



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE
Telephone: 01353 665555

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held on **TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023** 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.

A minute's silence will be observed as a mark of respect following the death of former Councillor Chris Morris, District Councillor for the Dullingham Villages Ward from 2011 to 2019 and former Councillor Geoffrey Woollard, District Councillor for the Bottisham Ward from 1985 to 1991

AGENDA

1. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** [oral]
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes Public Question Time
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** [oral]
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [oral]
To receive declarations of interest from Members for any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct
4. **MINUTES – 20 OCTOBER AND 15 DECEMBER 2022**
To confirm as a correct record
5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** [oral]
6. **TO RECEIVE PETITION(S)** [oral]
7. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10** [oral]

Voter Identification

This Council notes

1. The passing of the Elections Act 2022 including a new requirement for electors to show photographic identification at polling stations in order to vote in person;
2. The concerns expressed by a variety of organisations that this is likely to prevent large numbers of people from participating in elections, with black and minority

ethnic, low income, disabled, LGBT+, elderly and young voters being particularly likely to be disenfranchised;

3. That the acceptable forms of ID listed by the Government are weighted towards more affluent and older voters, who are more likely to have passports, driving licences, and senior citizens' bus passes, while forms of photo ID more likely to be held by younger people such as young persons' railcards have been excluded;
4. The comments of the Electoral Commission in September 2022 that the new rules could not 'be delivered in a way which is fully secure, accessible and workable', pointing out that 7.5 per cent of voters do not currently hold an acceptable form of ID and over 1,000 voters were denied the opportunity to vote during Voter ID trials in the 2018 and 2019 Local Elections;
5. The view of the Association of Electoral Administrators that 'it is no longer realistic to successfully introduce Voter ID in May 2023', and that the timetable for implementation should therefore be put back; and
6. The concerns expressed by the Local Government Association that there is insufficient time to make the necessary changes ahead of the May 2023 elections without risking access to the vote, and that the introduction of voter ID requirements should therefore be delayed.

This Council believes that

- a. All residents eligible to vote should be encouraged and enabled to do so, with as few barriers to participation as can be proven to be absolutely necessary;
- b. The new requirement is disproportionate given that in the 2019 General, Local, European, and Mayoral Elections there were only four convictions resulting from allegations of in-person voter fraud out of 58 million votes cast, and in the 2021 Local Elections just one caution for election fraud was issued by the police;
- c. The role of local authorities such as East Cambridgeshire District Council that are responsible for electoral registration and administration is to ensure access to the democratic process for all eligible electors; and
- d. The rushed and last-minute timeframe in which this legislation has been enacted will put considerable strain on staff and resources at East Cambridgeshire District Council to communicate the new rules to voters, provide Voter Authority Certificates to thousands of local residents, and train polling station staff in less than four months in the run-up to the 2023 Local Elections.

This Council therefore resolves to

- I. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Cabinet Office to express the Council's complete opposition to the proposals for mandatory Voter ID in view of the damaging effect it will have on UK elections, and to demand that this section of the new legislation is repealed immediately;
- II. Write to every household in East Cambridgeshire about the new requirement for voter identification and the risk that electors may be disenfranchised;
- III. Work with partners including parish councils and the County Council to increase awareness of the change in legislation and the new barriers to electoral participation;
- IV. Liaise with the County Council and other partners to develop and implement a targeted programme to ensure that residents particularly at risk of losing their right to vote are made aware of the requirement to apply for identification papers in order to vote, and supported to do so; and
- V. Receive a report to the March meeting of the Council's Finance & Assets Committee to update on the activities carried out under I-IV above, publish the numbers of applications for Voter Authority Certificates received, and the number awarded, and advise of any issues arising.

Proposer: Cllr Lorna Dupré

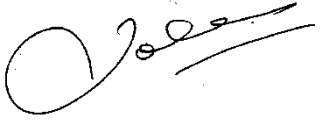
Secunder: Cllr Charlotte Cane

8. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS [oral]
9. CHANGE TO POLITICAL GROUP, PROPORTIONALITY AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES
10. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24
11. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – BURROUGH GREEN/DULLINGHAM
12. SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES:
- a. Treasury Operations Mid-Year Review
 - b. Annual Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) 2023/24
 - c. Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy
13. 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX, REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL STRATEGY
- In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, there is a statutory requirement for a recorded vote to be taken on the Budget each year
14. THE MAKING (ADOPTION) OF THE SWAFFHAM BULBECK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
- Due to the size of the document, the Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan, Appendix 1 of the report, has been circulated separately to Councillors. Copies are available on the Council's website www.eastcambs.gov.uk or from Democratic Services
15. APPOINTMENT OF BOARD DIRECTOR EAST CAMBS STREET SCENE (ECSS)
16. EAST CAMBS STREET SCENE (ECSS) MANAGEMENT FEE 2022/23
17. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE REPORT
- (a) September to December 2022
 - (b) January 2023

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the following agenda item 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 there would be disclosure to them of Exempt information of Categories 3 and 4 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

18. SECTION 113 BUSINESS CASES - FRAUD SERVICES ANGLIA REVENUES PARTNERSHIP (ARP)



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 www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/council-21022023. 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)."