

Committee: Ordinary Council	Date: 25 March 2020
Subject: Notices of Motion	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Jean Sharp – Governance and Member Support Officer	Public
Report Author/s: Name: Jean Sharp - Governance and Member Support Officer Telephone: 01277 312655 E-mail: jean.sharp@brentwood.gov.uk	For Decision

Summary

Six Notices of Motion have been submitted in accordance with Rule 3 in Part 4.1 of the Constitution - Council Procedure Rules and are listed in order of the date received.

1. Cllr Chilvers submitted the following Notice of Motion:
(Deferred from Ordinary /council on 22nd January)

Fireworks cause considerable distress to our pets, wildlife and livestock. In addition, they cause distress to the sick, vulnerable and those with mental health issues. There are also concerns over their environmental impact.

There are alternatives such as silent fireworks and drone light shows. With Brentwood residents contacting us regularly with their concerns and major supermarket chains halting their sale, it is surely time to review the use of traditional, outdated fireworks and look for a new way to celebrate in 2020.

Unfortunately, councils' powers are limited. Stopping their sale has no impact as people can buy elsewhere and restricting them by licensing powers covers barely any fireworks events as most are private. Licensing officers advised that major reform can only be made at parliamentary level. Therefore, Brentwood Council resolves to write to Alex Burghart MP to request that he formally engages with the RSPCA (the organisation campaigning to change fireworks legislation) and report back within six months.

Proposed by Cllr Chilvers

Seconded by Cllr Mrs Davies

2. Cllr Aspinell submitted the following Notice of Motion:

In February 2020 the National Audit Office said "Local authorities face potential investment risks from buying commercial property, such as in the event of an economic recession or a downturn in a particular economic sector, particularly where authorities are dependent on their rental income to keep up with debt repayments or fund local services"

In the light of National Audit Office concerns, members of Brentwood Borough Council call upon the officers to produce a report into the risks, rewards and relationship between Brentwood Borough Council and its' wholly owned company Seven Arches Investment Limited. The report to be submitted to the next Policy Resources and Economic Development Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Lewis

Seconded by Cllr Mynott

3. Cllr Dr Barrett submitted the following Notice of Motion:

This council notes:

- *At the annual council meeting June 2019 we approved the Member Parental Leave Policy and Carers allowance to ensure that Members are able to take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption.*
- *Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of local authority councillors. It will also assist with retaining experienced councillors – particularly women – and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it.*
- *On 28 January 2019, the House of Commons agreed to the use of proxy voting in House, for parental absence (available to new mothers, new fathers, adoptive parents and for members who have suffered a miscarriage for a set period of time)*
- *The Welsh assembly is considering introducing proxy voting for long-term illness and other caring responsibilities.*
- *Schedule 12, para 39 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 restricts local authority decisions to voting by members present at a meeting of that authority, making local government incongruous with others elected to public office.*

This council resolves:

The council writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting a review and relevant amendment of Schedule 12, para 39 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and other appropriate statutes that currently prevents this council from considering options for proxy voting in certain specific circumstances.

Proposed by Cllr Dr Barrett

Seconded by Cllr Barrett

4. Cllr Dr Barrett submitted the following Notice of Motion:

This council commits to protect and maintain the public amenity of a community hall and playpark (currently on Maple Close) within the Three Arch Bridge estate.

Proposed by Cllr Dr Barrett

Seconded by Cllr Barrett

5. Cllr Hossack submitted the following Notice of Motion:

That this Council initiates the establishment of an Officer Task Group for the transition of Shenfield Library, between Brentwood Brough Council and Essex County Council, to cover a range of items including but not limited to:

- *Planning and design of new building proposals*
- *Services to be offered from the new Library hub*
- *Arrangements for interim library service provision*
- *Cost implications to Brentwood BC*

And that updates from this task group will be brought to members of this Council at the appropriate time and in the appropriate forum.

Proposed by Cllr Hossack

Seconded by Cllr Mrs Pound

6. Cllr Hossack submitted the following Notice of Motion:

That this Council upholds the highest standards of conduct including dressing appropriately for Council Committees, meetings and Civic occasions. I request that officers undertake the necessary work to ensure that those standards that apply to officers also apply to members, in the spirit of shared values.

In particular those set out in the Constitution at page 151:

- *2.2 regarding dress not to be offence to any groups slogans or badges*
- *2.3 smart business dress*
- *2.5 drugs and alcohol prohibition*
- *2.6 smoking observing the no smoking policy.*

Proposed by Cllr Hossack

Seconded by Cllr Tumbridge