

Wisbech Town Council



WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

2 March 2020 – 7.30 pm – Council Chamber, Wisbech Town Hall

All members of the council are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving the business to be transacted at the meeting, as set out below.

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend the meeting.

(A period not exceeding 15 minutes is made available at the beginning of the meeting, where residents so require, to raise issues relating to matters over which the council has duties, powers or influence (see notes at the end of the agenda).

AGENDA

1. To receive members' apologies for absence.
2. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda item (see guidance notes at the end of the agenda).
3. Wisbech Town Football Club – further to minute 147/19, to consider supporting the fundraising activity which is being undertaken by the football club to meet the cost of repairing the damage, caused recently by Storm Ciara, to the stadium at Wisbech Town football ground.
4. Proposed incinerator for Wisbech

(1) Motion to Council.

Councillor Tierney to propose:

"This Council understands that there is a proposal to build an Incinerator Facility in Wisbech.

Incinerators are actually wasteful - they burn much of what is otherwise recyclable and their demand for fuel can sometimes result in a reduction in recycling due to their need to bid for more and more waste. This means that it becomes typical for incineration to lead to a reduction in recycling and discourages efforts to preserve resources and creates incentives to generate more waste.

Waste Incineration is not a renewable source of energy - incinerator companies are marketing "waste-to-energy" as a source of renewable energy. However, unlike other renewables, the fuel does not come from infinite natural processes. On the contrary, it is source from finite resources.

Burning waste produces toxic emissions - burning waste is hazardous for citizens' health and the environment. Even the most advanced technologies cannot avoid the release of vast amounts of pollutants that contaminate air, soil and water, and end up entering the food chain. Incinerators are major emitters of carcinogenic pollutants as well tiny particles of dust that can lead to decreased lung function, irregular heartbeat, heart attacks, and premature death.

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Burning waste creates fewer employment opportunities than recycling - incinerators offer relatively few jobs when compared to recycling. The large footprint of a huge Incinerator could clearly produce more jobs as regular manufacturing space. The idea that an Incinerator is a valuable job creator for local people is bluster.

The world is embracing Zero Waste, and Incineration is a backwards step - “waste-to-energy” is often described as a good way to extract energy from resources but, in fact, it works against the circular economy, producing toxic waste, air pollution and for those that are concerned about Climate Change - contributing to it.

Wisbech roads would be heavily affected - an Incinerator of the size proposed would create hundreds of additional large lorry journeys daily, creating significant additional congestion and wear and tear on already busy roads.

Wisbech Rail would be under threat – the town’s long-held hope to re-open its rail line has been championed by the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the local MP and all local councils. Millions of pounds have been invested to get to the current point. The proposed location of the Incinerator limits the potential options for a new rail station and cuts off part of the potential route that it could take.

In 2019, Wisbech Town Council’s Motion to oppose the Incinerator project met with nearly unanimous support. An original local campaign opposing the Incinerator has since been joined by a second campaign doing the same thing. Rallies, public meetings and large campaigns are in place.

Many environmental groups are opposed to incineration due to the issues already discussed.

The company is hoping to avoid the planning process. The Incinerator proposal is of such a large size that it bypasses the usual planning route through local councils and, instead, will be decided directly at Government level. This means that local people and local councils have very limited opportunities to make their views known.

It is important that local people see that Wisbech Town Council as an organisation understands the strength of public opinion against the proposed incinerator and that it is willing to continue to stand up and be counted in the campaign to try to prevent it ever happening.

Wisbech Town Council states that it

1. does not support the construction of an incinerator in Wisbech;
 2. will write to the Secretary of State to make clear its opposition to these plans.
 3. will take any and all legal avenues and processes available to the council to continue to fight on behalf of the residents of Wisbech, the surrounding villages, and Fenland as a whole, and to challenge this unwelcome scheme every step of the way”.
- (2) Campaign of opposition – further to minute 147/19, to consider embarking upon a campaign of opposition to the proposed incinerator for Wisbech and the formation of a working party in that regard (draft Terms of Reference for a Wisbech Anti-incinerator Working Party to be circulated to members by the Town Clerk).

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Members of the Town Council: Councillors Balsevics (Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor), Hill (Chairman/Mayor), Miss Hoy, Human, Ketteringham, Lynn, Maul, Meekins, Oliver, Patrick, Mrs Pehlivanova, Prest, Rackley, Tibbs, Tierney, Topgood, Mrs Wallwork and Wing.

Agenda issued and published (on 25 February 2020) by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Jordan'.

**Mr T Jordan, PSLCC
Clerk to Wisbech Town Council
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NOTES:

The Council Chamber is situated on the first floor of the Town Hall and access is available via a stair-lift if required. However, if wheelchair access is required, please contact the office, on 01945 461333, so that the necessary arrangements (the installation of temporary ramping) can be made.

Members of the public, representatives of the press and councillors may film, audio-record, take photographs and use social media to report on meetings as they take place and the council shall make reasonable provision for this to happen. Those who wish to report on meetings in this way are advised to contact the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting so that any arrangements, if necessary, can be made. Further information regarding the situation is displayed on a notice at the entrance to the Council Chamber and in the guidance below.

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Guidance for the public attending Town Council meetings

Open Forum

A period not exceeding 15 minutes is made available at the beginning of the meeting, where residents so require, to raise issues relating to matters over which the council has duties, powers or influence.

There is no facility for a dialogue between members of the public and councillors during a meeting of the Town Council. If an issue raised by a member of the public during the Open Forum is the subject of an item on the agenda for the meeting, the comments of the member of the public may be taken into account by the council when discussing that item. If that is not the case, the matter could, if members consider appropriate, be the subject of an item on the agenda for a future meeting.

The Open Forum section of the agenda is not a mechanism for members of the public to make personal attacks upon members of Wisbech Town Council. Furthermore, if a member of the public is of the opinion that a Wisbech Town Councillor has, through his or her actions, brought the office of councillor into disrepute, the member of the public should refer the complaint to the Monitoring Officer at Fenland District Council; not raise it publicly at a meeting of the Town Council.

Recording of meetings

Members of the public, representatives of the press and councillors may (under the provisions of the Local Government and Accountability Act 2014 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014) film, audio-record, take photographs and use social media to report on meetings as they take place and the council shall make reasonable provision for this to happen.

The legislation and regulations allow the recording, broadcasting and use of social media to report on council, committee and sub-committee meetings if conducted in a non-disruptive manner during the course of the meeting. Such rights do not extend to the recorded material being used: out of sequence; in a way that misinterprets the proceedings; in a manner that misinterprets the views of those speaking at the meeting.

This means that there is a possibility that proceedings at this meeting are being recorded in some way by persons in attendance.

The Chairman of the meeting (Town Mayor) has the right to ask any person to leave a meeting or to suspend a meeting if the actions of those in attendance, including councillors, are deemed to be sufficiently disruptive to impede the business of the meeting.

Disturbance to meetings

The council's Standing Orders state that "If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings of any meeting, the Chairman (Town Mayor) may, after warning, order that the person(s) be removed from the meeting and may adjourn the meeting for such period as is necessary to restore order.

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Exclusion of the public from meetings for confidential items of business

To exclude the public (including the press) from a meeting of the Council, it is necessary for the following proposition to be moved and adopted "that, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for item number(s), which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated"

Notes on members' interests

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- (1) Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest and, unless the member has obtained a dispensation, he or she cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.
- (2) A member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it
 - (a) relates to him or her, or
 - (b) is an interest of -
 - (i) the member's spouse or civil partner; or
 - (ii) a person with whom the member is living as husband and wife; or
 - (iii) a person with whom the member is living as if civil partners and the member is aware that the other person has the interest.
- (3) Disclosable pecuniary interests include -
 - (a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;
 - (b) any financial benefit received by the member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a member (except from the Council);
 - (c) any current contracts with the Council;
 - (d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;
 - (e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;
 - (f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest;
 - (g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.

Other Interests

- (4) If a member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest, he or she is required to declare that interest but may remain and participate in discussion and voting.
- (5) A member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest where -
 - (a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of the member or a member of his or her family or a person with whom the member has a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which the member has been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or
 - (b) it relates to or is likely to affect any of the descriptions referred to above but in respect of a member of the councillor's family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom the member has a close association and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.