations to the Council with a view to improving and extending democratic engagement, transparency and accountability by the Council*
2. *Adopt the latest Local Government Association's Guidance on Handling Alleged Breaches of the Code of Conduct, including the process for undertaking hearings, in its entirety.*

15. Close of meeting