

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 16 MARCH 2022

NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 16

To consider the following notice of motions submitted under Procedure Rule 16:-

1. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Tony Kingsbury and will be seconded by Councillor Paul Zukowskyj:-

Welwyn Hatfield Council is appalled at the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and Belarus. Welwyn Hatfield stands together with our residents of Ukrainian heritage, who are understandably worried about their loved ones in the country.

Noting that the waging of aggressive war is a criminal act under both international law and the Russian constitution, the Council joins with the civilised world in condemning the actions of President Putin in initiating the war which is taking an increasing toll of military personnel and non-combatant civilians alike.

The Council fully backs the United Kingdom government in partnership with other NATO allies in deploying measures aimed at ending the illegal Russian invasion and supporting the Government and people of Ukraine in the defence of their country and the lives and liberties of their people.

The Council stands ready to assist in all appropriate ways with humanitarian support and refuge to the people of Ukraine in this ordeal.

Welwyn Hatfield Council is reminded that peace, stability and democracy cannot be taken for granted even in Europe and stresses the value and importance of international institutions including the United Nations and NATO in continuing to safeguard and advance democracy, mutual security and economic prosperity across Europe and beyond.

The Council requests the Leader of the Council to write to Andrei Kelin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation in the UK, conveying the Council's condemnation of the actions of his Government.

2. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Glyn Hayes and will be seconded by Councillor Lynn Chesterman:-

This council

- Stands firmly behind our UK Armed Forces and fully supports the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Welcomes the new Armed Forces Act but sees the legislation as a missed opportunity to further improve the lives of veterans in the Welwyn Hatfield area.
- Notes with disappointment that the Act makes Welwyn Hatfield Council and local public bodies legally bound to have “due regard” to the Covenant when providing support to Forces communities, but exempts central government from any such duty, creating a two-tier Covenant for veterans.

- Notes with further disappointment that the Labour led proposals backed by the Royal British Legion and ex-Service chiefs plans which were among others, to improve Armed Forces accommodation, employment support and ensuring central government has the same responsibility to deliver the Act that local authorities have, were voted down so not included in the Act.

This Council resolves

- To write to the Defence Secretary Ben Wallace asking him to reconsider the decision to not include in the Armed Forces Act, Widen the scope of the Bill to ensure it takes in all areas like service accommodation, employment, pensions, compensation, social care, criminal justice and immigration. Ensure central government has the same responsibility to deliver the Covenant that the Bill gives to local authorities and other local public bodies. Force the MOD to review its treatment of LGBT personnel pre-2000 and options for restoring ranks in full.
- This Council will continue the campaign with the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant board and Forces charities to see the Government continue to strengthen the Covenant and improve vital services to veterans.

3. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Jane Quinton and will be seconded by Councillor Frank Marsh:-

That Welwyn Hatfield Council:

- Recognises:
 - that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,
 - that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for local companies and community groups to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, if they wished, and
 - that revenues received by such local companies or community groups that chose to become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions;
- Notes that the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, as a result of its 2021 Technological Innovations and Climate Change inquiry, recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this
- Accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 295 MPs and which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company; and
- Further resolves to:
 - inform the local media of this decision,

- write to Grant Shapps MP, asking them to support the Bill, and
- write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at Camden Collective, 5-7 Buck Street, London NW1 8NJ or info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support.