



Worcester
CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

AGENDA

Date: Tuesday, 28th November, 2023

Time: 7.00 pm

**Venue: The Guildhall, High Street,
Worcester WR1 2EY**

COUNCIL

Information for Members of the Public

Access to the Guildhall is via the front entrance in the High Street. The nearest car park is Copenhagen Street (pay and display). If you are a wheelchair user or have restricted mobility, access to the Guildhall can be gained either through the door on the right side of the forecourt as you face the Guildhall, or through the sliding doors at the rear of the Guildhall. There is dedicated disabled parking space at the rear (access via Copenhagen Street). Most meetings are held on the ground floor, which can be reached by using a lift. If you are a wheelchair user or have restricted mobility and you wish to attend a meeting, please telephone or email the officer mentioned below in advance and we will make any necessary arrangements to assist your visit.

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this part of the Agenda as well as background documents used in the preparation of these reports. Details of the background papers appear at the foot of each report. Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of 'Exempt Information' for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

Please note that this is a public meeting and members of the public and press are permitted to report on the proceedings. "Reporting" includes filming, photographing, making an audio recording and providing commentary on proceedings. Any communicative method can be used to report on the proceedings, including the internet, to publish, post or share the proceedings. Accordingly, the attendance of members of the public at this meeting may be recorded and broadcast. By choosing to attend this public meeting you are deemed to have given your consent to being filmed or recorded and for any footage to be broadcast or published.

Please note the Council records and live streams many of its meetings. These recordings are published on the relevant meeting pages of the Council's website. A notice to this effect will be posted in the meeting room. If a member of the public chooses to speak at a meeting of the City Council he/she will be deemed to have given their consent to being recorded and audio being published live to the Council's website. The Chair of the meeting, can at their discretion, terminate or suspend recording, if in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice the proceedings of the meeting or if they consider that continued recording might infringe the rights of any individual, or breach any statutory provision.

At the start of the meeting under the item 'Public Participation' up to fifteen minutes in total is allowed for members of the public to present a petition, ask a question or comment on any matter on the Agenda. Participants need to indicate that they wish to speak by 12 noon on the last working day before the meeting by writing, telephoning or E-Mailing the officer mentioned below.

Agendas and minutes relating to all City Council Committees and Council Meetings are also available electronically, click on the option "Committee Minutes and Documents", Website Address: worcester.gov.uk

If you have any queries about this Agenda, require any details of background papers, or wish to discuss the arrangements for public participation please contact **Claire Chaplin, Democratic and Civic Services Manager, Democratic Services, Guildhall, Worcester WR1 2EY. Telephone: 01905 722005 (direct line); E-Mail Address: committeeadministration@worcester.gov.uk**

This agenda can be made available in large print, braille, on PC disk, tape or in a number of ethnic minority languages. Please contact the above-named officer for further information.

Council
Tuesday, 28 November 2023

Members of the Council:-

Chair: The Mayor

Councillor Patricia Agar (LCo)	Councillor Stephen Hodgson (C)
Councillor Basharat Ali (L)	Councillor Jessie Jagger (LD)
Councillor Mel Allcott (LD)	Councillor Matthew Lamb (L)
Councillor Mohammad Altaf (C)	Councillor Neil Laurenson (G)
Councillor Alan Amos (C)	Councillor Karen Lawrance (LD)
Councillor Marjory Bisset (G)	Councillor Karen Lewing (G)
Councillor Owen Cleary (C)	Councillor Sarah Murray (LD)
Councillor Steve Cockeram (G)	Councillor Robyn Norfolk (L)
Councillor Katie Collier (G)	Councillor Tor Pingree (G)
Councillor Zoe Cookson (L)	Councillor Tom Piotrowski (G)
Councillor Hannah Cooper (G)	Councillor Jabbar Riaz (L)
Councillor Andrew Cross (G)	Councillor Elena Round (G)
Councillor Lynn Denham (L)	Councillor Atif Sadiq (L)
Councillor Jill Desayrah (L)	Councillor Sue Smith (L)
Councillor Shafaz Ditta (C)	Councillor James Stanley (C)
Councillor Simon Geraghty (C)	Councillor Louis Stephen (G)
Councillor Adrian Gregson (L)	Councillor Richard Udall (L)
	Councillor Elaine Willmore (L)

C = Conservative G = Green L = Labour LCo = Labour and Co-operative
LD = Liberal Democrat

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Worcester City Council to be held at The Guildhall, High Street, Worcester WR1 2EY on Tuesday, 28th November, 2023 at 7.00 pm at which meeting the following business is proposed to be transacted.

AGENDA

Part 1
(ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION IN PUBLIC)

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest.
- 3. Minutes**
Page(s): 1 - 22
Of the meeting held on 26th September 2023 to be approved and signed.

4. **Mayor's Communications**

To receive any communications the Mayor may wish to make.

5. **Public Participation**

Up to a total of fifteen minutes can be allowed, each speaker being allocated a maximum of five minutes, for members of the public to present a petition, ask a question or comment on any matter on the Agenda or within the remit of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.

6. **Questions**

The Joint Leaders of the Council, or the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee, to take any questions that may be submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

7. **Notice of Motion**

To consider any Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.

Ash Die Back

Ash Die Back is a non-native invasive fungus that presents a major threat to trees across the UK. At its current rate, the disease is predicted to kill over 80% of Ash across the UK. The economic costs are predicted to run into the billions, and it will take decades for the Ash population to recover, if recovery is possible.

Trees can survive Ash Die Back, but year on year infections will eventually kill it. The rate of loss of Ash across the UK currently outweighs the rate of woodland creation and tree planting.

This Council notes that:

- In 2015 Worcester City Council was made aware of Ash Die Back within the city.
- Now a significant number of the trees across Tolladine, New Plantation and Warndon Woods are under threat from Ash Die Back.
- Without effective management some or all of the woods may need to have access restricted for safety reasons.
- Forestry Commission and Forest Research Agency estimates that around 5,000 Ash trees on Worcester city council land are likely to be affected by the disease.

This Council believes that:

- Public access to all woodland including Tolladine, New Plantation and Warndon Woods is vital for the health, wellbeing and enjoyment of residents and visitors and must, therefore, be maintained.
- These are important ecological sites which need to be carefully and sensitively managed.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Environment Committee to consider adopting a range of measures to manage Ash Die Back including:

- Rapidly adopt and begin to implement an action plan using the Woodland Trust's template;

- Identify potential sources of funding to manage Ash Die Back across all Council owned sites, including Tolladine, New Plantation and Warndon Woods and to support a programme of replanting in accordance with good woodland management;
- Maximise the value of felled wood and reinvest the money from the sale of that wood to offset the cost of management;
- Raise public awareness of the need for woodland management throughout Worcester for the benefit of public health;
- Explore the feasibility of an Adopt a Tree scheme for residents to directly support the replanting of affected woodland;
- Work with nature organisations and landowners in the city and across our boundaries to ensure that best practice and knowledge on Ash Die Back management is applied and promoted across all of our treasured green spaces.

Proposed by: Councillor Murray

Ceasefire in Gaza

Council:

(a) (i) deeply regrets and condemns the tragic loss of civilian life in both the Hamas terrorist attacks on 7th October and the ensuing Israeli bombardment of Gaza;

(ii) condemns Islamophobia, antisemitism, and all other forms of racism that are being propagated by those looking to divide our communities and who are seeking to dismantle any hope for a peaceful settlement.

Council notes:-

(b) (i) that East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Gaza are illegally occupied by Israel; and that Gaza has been subject to 16 years of blockade;

(ii) that the Israeli government has been withholding essential resources from Gaza and what UN Experts have described as “destroying or damaging homes, hospitals, markets and UN Reliefs and Works Agency (UNRWA)” and that Amnesty International has “documented unlawful Israeli attacks, including indiscriminate attacks, which caused mass civilian casualties and must be investigated as war crimes”;

(iii) that under Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as certain acts “committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group” and that, under Article I, the UK has confirmed that genocide is a crime under international law, which it undertakes to prevent and to punish;

(iv) the UK, at the UN Security Council on 18th October 2023, refused to vote for “humanitarian pauses” to deliver lifesaving aid to millions in Gaza; and

(v) Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, B’tselem, and the South African government recognise that the state of Israel is enacting a system of apartheid;

(vi) that these horrific events have had a huge effect on many Worcester residents, in particular those with relatives and friends in the region.

Council therefore resolves to:-

(c) (i) call upon the UK Government to:-

- (i) call for an immediate ceasefire and to vote for this at the UN;
- (ii) cease all arms sales to Israel and end military aid for Israel; and
- (iii) call on Israel to resume negotiations with the Palestinians;

(ii) request that the Chief Executive submits this motion to the UK Government; and

(iii) request that the Communities Committee consider whether the Council should actively support the work of Worcester Palestine Friendship.

Proposed by: Councillor Laurenson

8. **Report from the Relevant Committee on Matters which are Referred to Council for Decision**

To consider motions to adopt reports on matters which by law or in accordance with the Constitution are referred to Council.

8.1 Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee 21st November 2023 - St Peter the Great County Parish Council/ Warndon Parish Council: Review of Electoral Arrangements

Ward(s): St. Peter's Parish; Warndon Parish North; Warndon Parish South

Contact Officer: Claire Chaplin, Democratic and Civic Services Manager
Tel: 01905 722005

That the Council considers the preferred option identified by Policy and Resources Committee for the ordinary year of election for St Peter the Great County Parish Council and Warndon Parish Council and makes a final determination.

(Report to follow)

8.2 Referral Report from Income Management Sub-Committee, 15th November 2023 - Freedom Leisure Proposed Fees and Charges for 2023/24

Page(s): 23 - 46

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Alan New, Lead Commissioner for Leisure, Play, Health and Wellbeing
Tel: 01905 721122

That the Council approves the Fees and Charges submitted by Freedom Leisure for 2024 (covering the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 inclusive).

9. **Review of Political Balance on Committees and Sub-Committees 2023/24**

Page(s): 47 - 50

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Sian Stroud, Corporate Director, Planning and Governance
Tel: 01905 722017

That the Council agrees the allocation of seats between Political Groups, as set out in Appendix 1, to take effect from the date of the Council meeting.

10. **Appointment of Members to Committees**

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Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Sian Stroud, Corporate Director, Planning and Governance
Tel: 01905 722017

That the Council agrees changes to appointments of Members to Committees for 2023/24.

11. **Report from the Joint Leaders of the Council on Any Matters Which They Are of the Opinion Require Urgent Consideration by the Council**

To receive a report, if necessary.

12. **Any Exempt Issues**

To consider any exempt matters which might arise.

David Blake
Managing Director
Guildhall
Worcester WR1 2EY
Date: 20th November 2023