

# Agenda Item 4

## VIRTUAL MEETING OF LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

11 DECEMBER 2020

### ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

#### VIRTUAL MEETING GUIDANCE

*Today's proceedings will be audio broadcasted and recorded.*

*When invited to speak by the Chairman, councillors should unmute their microphone, and switch on their video.*

*When councillors have finished speaking they should mute their microphone, and switch off the video.*

*If a Councillor would like to speak, they are requested to use the meeting chat function and to type 'speak' as a comment (Members will usually only be invited to speak if they have indicated using the chat function). Requests will be collated by the Chairman supported by the Head of Democratic Services.*

*If a Councillor would like to raise a Point of Order they are requested to type 'PO' in the meeting chat, if they have a Point of Information they are requested to type 'PI' into the meeting chat, and to intervene by way of personal explanation, they are requested to type 'PE' into the meeting chat. (For clarification on intervention in debate, please see pages 9/10 of this Order of Proceedings)*

*Senior Democratic Services Officer Katrina Cope will indicate in the meeting chat when a new item has begun.*

*Councillors are requested to use the meeting chat function if they are leaving or re-joining the meeting or have arrived after the roll call has been taken.*

*If Members lose connection during the meeting, it is recommended that they end the call using the red phone icon and re-join via the meeting link provided. If Members continue to experience IT issues please contact Democratic Services using the details listed on page 8 of this Order of Proceedings.*

*If the Chairman is made aware that the meeting is not accessible to the public through remote means, due to any technological or other failure of provision, then the Chairman shall adjourn the meeting immediately. If the provision of access through remote means cannot be restored within a reasonable period, then the remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chairman. If he or she does not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.*

Members are requested to join the meeting through the link in the outlook appointment at least ten minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

The agenda previously circulated and published will be followed

Councillor M Brookes in the Chair

## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS – 11 DECEMBER 2020

*(Councillors are asked to ensure that their video and microphone are both off at the start of the meeting)*

Nigel West to signal that the meeting is live with the words: "Good morning Chairman".

The Chairman to open the meeting and to introduce himself.

Chairman to state:

To enable the smooth running of this virtual meeting of the County Council I will shortly propose to suspend some of the Council procedure rules.

Head of Democratic Services, Nigel West, will then carry out a roll call to confirm attendance at the meeting and support for the motion.

In particular, to avoid numerous roll call votes and the length of time that such votes take, I propose to have a roll call vote on agenda item 12 - Motions on Notice, and otherwise to conduct votes on other business on the agenda in the following way:

- a) I will ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'. The Head of Democratic Services will identify any members abstaining for the benefit of the public.
- b) I will then ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.
- c) In the absence of any votes against I will declare the motion carried.
- d) If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

If any member wishes to call for a recorded vote on any item of business they should type the words 'recorded vote' into the chat function.

I therefore propose that the following Council procedure rules be suspended for the duration of the meeting, 13.2 (Right of the Chairman to require motion to be written down and handed to him), 15(c) (Every proposition to be decided by voices or show of hands), 15(d) (Where the decision of the Chairman is challenged on voices, requirement to have a show of hands), 15(f) (standing to call for a recorded vote) 19.1 (Standing to speak), Rule 19.2 (Chairman Standing).

Councillor T Bridges to second.

Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services, to ask Councillors to confirm their presence at the meeting and to clearly state whether they are voting for, against or abstaining in the motion to suspend the procedure rules listed above. **Councillors' names will be read out alphabetically. Councillors are requested to respond by unmuting their microphones only and saying 'present' followed by 'For', 'Against' or 'Abstain'.**

**Nigel West to announce the result of the vote to suspend procedure rules.**

**The Chairman to confirm the decision.**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

List of apologies to be read by Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services.

2. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

Councillors to indicate by typing 'speak' in the chat function if they have any interests they wish to declare.

Note:-

Councillors are reminded that there is no need to declare an interest if it has already been recorded on the register of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or notified to the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. Where councillors do declare an interest they must state what the interest is. Councillors must not speak or vote on the item if they have a DPI. Should you have any queries about declarations please seek advice from officers in advance of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Chairman to state:-

**That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 18 September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.

In the absence of any votes against, the Chairman will declare the motion carried.

If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas is a time for reflection, a look back on the year that has passed and to think about what is to come. Nobody could have predicted what 2020 had in store for us with the coronavirus pandemic and this year, more than ever, we will take time to reflect and truly appreciate what we have.

We have seen the devastating loss of lives all around the world. We've also witnessed our local communities giving their time and support to help others in need. The NHS staff, care workers and other key workers are continuing to work hard and tirelessly to keep us all safe and well.

I continue to feel so proud of local government officers and our members for their efforts in ensuring important council services are delivered to the usual high standard.

Hopefully there is now light at the end of the tunnel with the rolling out of a vaccine, but it is important that we continue to follow the guidelines and adhere to the rules of hands, face and space.

I was pleased to see Remembrance commemorations being observed, albeit in a very different way to normal proceedings. I was honoured to lay a wreath on Remembrance Day at my local war memorial in Swineshead on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.

I would like to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

5. STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

**Statements by the Members of the Executive are detailed as report reference 5.0 in the agenda previously circulated.**

6. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

**I am anxious to allow a good spread of questions across the virtual chamber within the time allocated. I intend to allow 45 minutes for questions. I am expecting councillors to be disciplined because of the time available.**

**When invited to ask your question, councillors should switch on their video and microphone, and switch them off again when they have finished speaking.**

7. GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

A report by the Chief Executive has been circulated.

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

**The County Council is recommended to support the creation of a joint committee under section 102 (1(b)) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exercise the executive functions and responsibilities referred to in the report and operating as the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee.**

Councillor C J Davie to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.

In the absence of any votes against, the Chairman will declare the motion carried.

If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

8. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

A report by the Executive Director responsible for Democratic Services has been circulated.

Councillor Mrs J Brockway to move:

- 1. That the Council notes the change in membership of the political groups on the County Council and agrees the allocation of seats illustrated in the proportionality spread sheet attached as Appendix A to the report;**
- 2. That the Council confirms the Independent Group as the Opposition Group on the Council.**

Councillor Mrs A M Newton to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.

In the absence of any votes against, the Chairman will declare the motion carried.

If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

9. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2021/22

A report by the Executive Director responsible for Democratic Services has been circulated.

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

**That the Council:**

**1. Note the IRP recommendations;**

**2. Agree that the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2021/22 be the same as the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2020/21.**

Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.

In the absence of any votes against, the Chairman will declare the motion carried.

If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

10. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

A report by the Chairman of the Audit Committee has been circulated.

Councillor Mrs S Rawlins to move:

**That the Council notes the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2020.**

Councillor A P Maughan to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.

In the absence of any votes against, the Chairman will declare the motion carried.

If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

11. EXECUTIVE DECISION – RULE 17 (SPECIAL URGENCY)

A report by the Leader of the Council has been circulated.

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

**That the decision made under Rule 17 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution by the Leader of the Council be noted.**

Councillor C E H Marfleet to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.

In the absence of any votes against, the Chairman will declare the motion carried.

If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

12. MOTIONS ON NOTICE SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION.

(1) Motion by Councillor R P Parker

The coronavirus crisis has brought home to all of us the exceptional commitment of Lincolnshire County Council staff and care workers who, alongside NHS workers and other public sector workers, have been on the front line in the battle against Covid-19 and can rightly be called the true heroes of this pandemic.

Despite such sterling work by public sector workers across the country, on 25 November the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a pay freeze for 2021/22 for most public sector workers with the exception of NHS workers

and those who earn below the median wage of £24,000 per annum. In local government this is expected to be put into effect by reducing council funding. This announcement comes just three years after the ending of a public sector freeze that had been in place since 2012. Indeed public sector pay is still lower in real terms than in 2010.

The announcement of a pay freeze for most Local Government staff could be seen to demonstrate just how little their hard work, loyalty and willingness to go the extra mile over the last eight months is valued by their employers. That said, it needs noting that the Council Leader and Chief Executive have regularly gone on record in praise of the extra efforts of our work force during the Covid-19 pandemic. But more could be done to support our staff by councillors pressing the case for a re-think by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

I therefore move that:

**This council calls on the Leader of the County Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer arguing that a pay freeze for most public sector workers is not the right approach when staff are still working in a pandemic to deliver vital services to so many people, and calling on him to re-consider his decision to impose a pay freeze on most Public Sector workers.**

Councillor R A Renshaw to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

The Chairman to ask Nigel West to carry out a roll call vote. Members are requested to only switch on their microphone and clearly state 'For', 'Against' or 'Abstain' when their name is called.

The Chairman to announce the result of the vote.

#### AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

**Members should immediately end the call using the red phone icon.**

#### Contact Details

In the event of IT disruption please contact:

Simon Firth - e-mail: [simon.firth1@serco.com](mailto:simon.firth1@serco.com) or Tel: 07718 193180

David Hair – e-mail: [davidr.hair@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:davidr.hair@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or Tel: 07387 133753

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## FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCILLORS

### COUNCIL MEETINGS – RULES OF DEBATE

(i) Rule 13.5 (When a Councillor may speak again)

A councillor who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- a) In exercise of a right of reply;
- b) On a point of order or information; and
- c) By way of personal explanation.

(ii) Rule 13.9 (Right of Reply)

- a) The mover of a motion has a right to reply at the end of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote;
- b) If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of debate on the amendments, but may otherwise not speak on it; and
- c) The mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS – INTERVENTION IN DEBATE

1. (a) Points of Order are just that. They must relate to the Council Procedure Rules or conduct of the meeting and generally will be drawing attention to a perceived breach, e.g.

- (i) absence of a quorum;
- (ii) order of speeches;
- (iii) irrelevance;
- (iv) time limit for speech exceeded;
- (v) misconduct;
- (vi) motion not seconded.

- (b) Examples of common intervention which are **NOT** points of order:-

- (i) Points of information or Personal Explanation (as to which see below);
- (ii) Disagreement with a speaker;
- (iii) Further thoughts or clarification of a previous speech prompted by the speaker (unless amounting to a Personal Explanation);
- (iv) Correction of a speakers opinion (rather than fact, which is a Point of Information);
- (v) An attempt to "reply" to another Member's speech or a point made in it;

2. (a) Point of Information – when a Member is speaking and is obviously proceeding on the basis of information which is wrong or of which the member is ignorant, another

member may properly seek to intervene to provide the correct or missing information, thereby saving the Council from being misled and saving its time.

- (b) ASKING FOR information is **NOT** a Point of Information; a member who has spoken may be able to request a colleague who has not yet spoken to ask;
- 3. (a) A Personal Explanation is a proper intervention only when an earlier speech by the Member is being misquoted or misrepresented;
- (b) It must not be used as a spurious pretext for reiteration of the Member's earlier speech or as a second speech.

4. Practice

Members making one of the Points must specify which one is being used. The Member speaking should give way. The Point should be made briefly. The Chairman will then rule on it promptly, firmly and finally. There will be no debate nor will the ruling of the Chairman be open to discussion.