

Council

Date: Thursday 24th March 2022

Time: 6.30 pm

**Venue: Virtual Meeting - Zoom - Public Access via
YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/bathnescouncil>

To: All Members of the Council

Dear Member

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Council** on **Thursday 24th March 2022** as a **Virtual Meeting - Zoom - Public Access via YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/bathnescouncil>**.

This informal virtual meeting will help to inform the decision-making meeting on 25th March 2022. This virtual meeting will be conducted in the normal manner but, as any decisions made will not be legally enforceable, they will be formally made on 25th March 2022.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely



Jo Morrison
Democratic Services Manager
for Chief Executive

Jo Morrison

Democratic Services

Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Telephone: 01225 39 4435

Web-site - <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk>

E-mail: Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk

NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control. Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators. We request that those filming/recording meetings avoid filming public seating areas, children, vulnerable people etc; however, the Council cannot guarantee this will happen.

The Council will broadcast the images and sounds live via the internet www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast. The Council may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters.

4. **Public Speaking at Meetings**

The Council has a scheme to encourage the public to make their views known at meetings. They may make a statement relevant to what the meeting has power to do. They may also present a petition or a deputation on behalf of a group.

Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.

The Council now has a maximum time limit for this, so any requests to speak cannot be guaranteed if the list is full.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=12942>

5. **Supplementary information for meetings**

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13505>

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A G E N D A

1. WELCOME
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to complete the green interest forms circulated to groups in their pre-meetings (which will be announced at the Council Meeting) to indicate:

(a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.

(b) The nature of their interest.

(c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** *or* **an other interest**,
(as defined in Part 2, A and B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

4. MINUTES - 16TH FEBRUARY 2022 (Pages 7 - 12)

To be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

These are matters of information for Members of the Council. No decisions will be required arising from the announcements.

6. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

If there is any urgent business arising since the formal agenda was published, the Chair will announce this and give reasons why it has been agreed for consideration at this meeting. In making this decision, the Chair will, where practicable, have consulted with the Leaders of the Political Groups. Any documentation on urgent business will be circulated at the meeting, if not made available previously.

7. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received. The Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be

circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

8. **AEQUUS GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND BUSINESS PLAN (Pages 13 - 130)**

This report sets out proposals for changes to the Governance and Structure of the Council's wholly owned housing and development companies (Aequus Developments Ltd and Aequus Construction Ltd) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the arrangements based on actual experience since establishment of the companies over the past four years. The report also presents the Aequus Accounts for 2021/22 together with the Business Plan for 2021/22 to 2023/24.

9. **CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 131 - 150)**

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019, committing to provide the leadership to enable Bath and North East Somerset to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. An annual update is provided to Council.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON & INDEPENDENT MEMBER (Pages 151 - 158)**

This report invites the Council to appoint the Independent Person and an Independent Member with responsibility for supporting the Standards Committee.

11. **COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE - 6 MONTH RULE DISPENSATION (Pages 159 - 162)**

This report considers councillor attendance, as Covid restrictions are lifted.

12. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHAIR(MAN) AND VICE-CHAIR(MAN) DESIGNATE FOR 2022/23 (Pages 163 - 164)**

The purpose of this report is to invite the Council to name a Councillor as Chair(man) of the Council (Designate) for the next Council Year beginning in May 2022 to assist in forward planning purposes. The Council, at its Annual Meeting, will still be required formally to elect a Councillor to be the Chair(man) of the Council for the forthcoming Council Year. Council may wish to indicate at this stage any intentions for the Vice Chair(man) position for 2022/23 or leave that until the Annual meeting.

13. **CLEANING UP OUR RIVERS - MOTION FROM LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP (Pages 165 - 168)**

14. **UKRAINIAN REFUGEES - MOTION FROM LABOUR GROUP (Pages 169 - 170)**

15. **QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received. The Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Jo Morrison who can be contacted on 01225 394358.