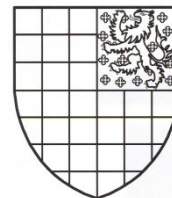


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

To All Members of Lewes Town Council

An extraordinary meeting of **Lewes Town Council** will be held on **Monday 23rd March 2020**, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lewes** at **6:30 pm** which you are summoned to attend.

S Brigden, Town Clerk 17th March 2020

AGENDA

1. QUESTION TIME

To consider any questions received regarding items on the agenda for this meeting.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To note any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in items to be considered at this meeting.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To consider apologies tendered by Members unable to attend the meeting.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Mayor.

5. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

To consider Members' suggestions for Council action arising from the current Covid-19 Pandemic, as:

- a) *As an initial step £15,000 be allocated from money earmarked for miscellaneous grants to meet the urgent need of Foodbanks with an initial £1,000 per foodbank made available to each of the three in Lewes. The remainder of the money to be allocated to meet the as yet unknown needs of local groups.*
- b) *Given that many establishments in the Town may be closed for extended periods, and that, for instance, Foodbanks may not have the space for increased storage, that Town Council assets, including buildings such as the Town Hall and All Saints, be assessed for their potential mobilisation as emergency resources.*
- c) *There are many local groups and individuals already demonstrating a willingness to help each other in a variety of ways (helping with shopping, etc.). This is to be encouraged. However, such kindness is not without risk -- this includes risks to health and to issues of privacy/potential exploitation. I therefore propose that the Town Council should draw up a protocol for volunteers.*
- d) *There are many local groups setting up a variety of helpful initiatives online or by smartphone (Coronavirus Volunteer FB group, various local What's App groups, Goodneighbour and Nextdoor, etc). However, we are well aware that many of our most vulnerable citizens are not online and do not have smart phones. We therefore need to facilitate communications by other (non-electronic means). I propose that the Town Council supports distribution of essential information/ community support by other (non-electronic) means, e.g. Posters on All Saints and TH noticeboards.*
- e) *Facilitating leaflet distribution (in coordination with other organizations) etc.*
- f) *Facilitating telephone trees (with GDPR advice for instance).*
- g) *Promoting a Buddy system of local support.*
- h) *That the Town Council urgently invests in teleconferencing equipment and software to enable remote meetings, in the event that all public meetings are banned in light of Covid-19 pandemic; and should emergency measures be introduced. This should include appropriate microphone and camera.*

6. UPDATE ON MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(oral report by the Town Clerk)

For further information about items on this agenda please contact the Town Clerk at the above address

This agenda and supporting papers can be downloaded from www.lewes-tc.gov.uk