

## MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 12 November 2018

### AGENDA ITEM 9

#### QUESTIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

**1) *Question to Cllr Jeff Summers, Leader of the Council, from Councillor Trevor Young***

Could the Leader of the Council explain to the people of the District why it is that this council has not met for one full quarter of the year? By doing so he will also explain to the councillors why this is the case and why it seems un-important for the council to meet in a timely manner and take council for the affairs and wellbeing of the District and its citizens?

It is accepted that there are no meetings in August as has long been the case except for the planning committee. But a glance at the Council meeting calendar shows that at least one Full Council was cancelled, supposedly for lack of business and there has been no Full Council Meeting in October.

Could it be that the Leader and his administration are just tardy when it comes to meetings thinking that they have a majority and so debate and consideration don't matter anymore? Or perhaps the Leader and his administration are frightened of that very debate and question that might arise either as direct questions or through the movement of business through the council.

While we accept there is no point in meeting for meeting sake the electorate who vote for us and pay our allowances surely have a right to expect the council to meet as a full council on a regular basis and to debate the policy which the administration want to enact during their tenure of office.

Time was when the council will deal with all business and its right that some business is enacted through committees.

However, there are times when a policy or change affects the whole district and thus every elected member and the people they serve. This can be seen in the move to charge for green waste for example or the letting of contracts for leisure services provision across the district.

The Market Provision is being discussed and worked through and the way markets are provisioned. This is causing some disquiet among the leaders own members and it could be that bringing these policies and strategies to full council will show the cracks in the administration and allow the people to see where the current control of the council is failing the people who ought to expect more.

I invite the Leader therefore to answer the question and respond where in doing so hope that this council will not have a further period of one quarter of a year when it fails to meet.