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North Devon Council
Brynsworthy Environment Centre
Barnstaple
North Devon EX31 3NP

K. Miles
Chief Executive.

To: All Members of the Council
and Chief Officers

NOTE: PLEASE NOTE THAT PRAYERS WILL BE SAID AT 6.25 P.M. PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING FOR ANY MEMBER WHO WISHES TO ATTEND

COUNCIL MEETING

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of **NORTH DEVON COUNCIL** to be held in the Virtual - Online meeting on **WEDNESDAY, 7TH APRIL, 2021 at 6.30 pm.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Miles', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

12. Questions by Members (Pages 5 - 6)
Questions to the Leader or the Chair of a Committee submitted under Part 4, Council Procedure Rules, paragraph 10.4 of the Constitution.

If you have any enquiries about this agenda, please contact Corporate and Community Services, telephone 01271 388253

26.03.21

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR RULES OF DEBATE AT MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

Part 4, Council Procedure Rules of the Constitution

The basics

At a meeting of Full Council, Members shall stand when speaking unless unable to do so and shall address the Chair.

While a Member is speaking, other Members shall remain seated unless rising for a point of order, a point of information or in personal explanation.

No speeches may be made after the mover had moved a proposal and explained the purpose of it until the motion has been seconded.

Unless notice of motion has already been given, the Chair may require it to be written down and handed to him before it is discussed.

When seconding a motion or amendment, a member may reserve their speech until later in the debate.

Speeches must be directed to the question under discussion or to be personal explanation or point of order.

A speech by the mover of a motion may not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the Chair.

Speeches by other Members may not exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Chair, unless when the Council's annual budget is under discussion, the leader of each political group on the Council may speak for up to 5 minutes or such longer period as the Chair shall allow.

The rules of Question Time

At a meeting of the Council, other than the Annual meeting, a Member of the Council may ask the Leader or the chair of a committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of a committee when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.



North Devon Council protocol on recording/filming at Council meetings

The Council is committed to openness and transparency in its decision-making. Recording is permitted at Council meetings that are open to the public. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be recorded. The Chairman of the meeting will make sure any request not to be recorded is respected.

The rules that the Council will apply are:

1. The recording must be overt (clearly visible to anyone at the meeting) and must not disrupt proceedings. The Council will put signs up at any meeting where we know recording is taking place and a reminder will be issued at the commencement of virtual meetings.
2. The Chairman of the meeting has absolute discretion to stop or suspend recording if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting or if the person recording is in breach of these rules.
3. We will ask for recording to stop if the meeting goes into 'part B' where the public is excluded for confidentiality reasons. In such a case, the person filming should leave the room ensuring all recording equipment is switched off. In a virtual meeting the public will be excluded from the meeting while in Part B.
4. Any member of the public has the right not to be recorded. We ensure that agendas for, and signage at, Council meetings make it clear that recording can take place – anyone not wishing to be recorded must advise the Chairman at the earliest opportunity. Public contributions to virtual meetings will be recorded, unless, at the Chair's discretion, recording is deemed inappropriate in accordance with point 2 above.
5. The recording should not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or in a way that ridicules or shows a lack of respect for those in the recording. The Council would expect any recording in breach of these rules to be removed from public view.

Notes for guidance:

Please contact either our Corporate and Community Services team or our Communications team in advance of the meeting you wish to record at so we can make all the necessary arrangements for you on the day.

For more information contact the Corporate and Community Services team on **01271 388253** or email **memberservices@northdevon.gov.uk** or the Communications Team on **01271 388278**, email **communications@northdevon.gov.uk**.

Meeting Etiquette Reminder for Members

Members are reminded to:

- Join the meeting at least 10-15 minutes prior to the commencement to ensure that the meeting starts on time.
- Behave as you would in a formal committee setting.
- Address Councillors and officers by their full names.
- Do not have Members of your household in the same room.
- Be aware of what is in screen shot.
- Mute your microphone when you are not talking.
- Switch off video if you are not speaking.
- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- Speak clearly (if you are not using video then please state your name)
- If you're referring to a specific page, mention the page number.
- Switch off your video and microphone after you have spoken.
- The only person on video will be the Chair and the one other person speaking.

Virtual attendance by members of the public

If members of the public wish to attend virtually, please contact Corporate and Community services on 01271 388253 or memberservices@northdevon.gov.uk by 12pm on the Monday preceding the meeting.

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 7 APRIL 2021

QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OR THE CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE SUBMITTED UNDER PART 4 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES, PARAGRAPH 10.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Question for the Leader

Question from Councillor Walker

“Following the murder of Sarah Everard, how will the council work to ensure that violence against women and girls is no longer seen as the norm and victim blaming is stopped.

If you look at the following figures for the UK from Action Aid, street harassment and violence against women and girls is endemic within the UK and North Devon is not immune to this:

- 80% of women of all ages have been sexually harassed in public, 90% of these women will not report it as they don't believe it will make a difference
- 97% of young women have suffered the same
- 1 in 2 women are sexually harassed in the workplace
- 1 in 3 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime
- 1 in 5 women will be raped in their lifetime
- 2 women a week are killed by a current or former partner and 3 women a week take their own lives following domestic abuse

During lockdown domestic violence, particularly against women we know has been on the increase and support will be needed as we come out of lockdown. Are we prepared for the increase in this type of support as it is needed?”

Councillor Worden's response

“Thank you Councillor Helen Walker for your question. I am pleased to report the following:

A number of our housing officers have recently received specialist training on this issue in light of the anticipated increase in need. They will be our specialist caseworkers moving forward. We also now meet with the Women's Refuge in Barnstaple on a weekly basis to jointly plan for the care and ongoing support of victims of domestic abuse.

We are working with DCC and other housing authorities in Devon to implement the Domestic Abuse Bill. This places a new duty on DCC to assess the need for domestic abuse support in their area for all victims (and their children) who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area.

Agenda Item 12

A strategy must be published by August. There is a requirement to report annually to the Secretary of State on this work.

This will be informed by a needs assessment and a new Domestic Abuse partnership Board will also be established. DCC has been provided with £1.4m, each housing authority has been awarded £32k to implement these new responsibilities.”