

COUNTY COUNCIL – 14 JULY 2022

NOTICE OF MOTION (REVISED)

ITEM 11

Below is the revised Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Malcolm Wade and seconded by Councillor David Harrison:

“Support for Farmers

“The cost of living crisis affects all areas of our nation. However, many members of the farming community, so important in the production of 54% of the nation’s food supply, are struggling to survive in the current financial environment and this includes many Hampshire farmers. A thriving agricultural sector is crucial to Hampshire’s economy, landscape, and environment.

This council notes the cost of animal feed is up by 60% and fertilizer cost by 200%. In the last year. These and other increased costs are against a backdrop of a changing subsidy regime from the government with some farms at risk of losing up to 20% of their income this way. This is leading many farmers to decide to give up their farms or raise food prices to survive further impacting the cost of living of ordinary Hampshire residents.

This Council will continue to promote sustainable farming at our County Farms, helping tenant farmers to navigate these challenging times and giving young entrant farmers an important foot in the door.

This council recognises that government funding schemes to help farmers exist but due to the current financial environment, different approaches need to be considered to improve the ongoing support.

Therefore, this Council will write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs expressing its concern about the financial state of the farming community and request greater financial support for farmers to be able to continue to produce food for the UK market at sustainable prices.”

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