

To all Members of the Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Your attendance is requested at a Meeting of Mole Valley District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Pippbrook, Dorking on **TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2019 at 7.00 pm** for the transaction of the business set out in the following Agenda.

Karen Brimacombe
Chief Executive
25th November 2019

The Chairman would like to remind Members that they have the opportunity to ask Officers questions, in respect of issues concerning matters of detail or for further clarification, prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th October 2019 and the Extraordinary Council held on 23rd October 2019.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

To receive any disclosures of interests from Members (either disclosable pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests) in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

a) Audit Committee: 31st October 2019 – Treasury Management

At its meeting on 31st October 2019, the Audit Committee considered the report attached at pages 7 to 19 of this agenda and made a recommendation to Council as set out below:

RECOMMENDED:

That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Monitoring Report for the period ended 30th September 2019 be received and note that, in the first half year, the Council has operated fully in accordance with the Prudential Limits and levels of approved lending stipulated in the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20.

6. MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL: CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY PROGRESS

To consider the report as set out at pages 19 to 26 of this agenda.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

That Council notes the progress being made following the declaration of the Climate Change Emergency.

7. REPORT ON PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

The Constitution provides for reports to be made to the Council with details of decisions taken under the special urgency arrangements set out in paragraph 14 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution.

There have been one such decision since the last report to Council. This is as follows:

Property Acquisition - Touristik House, Dorking Office Park

Decision:

To authorize the acquisition of the freehold land and buildings known as Touristik House, Dorking Office Park, Dorking, RH4 1HJ ("the property") at a purchase price of £14,350,000 (excluding acquisition cost and VAT);

Reason for the Decision:

The decision to acquire property is in accordance with the Asset Investment Strategy, which was approved by the Council in February 2018. The Property is within the District and therefore represents a contribution to MVDC's economic area of activity.

The decision was taken by the Chief Executive on 15 October 2018 in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (power to deal with any urgent matter arising in between ordinary meetings of the Council, Executive or Committees, in consultation with the Leader, or appropriate Committee Chairman) and paragraph 14 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

8. LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader will speak to the Council for up to 5 minutes.

9. REPORTS OF CABINET MEMBERS

To receive reports from Cabinet Members.

10. QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

A period of up to 30 minutes is set aside for questions to Members of the Cabinet. Questions are to be received by the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager by no later than 10.00 am on the third working day immediately prior to the meeting (Thursday 28th November 2019).

11. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cooksey has advised of the following change to the Liberal Democrat membership of the Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Paul Kennedy to replace Councillor Keira Vyvyan-Robinson as a full member of the Committee.

Council is requested to approve the above change to the membership of Scrutiny Committee.

Revised Scrutiny Committee Membership (11 seats)

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
1	Roger Adams	Charles Yarwood	David Harper
2	Paul Kennedy	Lynne Brooks	Garry Stansfield
3	Paul Potter	Tracy Keeley	
4	David Preedy		
5	Elsie Rosam		
6	Caroline Salmon		

Substitutes

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
1	Nancy Goodacre	Rosemary Dickson	Patricia Wiltshire
2	Emma Norman	Tim Ashton	David Hawksworth

12. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cooksey has advised of the following change to the Liberal Democrat membership of the Audit Committee: Councillor Paul Kennedy to replace Councillor Caroline Salmon as a full member of the Committee.

Council is requested to approve the above change to the membership of Audit Committee.

Revised Audit Committee Membership (11 seats)

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
1	Roger Adams	Lynne Brooks	Mary Cooper
2	Paul Kennedy	Tim Ashton	
3	Paul Elderton		
4	David Preedy		

13. MOTIONS

Motion 6/2019

The following motion was deferred from Council on 8th October, and has been submitted by Councillor Hawksworth and seconded by Councillor Dickson:-

1. This District is extraordinarily rich in assets of heritage value, including not only the fabric of particular buildings but also ones of historic, literary, scientific, wildlife, archaeological or other note.
2. The Strategy for 2019-2024, adopted unanimously by this Council, and which came into effect on 1 April 2019 aims to “Protect and enhance the natural and built environment, and ensure our areas of natural beauty and wildlife are well looked-after”, and also to “Encourage participation in sports, leisure, cultural and educational activities, to promote responsible enjoyment of our parks, open spaces, heritage and countryside.”
3. Mechanisms are in place through Historic England and Natural England and other bodies to protect various assets of national importance, and in the case of wildlife there is an established local system of recognizing Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) operated under the Surrey Nature Partnership with a list of the SNCIs in the District available from the MVDC website.
4. This Council, however, lacks a complementary system to that of SNCI system for recognizing and recording heritage assets other than those related to wildlife at the District level, and there have been several instances of cases brought to the Development Management Committee in recent years where the local heritage importance of a site has not always been appreciated in sufficient time to enable it to be taken into consideration in reaching a decision.
5. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018) is concerned to conserve and enhance the historic environment through the preservation of heritage assets including those “of local historic value” (para 184) and notes that “Local planning authorities should maintain or have access to a historic environmental record” (para 187) and make this “publicly accessible” (para 188). Heritage assets are a consideration to be taken into account in determining applications (para 189).
6. We are aware that any list of local heritage assets would need to remain open and would be expected to develop incrementally as proposals were brought forward by individuals, residents’ associations, parish councils, and local history and similar organizations.
7. Without prejudice, we note that one way to achieve such a list could be by a largely web-based GIS system, similar to or integrated with ones already utilized for other purposes by MVDC, whereby information could be input directly so that it would automatically come to the attention of officers or others conducting searches. This would ensure that the asset could be taken into account and its importance evaluated when preparing reports in relation to planning or other matters.
8. The matter of registering local heritage assets was considered briefly by the previous Administration, but not explored in detail. We now wish to see this progressed by the current Administration to support the Council’s Strategy to protect the natural and built environment of the District.

Motion

This Council requests the current Administration to explore options and develop proposals for

the establishment of a list of local heritage assets, with a view to having a mechanism for their recognition in place ~~by 1 April 2020~~ **as soon as possible***.

* The proposer and seconder of the motion have made a slight amendment to the original motion, as shown in bold above.

14. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items which the Chairman considers to be urgent.

If you require a copy of this agenda, any of the reports within it or a large print version of the agenda, please telephone Lucy O'Connell on 01306 879384 or e-mail lucy.oconnell@molevalley.gov.uk

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