

East Cambridgeshire District Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held on **THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY, CB7 4EE**, commencing at **6:00pm** with up to 15 minutes of Public Question Time, immediately followed by the formal business, and you are summoned to attend for the transaction of the following business

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, prayers will be delivered by Reverend Eleanor Whalley from Soham Parish Church

A minute's silence will be observed as a mark of respect following the death of former Councillor Bill Pickess, District Councillor for the Ely South Ward from 2003 to 2007

Agenda

- 1. Public Question Time** **[oral]**
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes Public Question Time (PQT) – questions/statements can be submitted in advance or placed in the PQT box in the Council Chamber prior to the commencement of the meeting – see Notes below for further information on the PQT scheme.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** **[oral]**
- 3. Election of Chair 2025/26** **[oral]**

Nomination Cllr Kelli Pettitt Cllr Christine Whelan	Proposed by Cllr Anna Bailey Cllr Ross Trent	Seconded by Cllr Julia Huffer Cllr Christine Colbert
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- 4. Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Chair and Presentation of Past Chair's Medallion and Scroll** **[oral]**
- 5. Election of Vice-Chair 2025/26** **[oral]**

Nomination Cllr Keith Horgan Cllr Gareth Wilson	Proposed by Cllr Anna Bailey Cllr Christine Whelan	Seconded by Cllr Julia Huffer Cllr Christine Colbert
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- 6. Declarations of Interests** **[oral]**
To receive declarations of interests from Members for any items on the agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.
- 7. Minutes – 25 February 2025 & 20 March 2025** **Page 1 & 14**
To confirm as a correct record.
- 8. Stretham Ward District By-Election Result** **[oral]**
To note the election of Councillor Lee Denney as a District Councillor for the Stretham Ward.
- 9. Chair’s Announcements** **[oral]**
- 10. To receive Petition(s) (If any)** **[oral]**
- 11. Notice of Motions under Procedure Rule 10** **[oral]**

Councillors’ Role in Planning Applications

East Cambridgeshire District Council, hereinafter referred to as the ‘Council’, notes that:

- The Deputy Prime Minister has published a planning and infrastructure bill designed to liberalise planning rules
- The Local Government Association has written to ministers to express its reservations about this plan
- This Council has a commitment under its Corporate Plan to support community-led, affordable and sustainable development, with investment in infrastructure

The Council believes that:

- Whilst the Council places on record its admiration for the high-quality work of its planning officers, it is additionally the democratic role of locally elected councillors to be involved in the decision-making process of selected planning applications which affect their residents’ lives and land
- Such applications are not necessarily restricted to large or non-routine applications
- This plan could represent a further setback to community-led development
- Removing the ability for councillors to choose to debate and vote on specific developments in their localities could erode public trust in the planning system and local government more generally
- Regional Mayors will soon be responsible for strategic planning and will be given new powers to “call in” applications for decision
- Local Planning Authorities will be significantly larger and more remote from local communities after Local Government Reorganisation
- Ministers lack the level of localised information which councils and councillors have as to which decisions should be made by officers and which by councillors
- These measures represent an erosion of local democracy and accountability

Therefore, the Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to MHCLG and Charlotte Cane MP, outlining this Council’s opposition to the proposals and inviting them to work with the Council to find appropriate solutions

- Instruct the Operational Services Committee, in consultation with relevant officers, to do all it can to ensure that robust mechanisms continue to exist for Councillors both to express views on and to determine planning applications related to their ward, in anticipation of the Bill becoming law
- Continue to encourage and financially support its parishes in the preparation and completion of local Neighbourhood Plans over the next three years, including those which are beginning the process of creating one, such as Wicken Parish Council

Proposer: Cllr Lucius Vellacott (Soham South and Wicken – Conservative)

Seconder: Cllr Bill Hunt

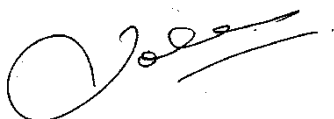
12. **To answer questions from Members (If any)** **[oral]**
13. **Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders** **Page 18**
14. **Political Proportionality** **Page 19**
15. **Membership of Committees and Sub-Committees (including Substitutes) and Other Member Bodies 2025/26** **Page 23**
16. **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for all Committees and Sub-Committees 2025/26:** **[oral]**
 - Finance and Assets Committee
 - Operational Services Committee
 - Audit Committee
 - Licensing Committee
 - Planning Committee
 - Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee
 - F&A (Ethical Governance) Sub-Committee
 - Licensing Sub-Committee (Statutory)
 - Licensing Sub-Committee (Non-Statutory)
17. **Schedule of items recommended from Committees and other Member bodies:**
 - Audit Committee – 15 April 2025
 - **Audit Committee Annual Report** **Page 30**
18. **Bereavement Centre Budget** **Page 38**
Exempt appendices (Pages 61-65 Exempt Pack)
19. **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority:**
 - (a) **Appointments to Combined Authority** **Page 46**
 - (b) **Update report – February & March 2025** **Page 52**
20. **Actions taken on the grounds of urgency – Wentworth Parish Council – Council Tax** **Page 54**

Exclusion of the Public including representatives of the Press

That the Press and Public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining items because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Categories 1 and 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

21. Exempt - Partnership working through Section 113 Agreement

Exempt Report (Page 66 Exempt Pack)



J Hill
Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Council

NOTES:

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. Admittance is on a "first come, first served" basis and public access will be from 30 minutes before the start time of the meeting. Due to room capacity restrictions, members of the public are asked, where possible, to notify Democratic Services (democratic.services@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555) of their intention to attend a meeting.

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream of the meeting will be available. Further details can be found at <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/node/1406> Please be aware that all attendees, including those in the public gallery, will be visible on the livestream.

Public Questions/Statements are welcomed on any topic related to the Council's functions as long as there is no suspicion that it is improper (e.g. offensive, slanderous or might lead to disclosures of Exempt or Confidential information). Up to 15 minutes is allocated for this at the start of the meeting. Further details about the Public Question Time scheme are available at: <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/committees/public-question-time-scheme>

The Council has adopted a 'Purge on Plastics' strategy and is working towards the removal of all consumer single-use plastics in our workplace. Therefore, we do not provide disposable cups at our meetings and would ask members of the public to bring their own drink to the meeting, if required.

Fire instructions for meeting: The instructions in the event of a fire at the venue will be announced at the commencement of the meeting.

Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked "oral".

If required, all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (e.g. large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling Main Reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail: translate@eastcambs.gov.uk

If the Committee wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting, a resolution in the following terms will need to be passed:

“That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no(s). X because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category X of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”