

Chesham Town Council

Bill Richards
Town Clerk



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16th November 2012

Dear Councillor,

You are **SUMMONED** to attend a special meeting of the **CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL** to be held in the Council Chamber, The Town Hall, Chesham, on

MONDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To confirm Minutes of the Council Meeting of the held on 5th November 2012.
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Consideration of Committee Membership and Outside Bodies representation following Waterside By-Election.
5. Granting of Dispensations in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Richards'.

Bill Richards
Town Clerk

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Chesham Town Council, Town Hall, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1DS
Twinned with Friedrichsdorf Germany; Houilles France; Archena Spain

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4 – COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Reporting Officer: Bill Richards (01494 583824)

Summary

1. To consider the confirmation of the new Member for Waterside onto Committees and Outside Bodies and to consider the political balance of the Committees.

Background Information

2. Councillor Ms Boxer was duly elected as the new Member for Waterside on the 15th November 2012.
3. Standing Order 26 (c) states that the constitution of all other Standing Committees other than the Development Control Committee *‘shall be based on a reasonable balance of political or other groupings’*

Financial Implications

4. Non applicable

Strategic Objectives

5. Accords with strategic objective 6 - *‘To represent the views and wishes of the citizens of Chesham.’*

Equality Act Implications

6. Non applicable.

Detailed Consideration

7. As Councillor Ms Boxer has replaced Councillor Ms Bramwell, it would seem sensible if she replaces her on the Recreation and Arts Committee as well as on the Development Control Committee. She has intimated she is happy to also replace Councillor Ms Bramwell on the Friends of Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre. At the time of writing, she has not yet confirmed whether she wishes to replace Councillor Ms Bramwell as the Council’s representative on Dial-a-Ride or on the Impress the Chess and Marketing Working Parties.
8. In respect to the political balance, the current situation is as follows:
Liberal Democrats ó 9 Members
Conservatives ó 8
Independents ó 2

If Councillor Ms Boxer is confirmed on the Development Control and the Recreation and the Arts Committee, then the balance will be proportional to the current political make-up of the Council for these Committees (i.e. Development Control 9, 8 and 2: Recreation and the Arts 5, 5 and 1 respectively). However the Executive and the Policy and Resources Committees will continue to have a Liberal Democrat majority (4, 2 and 1 and 6, 4 and 1 respectively).

9. The Council may wish therefore to consider if it wants to increase the Executive and Policy and Resources Committees membership by one and nominate Members to them to reflect the current ~~no~~ overall control political make-up of the Council. Alternatively the current situation in respect to membership can remain until the Annual Meeting in May (particularly as the Executive is unlikely to meet again before then).

Recommendation

- 1. The Council confirms Councillor Ms Boxer onto the Development Control Committee and the Recreation and Arts Committee.**
- 2. That the vacancies on Outside Bodies and Working Parties as outlined in the report be filled.**
- 3. That the Council consider its position in respect to the political balance of the Committees.**

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5 – GRANTING OF DISPENSATIONS

Reporting Officer: Bill Richards (01494 583824)

Summary

1. To consider passing a resolution granting dispensation for those items of business which were previously exempt under the 2007 Code of Conduct.

Background Information

2. The Council adopted its new Code of Conduct at its meeting of the 3rd September 2012.
3. At the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of the 15th October 2012, it was resolved that *the Committee recommends the passing of a resolution by Council granting dispensation for those items of business which were previously exempt under the 2007 Code of Conduct.* (Min No. 30).
4. At the Council meeting of the 5th November 2012, 17 Members requested, and were duly granted dispensations in accordance with the Localism Act (Minute No. 56).

Financial Implications

5. Non applicable

Strategic Objectives

6. Accords with strategic objective 6 - *To represent the views and wishes of the citizens of Chesham.*

Equality Act Implications

7. Non applicable.

Detailed Consideration

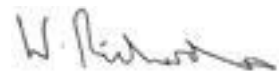
8. With the new legislative changes in the Localism Act, the rationale for Members seeking a dispensation to discuss an allowance, payment or indemnity for Members and setting council tax or a precept was explained at the last Policy and Resources Committee and dispensations recommended.

9. The new Member for Waterside, Councillor Ms Boxer, and Councillor Mrs Michael are expected to submit in writing a request for a dispensation on the above matter before the meeting.

Recommendation

The Council passes a resolution granting dispensations for:

Speaking and voting on an allowance, payment or indemnity for Members and setting council tax or a precept until the next ordinary election scheduled for May 2015 for any remaining Members requesting this dispensation.



Bill Richards
Town Clerk