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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of East Hertfordshire District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Wallfields, Hertford on Wednesday 5th March, 2014 at 7.00 pm, for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the Agenda below, and you are hereby summoned to attend.

Dated this 21st day of February 2014

Jeff Hughes
Head of Democratic and
Legal Support Services

Note: Prayers will be said before the meeting commences. Those Members who do not wish to participate will be invited to enter the Chamber at their conclusion

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements.

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 February 2014 (to follow).

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any Members' declarations of interest.

4. Petitions (Pages 5 - 6)

To receive any petitions.

5. Public Questions

To receive any public questions.

6. Members' questions

To receive any Members' questions.

7. Executive Report - 4 March 2014

To receive a report from the Leader of the Council (to follow) and to consider any recommendations.

Note – Members are reminded to bring their copy of the Executive agenda to the meeting.

8. Environment Scrutiny Committee: Minutes - 25 February 2014

*Chairman: Councillor D Abbott
To follow*

9. Council Tax 2014/15 - Formal Resolution

To receive a report (to follow) from the Executive Member for Finance.

10. Motions on Notice

To receive Motions on Notice.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1. A Member, present at a meeting of the Authority, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Authority, with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:
 - must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting;
 - must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
 - must disclose the interest to the meeting, whether registered or not, subject to the provisions of section 32 of the Localism Act 2011;
 - if the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days;
 - must leave the room while any discussion or voting takes place.

2. A DPI is an interest of a Member or their partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom they are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were civil partners) within the descriptions as defined in the Localism Act 2011.

3. The Authority may grant a Member dispensation, but only in limited circumstances, to enable him/her to participate and vote on a matter in which they have a DPI.

4. It is a criminal offence to:

- fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register;
- fail to notify the Monitoring Officer, within 28 days, of a DPI that is not on the register that a Member disclosed to a meeting;
- participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which a Member has a DPI;
- knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a DPI or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

(Note: The criminal penalties available to a court are to impose a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale and disqualification from being a councillor for up to 5 years.)

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 5 MARCH 2014

PETITION – SAVE EAST HERTS BADGERS FROM CULLING

Kim Shaw, a resident of Bishop's Stortford, submitted an e-petition request on the matter above. In accordance with the Council's petition scheme, this e-petition has been hosted on the Council's website from 17 December 2013 – 28 February 2014. At time of writing, the e-petition had attracted 12 signatories (Note – the final figure will be reported verbally at the meeting.)

We the undersigned petition the Council to prohibit the culling of badgers on council-owned land and invest in vaccination programmes locally. We ask this because we believe culling to be inhumane, inefficient and unscientific.

This is a national issue which will be of direct concern to the people of East Herts when DEFRA "rolls out" its culling policy in 2014. The object of the petition is to ensure that East Herts' badger population is as safe as possible from slaughter and that the already available injectable badger vaccine against bTB is used in as many cases as possible. We ask this because we believe the culling policy is inhumane (DEFRA's measurement of "humaneness" is to time the screams of wounded badgers), inefficient (previous culls showed an increase in bTB because of badger movement) and unscientific (the majority of scientific opinion hold that a cull will have "no meaningful result").

Note:

Members are reminded that the lead petitioner is permitted to address Council for up to three minutes. The relevant Executive Member will respond to the petition. There is no provision for any general debate by Members, however, local ward Members may comment if they wish.

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