



DEVIZES TOWN **COUNCIL**

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Devizes Town Council Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: 26 June 2008

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 722160

Chairman: The Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs Burton)

Councillors:	Beinhorn	Callow	East
	Evans	Mrs Evans	Gagen
	Gudgeon	Hopkins	Leighton
	Nash	Parsons	Smith
	A R Taylor	Mrs Taylor	C S Winchcombe
	Mrs Winchcombe		

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 15 May 2008.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosures by a Councillor(s) and/or Officers in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. To receive announcements and communications.

5. To answer questions (if any) under standing order No. 13.

6. REPORT FOR DECISION – APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Recommendation

That the committee re-appoints Mr George Dixon as the Internal Auditor for the Devizes Town Council and is directed by officers to carry out the duties as prescribed by the Audit Commission.

Purpose of the Report

To formally recognise that Mr Dixon, the internal auditor for Devizes Town Council, has the authority to audit and sign the annual accounts for the town council in the capacity of Internal Auditor.

Background

It is now a requirement of the Audit Commission that the annual accounts are audited and signed off by an independent internal auditor.

Options Considered

No other options have been considered as this is a legal requirement however if the committee should so wish to appoint another internal auditor it will have to instruct officers to recruit an alternative candidate through the financial agencies and agree that this cost can be set against the general reserve. Bearing in mind that the final accounts have to be internally audited and submitted by the 31 July 2008 officers recommend that Mr Dixon be duly re-appointed for at least this year.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

These are outlined in the report above.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

These are outlined in the report above.

Environmental Implications

Officers are not aware of any resulting from this report.

Risk Assessment

These are outlined in the report above.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998

7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – UPDATE ON CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

Circulated alongside this agenda is a list detailing the current position with regard to ongoing and proposed projects.

8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

It was intended that this meeting would consider and approve the accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2008. Due to a legislative change in the accounting regime the Council accounting software needs to be converted. It has not been possible for this to be achieved for the accounts to be ready for this meeting it is therefore intended to hold an additional meeting on 24 July.

9. REPORT FOR DECISION – LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Recommendation

To agree a response to the consultation undertaken by Wiltshire County Council with regard to the timing of future local council elections.

Purpose of the Report

For the Council to form a view on when the next local council elections should be held

Background

The council are being consulted on the preferred date on which the next local council elections are to be held.

The options are set out in the letter from the Chief Executive of Wiltshire County Council, Keith Robinson (doc 9/1), and in a letter to him from the Department of Communities and Local Government (doc 9/2).

Options Considered

The Council can decide to support either

1. Elections to be held in May 2009
or
2. Elections to be held in May 2013
or
3. Elections to be held in 2009 to coincide with elections to the European Parliament

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

The current leader of the County Council has indicated that that the new council will pay for local council elections when they fall together. This being the case, there would be a financial implication if the local council elections were not aligned to the new authority.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

Officers are not aware of any legal implications

Environmental Implications

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications

Risk Assessment

There are no obvious risks associated with this decision

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

10. TO PASS THE FOLLOWING SEALING RESOLUTION

THAT the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to or the Town Clerk do sign on behalf of the Council where appropriate any Orders, Deeds or Documents necessary to give effect to any of the matters and recommendations contained in the reports received and adopted at this meeting or other decisions of the Council thereat.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions addressed to the Chairman concerning the administration, function or responsibilities of the Council or upon a matter, which was the subject of debate at the meeting.

A person may also be permitted to make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to local government, or to the Council's administration or upon a subject, which may be of general interest to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chairman's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business.

Town Clerk