

Council Meeting

4th March 2009

Notices of Motions Received

The following Motions have been received and not withdrawn. Comments upon the competence of the Motions follows the text of the Motions.

Rule of Procedure 9.2 provides:-

Motions for which Notice has been given will be listed on the Agenda in the order in which Notice was received, unless the Member giving Notice states in writing that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it.

Rule of Procedure 9.3 provides:-

Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the area.

Rule of Procedure 11.7 (a) provides:-

A Member may alter a Motion of which he/she has given Notice with the consent of the meeting. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion.

Rule of Procedure 11.8 provides:-

A Member may withdraw a Motion which he/she has moved with the consent of both the meeting and the Seconder. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion. No Member may speak on the Motion after the mover has asked permission to withdraw it unless permission is refused.

Rule of Procedure 13 provides:-

A motion or amendment to rescind a decision made at a meeting of the Council within the past six months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion is signed by at least 18 Members.

A motion or amendment in similar terms to one that has been rejected at a meeting of Council in the past 6 months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion or amendment is signed by at least 18 Members. Once the motion or amendment is dealt with, no-one can propose a similar motion or amendment for 6 months.

Rule of Procedure 20.1 provides:-

All of these Council Rules of Procedure except Rule 14.6 and 15.2 may be suspended by motion on notice or without notice if at least one half of the whole number of Members of the Council are present. Suspension can only be for the duration of the meeting.

1 PROPOSED by Councillor R M Bleakley

This Council notes that 2009 is the 30th anniversary of the Woolworths Store (Manchester) fire where 10 people were tragically killed overcome by smoke and heat.

Council also notes the introduction of the Furniture and Furnishings Regulations (Fire) (Safety) 1988 and its impact on reducing fire fatalities, fire injuries and the economic costs of these fires throughout Wigan Borough and the UK.

Council also notes that the remainder of Europe does not enjoy the same level of fire safety protection in respect of furniture and furnishings on the UK.

- Council therefore welcomes the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority's campaign to ensure that there is no reduction in standards of furniture safety throughout Greater Manchester and the UK - in particular as a result of any proposals which may arise from within the European Community.

This Motion is competent for debate.

2 PROPOSED by Councillor R M Bleakley

This Council notes the current economic difficulties faced by small businesses and wants to build and strengthen current links with the local business community to develop a clear strategy to assist them through these difficult times.

This Council calls on the Cabinet to urgently consult with local businesses and deliver a plan to aid small businesses in the borough.

We urge the Cabinet to consider, amongst others, the following measures:

- encourage small businesses that are eligible for Small Business Rates Relief to apply for it.
- encourage larger organisations within Wigan Borough to pay small firms promptly, ideally within 20 days.
- use of Local Authority Business Growth Incentive money to help small firms.
- use the Hardship Rate Relief scheme to protect vital small businesses, promote sustainable communities and keep small firms in town centres.
- work with our partners on the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities to ensure that local businesses have access to the appropriate information and to consider strategies for encouraging and sustaining local businesses.

This Motion is competent for debate.

3 PROPOSED by Councillor R M Bleakley

That this Council expresses concern at the decision by United Utilities to introduce a new method of calculating surface water charges and highways drainage services, known as site area charging; recognises the negative impact this will have on churches and other community organisation throughout Wigan Borough which, in some cases, will now face increases in their charges in excess of £1,000 per year as they are being treated in the same way as all other non-household customers.

This Council therefore calls on United Utilities to review the decision to impose site area charging on churches and community organisations throughout Wigan Borough which cannot afford such huge increases in their water bills.

This Motion is competent for debate.

4 PROPOSED by Councillor N A Bradbury

This Council withdraws its support for the proposed Guided Busway from Leigh to Manchester following overwhelming disapproval of the scheme by the general public, and the use of what is a failed technology. What is needed for Leigh is a heavy rail link to Manchester joining the Atherton Line at Walkden, with stations at Tyldesley, and Mosley Common; this stop in particular would make an ideal Park and Ride facility.

In order to accommodate the additional traffic through the bottle neck at Salford Crescent another platform would be required; this I understand is already being considered. Once a Heavy Rail link is established in Leigh it would be possible to further develop this scheme to link into Manchester Liverpool line at Kenyon giving Leigh a direct link with Merseyside and the West Coast Main Line.

This Council through our representatives on AGMA and the GMPTA will asks the GMPTA and Network Rail to conduct a feasibility study on this proposal together with detailed costs.

I would urge the Leaders of all political groups on this Council to allow their members a free vote on this motion so that they can represent the views of their constituents and not the views of their political parties. Let's prove that there is still democracy in Wigan.

This Motion is competent for debate.

5 PROPOSED by Councillor J D Hodgkinson

That this Council adopts a policy of 'Salting or Gritting' pavements during the winter months when bad conditions are forecast. This policy should include local routes to schools, shopping and medical centres. This Council also wishes to express it's appreciation to the Highways DLO for their efforts this winter in keeping our road networks operational at all times.

This Motion is competent for debate.

6 PROPOSED by Councillor G Wilkes

This Council views the Greater Manchester Police Authority precept rise of 7.5% as unwarranted and distasteful towards the Council Tax payers of Wigan and Leigh. This Council will request the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to insist the Government cap Greater Manchester Police to a level that is more appropriate to the current financial climate.

This Motion is competent for debate.

7 PROPOSED by Councillor G Wilkes

This Council congratulates The National Trust in their decision to make available land for a thousand new allotments on or near stately homes, which they manage. With the high number of people waiting for an allotment in Wigan and Leigh this Council through the Wigan Leisure Culture Trust will make land available at the Haigh Hall estate for a similar scheme so people, Schools and the Community from the Borough can benefit from growing their own fruit and vegetables.

This Motion is competent for debate.

8 PROPOSED by Councillor N D Ash

This Council deplores all forms of racism and in particular the recent attack on a family in Ashton which forced them to leave their home. This Council is committed to policies that promote racial harmony within the Borough and will work with all agencies including the police to prevent such mindless acts of violence happening again.

This Motion is competent for debate.

9 PROPOSED by Councillor P R C Smith

This Council recognises the difficulties for many people of affordability in housing and, working with the new government policy, commits to building new council houses

This Motion is competent for debate.

10 PROPOSED by Councillor P R C Smith

This Council supports a strategy of encouraging more people and businesses to “buy local” as a way of minimising the impact of the recession.

This Motion is competent for debate.

11 PROPOSED by Councillor P R C Smith

This Council endorses the view of Cabinet that we should not invest any Council money in banks that pay excessive bonuses to their staff.

This Motion is competent for debate.

12 PROPOSED by Councillor C Ready

This council places on record our thanks to the police, Council officers and the churches for the hard work and dedication in making sure that walks and parades will go ahead this year and many more years to come proving that partnership working in this borough is key to everything we do.

This Motion is competent for debate.

13 PROPOSED by Dr Councillor C Cottam

In view of the latest outbreak of hostilities in Gaza and the UK Government's recent clarification of stance towards it, this Chamber calls upon the Government to do all it can to support and promote international efforts to secure a comprehensive area agreement for the Middle East."

This Motion is not competent for debate because the proposed motion is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the area, as required by Rule of Procedure 9.3.

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Motions 1 to 12 are competent for debate and will appear on the Supplementary Summons.

**Joyce Redfearn
Chief Executive**

**Kevin Lawson
Service Director Borough Solicitor**