

Council Meeting

**Online Meeting, Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday, 24 February 2021 at 18:00**

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

You have the right of access to all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet which may be conducted remotely such as by live audio or video broadcast / webcast. You also have the right to see the agenda (the list of items to be discussed at a meeting), which is published on the Council's website at least five working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published. Dates of the meetings are available here:

<https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/MeetingCalendar.aspx>.

Occasionally certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual have to be considered in private. When this is the case an announcement will be made, the live broadcast will end and the meeting will be moved to consider in private.

Have Your Say!

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public at most public meetings. If you would like to submit representations to a meeting and need to find out more, please refer to the Have Your Say! arrangements here:

<https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/HaveYourSay.aspx>.

Members of the public can register to speak at the meeting. Please register by e-mailing democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk no later than 12 noon on the working day before the meeting date. You will need to provide your name, email address, whether your representation is a general matter or related to an item of business and a copy of the representations you wish to make.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
Council
Wednesday, 24 February 2021 at 18:00

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Published 23/02/2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held online on Wednesday, 24 February 2021 at 18:00 for the transaction of the business stated below.



Chief Executive

AGENDA
THE LIST OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING
(Part A - open to the public)

Please note that the business will be subject to short breaks at approximately 90 minute intervals.

Please note that Agenda items 1 to 6 are normally dealt with briefly.

Live Broadcast

Please follow this link to watch the meeting live on YouTube:

[\(107\) ColchesterCBC - YouTube](#)

1 Welcome and Announcements (Council)

The Mayor will welcome members of the public and Councillors and will ask the Chaplain to say a prayer. The Mayor will explain the procedures to be followed at the meeting including a reminder for everyone to use microphones at all times when they are speaking, but otherwise keep microphones muted.

2 Have Your Say (Virtual Council Meetings)

Members of the public may make representations to the meeting. Each representation may be no longer than three minutes (500 words). Members of the public may register their wish to address the meeting by registering by e-mailing democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk by 12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting date. In addition a written copy of the representation will need to be supplied for use in the event of unforeseen technical difficulties preventing participation at the meeting itself. The Mayor will invite members of the public to make their representations at the start of the meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the agenda about which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the item or participating in any vote upon the item, or any other pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Council)

A.... Motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

Minutes of meeting 031220

9 - 24

5 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor to make announcements.

6 Items (if any) referred under the Call-in Procedure (Council)

The Council consider any items referred by the Scrutiny Panel under the Call-in Procedure because they are considered to be contrary to the policy framework of the Council or contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with, the budget.

7 Recommendations of the Cabinet, Panels and Committees

Council will consider the following recommendations:-

7(i) Budget 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Forecast

25 - 50

B... Motion that the recommendations contained in draft minute 536 of the Cabinet meeting of 27 January 2021 and the recommendations contained in the reports entitled Supplementary Budget report and Precept and Council Tax Levels 2021/22 be approved and adopted.

The following main amendments have been submitted:-

(i) Proposer: Councillor Buston

That the recommendations contained in draft minute 536 of the Cabinet meeting of 27 January 2021 and the recommendations contained in the reports entitled Supplementary Budget report and Precept and Council Tax Levels 2021/22 be approved and adopted by Council, subject to the following supplementary note applied to Appendix G, Community, Bereavement Services:

That this Council recognises increasing Bereavement Services costs by 3x the current rate of inflation during a pandemic is unreasonable and does not reflect well on the Council or its Members. Therefore the 2.7% across the board increase in Cemetery and Crematorium is abandoned for the financial year (21/22). That the anticipated £39,000 revenue loss from Appendix G – General Fund Budgets, Bereavement Services is balanced by Use of Reserves for FY 21/22.

(ii) Proposer: Councillor Barber

That the recommendations contained in draft minute 536 of the Cabinet meeting of 27 January 2021 and the recommendations contained in the reports entitled Supplementary Budget report and Precept and Council Tax Levels 2021/22 be approved and adopted by Council, subject to the following change to Appendix I:

That Item 7 of Appendix I – Allocation of New Homes Bonus; Support to Tendring Colchester Borders and Local Plan is reduced from £500,000 to a total of £450,000. A new Item 7A is added as follows:

7A Support for full Feasibility Study to construct a workable proposal for a revised allocation at Middlewick enabling the creation of a Country Park between Abbot's Road and Birch Brook Cost: £50,000

(iii) Proposer: Councillor Willetts

That the recommendations contained in draft minute 536 of the Cabinet meeting of 27 January 2021 and the recommendations contained in the reports entitled Supplementary Budget report and Precept and Council Tax Levels 2021/22 be approved and adopted by Council, subject to the following amendment by appending of words:

“and Council, noting that during the summer of 2020 the fish in Lexden Lake died, it was enveloped by invasive weed and it emitted a foul odour which constituted a public nuisance to surrounding dwellings, allocates in this budget £97,000 to facilitate proper remedial work to the lake. Furthermore that corresponding adjustments are made to reserves to ensure a balanced budget, or by such other virements that Cabinet shall take to balance the budget.”

8 Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairmen pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10

Cabinet members and Chairmen will receive and answer pre-notified questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(1) followed by any oral questions (not submitted in advance) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(3).

(Note: a period of up to 60 minutes is available for pre-notified questions and oral questions by Members of the Council to Cabinet Members and Chairmen (or in their absence Deputy Chairmen)).

(i) Councillor Chillingworth to Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety:-

No doubt the Portfolio Holder will be aware of the press coverage of the recent flooding in the Colne Valley and the refusal of the Council to assist the PO/shop keeper in Wakes Colne, other than to give the telephone number of a merchant who could supply bags and sand.

This was hardly helpful if it was outside opening hours and flood water was approaching his premises.

During previous incidents early in the noughties, the Council responded quickly with material and practical help. Would the Portfolio Holder please confirm that this is indeed current Council policy when called by residents and managers of community facilities in such emergencies?

(ii) Councillor Crow to Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources

Would the Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources please confirm that the Council will share the most up to date market research that shows that in the post COVID world there will be the previously expected demand for the creative units planned for the former bus depot on Queen Street. And also share the business plan that demonstrates it will be able to operate long term without the need for on-going subsidy from the Council.

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| 9 | Members' Allowances Scheme | 51 - 74 |
| | Council is invited to consider and approve the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following its review of the Members Allowances Scheme. | |
| 10 | Schedule of Portfolio Holder Decisions | 75 - 84 |
| | Council is invited to note the Schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions covering the period 20 November 2020- 9 February 2021. | |
| 11 | Urgent Items (Council) | |
| | Council will consider any business not specified in the Summons which by reason of special circumstances the Mayor determines should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. | |
| 12 | Reports Referred to in Recommendations | |
| | The reports specified below are submitted for information and referred to in the recommendations specified in item 7 of the agenda: | |
| | Budget 2021/22 and Medium-Term Financial Forecast, Report to Cabinet, 27 January 2021 | 85 - 128 |
| 13 | Exclusion of the Public (not Scrutiny or Executive) | |
| | In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972). | |

Part B

(not open to the public including the press)