

East Staffordshire Borough Council

Meeting of Council on 28th February 2022

URGENT NOTICE OF MOTION

Council is asked to consider the following Motion under Council Meeting Procedure Rule 12 as urgent business:-

Notice of Motion –

This Council expresses its shock and sadness to learn of the tragic death from suicide of Mrs Angela Winter. The Council offers its sincere condolences to the late Mrs Winter's family and friends.

A recent coroner's inquest found that in June 2021, Mrs Winter and her husband, Michael Winter, were homeless and sleeping rough on the Washlands close to the town centre of Burton for over three weeks after losing their home and jobs during the pandemic. It concluded that Mrs Winter became so distraught about her predicament that she stormed off from Mr Winter. Five days later Mr Winter discovered his wife's dead body in a wooded area close to a children's play area on the Washlands. He stayed with his wife's body for a further three days before alerting Police. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide from prescribed medication. The incident has attracted widespread local and national media coverage, prompting questions as to how this tragedy could have happened. Staffordshire Live reported that the couple 'fell through the cracks.'

This Council calls for an urgent inquiry to establish what contact and in what capacity, the YMCA Rough Sleepers Outreach Team, the Housing Options Team, and the Open Spaces Team had with Mr and Mrs Winter during June of 2021 and report findings back to Full Council.

Dated: 27th February 2022

Councillor D Florence-Jukes

Received by the Chief Executive at 15.02pm on 27th February 2022