

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

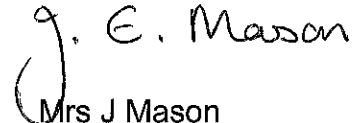
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161 High Street
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13 December 2016

SUMMONS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of **Berkhamsted Town Council** will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted on **Monday 19 December 2016 at 7.30 pm** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below and you are hereby summoned to attend.


Mrs J Mason
Town Clerk

MEMBERS:

Councillors T Ritchie – Town Mayor
Mrs C Green – Deputy Mayor
A Armytage
J Ashbourn
S Bateman
S Beardshaw
D Collins
E Collins
G Corry
F Earl
P B Matthews
B Newton
Dr I M Reay
G Stevens
G Yearwood

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ALL MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

FC 105/16 Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

FC 106/16 Declarations of Interest

To receive **declarations of interest** regarding items on the agenda.

FC 107/16 Minutes of Last Meeting

To receive and approve the **minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council** held on 26 September 2016.

FC 108/16 Town Mayor's Communications

- (i) The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2016: Thank you cards advising that a total of £320.35 was raised in Berkhamsted.
- (ii) The Hospice of St Francis News Update December 2016 (circulated to councillors 9 December 2016).
- (iii) December 2016 newsletter of the Berkhamsted Citizens (circulated to councillors 12 December 2016).
- (iv) Latest news and information from Sunnyside Rural Trust (circulated to councillors 12 December 2016).
- (v) RAF Halton closure – Extract from press release attached.

FC 109/16 Public Participation

To suspend Standing Orders to **allow any member of the public present to speak**.

STANDING COMMITTEES

To **receive and adopt** the minutes of the:

FC 110/16 Town Planning Committee

Held on: *10 October 2016, *31 October 2016, *21 November 2016,
 **12 December 2016

FC 111/16 Transport & Environment Committee

Held on: 14 November 2016*

FC 112/16 Finance & Policy Committee

Held on 5 December 2016*

*Previously circulated

**To follow

WORKING GROUPS

FC 113/16 Allotment Management Team

To **receive and adopt** the minutes of the 17 October 2016 meeting (already circulated).

Canal and Riverside Partnership

FC 114/16 To **receive and adopt** the notes of the 30 November 2016 meeting (to follow).

Berkhamsted Parochial Charities

FC 115/16 Following the resignation of a Town Council nominated member, to **appoint** a replacement.

Governance Working Group

FC 116/16 To **adopt** the disciplinary, capability, sickness absence and grievance policies and procedures previously agreed by the Governance Working Group on 13 September 2016. As suggested at that meeting, the documents were discussed with staff at the 18 October 2016 staff meeting. (Documents attached.)

WEST HERTS HOSPITALS

FC 117/16 To **RESOLVE** that the letter attached be signed by the Town Mayor and sent as a matter of urgency to David Gauke MP. (The letter expresses the Town Council's dismay that the Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group has ruled out the relocation of Watford Hospital services to a Greenfield site.)

FINANCIAL MATTERS

FC 118/16 Christmas Lights 2017

To **note** that both Berkhamsted Town Hall Trust and Berkhamsted and District Chamber of Commerce have each pledged a donation of £500 towards Christmas lights and the work required to install feeder columns in the High Street.

FC 119/16 Councillor Allowances, Travel and Subsistence

- i. To **note** that following recent informal discussions within the Town Council, the Town Clerk has confirmed through NALC that Parish and Town Councillors may be paid allowances in respect of travelling and subsistence. This power is not constrained by parish boundary considerations.

- ii. To **RESOLVE** that the Town Clerk should prepare guidance specific to the Town Council for adoption at a future meeting.

FC 120/16 To **RESOLVE** that under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting, because it is likely that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business or for other special reasons stated in the resolution, arising from the nature of the business or proceedings.

FC 121/16 Civic Centre Lease – January 2016 for a four year term

To **RESOLVE** that, following discussions with Dacorum Borough Council regarding service charges and DBC's agreement to cap such charges, the Town Mayor and Cllr G Stevens are authorised to sign the lease on behalf of the Town Council.

FC 122/16 Land Ownership – Land adjacent to Normandy Drive and Dellfield Allotment Site

To **receive** a further update from the Town Mayor.

FC 123/16 Staffing matters

To **RESOLVE** that the Town Warden should move from salary point 18 to salary point 19 with effect from 1 January 2017 which is the anniversary of his appointment to point 18 LC1 Substantive Benchmark range. The Town Clerk should write to the Town Warden confirming this change.

JEM
121216

Press information re Closure of RAF Halton

All of RAF Halton will close by 2022.

That's according to updated plans from the Defence Secretary.

Back in November, we were told that just the airfield would go, as part of plans to slim down the defence estate across the country...

But now, the MoD have updated their plans and said the whole base will shut down within six years.

In a letter to MP David Lidington, Michael Fallon says they'll be working with AVDC to work out the best options.

He said they were 'now in a position to confirm our intent to dispose of the RAF Halton site' within those six years.

David told us he's disappointed by the decision and wants to see more evidence this is the best thing to do.

He's also worried about the future of the historic Halton House.

He said:

"I am deeply disappointed by today's announcement of the proposed closure of RAF Halton by 2022. This would mean the end of close relationships that have existed for a century between the Royal Air Force and not only Halton Parish, but Aylesbury, Wendover and other local communities.

"I completely understand the reasons why the Ministry of Defence is seeking to rationalise its estate, concentrate its activities into fewer bases and realise the value of surplus land. I can understand too that from an RAF point of view it makes sense to co-locate the training of RAF officers and other ranks in one place.

"However, I find the business case for closing RAF Halton to be unconvincing. In particular, there will be a significant cost to providing new facilities at RAF Cranwell and the RAF has never in the past found a way in which to dispose of its significant liability in respect of Halton House. This is a Rothschild listed building which the Ministry of Defence has a legal duty to keep in good repair".