



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held at the Civic Offices,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 23
MARCH 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
Published on 15 March 2017

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
81.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
82.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 February 2017.	15 - 32
83.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
84.		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of the Council Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Council or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	
84.1	None Specific	Philip Meadowcroft has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services the following question: Question The Constitution of the Royal Borough of Maidenhead and Windsor repeatedly welcomes the involvement of the Borough's residents in Council Meetings which are open to the public. Maidenhead's Constitution, like Wokingham's, is silent on the issue of Points of Order being raised by a member of the public. Maidenhead have adopted a simple, common sense, and entirely workable solution as advised to me by their Democratic Services office on March 6 earlier this month; namely, at a Maidenhead Council meeting, a Point of Order can be raised by a member of the public and will be dealt with there and then	

entirely at the discretion of the Chairman.

Will Wokingham Borough Council adopt the same policy and so put an end to the unfortunate situation which has manifested itself at the last two Full Council meetings where a member of the public, indeed it was me, attempted unsuccessfully to raise a Point of Order but it was deemed totally out of order and immediately dismissed by the Deputy Mayor and the Mayor respectively on the guidance of the Chief Executive.

84.2 None Specific

Tom Berman has asked the Mayor the following question:

Question

My question relates to the minutes of the Council meeting of 23rd February 2017 (which have now been approved).

Would the Mayor agree that, where these minutes state that "Councillor Gary Cowan sought clarification regarding points of order which was provided by the Mayor" this is an incorrect and seriously misleading statement of what actually occurred (as the video record shows), because the matter was not clarified in so far as (i) the Mayor incorrectly cited paragraph 14 in the Constitution, when he must have meant paragraph 4.2.13.13, and (ii) he quoted this section as stating that "Only a member may raise a point of order..." though the word "only" does not appear here in the Constitution, and (iii) when Councillor Cowan specifically asked who had given the professional advice that the Constitution could be interpreted as prohibiting residents from raising points of order, the Mayor did not answer the member's question?

85.

PETITIONS

To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.

86.

PETITION DEBATE

To debate a petition.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 3.5.4.2 a maximum period of 30 minutes will be allowed for petitions to be debated.

The process below will be followed at the meeting:

a) the petition organiser(s) will be given five

minutes to present the petition (if there is more than one petition organiser then they will share this time);

- b) the petition will then be debated by Councillors for a period not exceeding 30 minutes;
- c) the petition organiser(s) will have the right of reply of up to a maximum of three minutes;
- d) the Mayor will then ask for motions on how the Council wishes to respond to the Petition which may include:
 - i) taking the action or some of the action the petition requests;
 - ii) not taking the action the petition requests;
 - iii) referring the petition to another body for them to consider the matter and take the appropriate action;
- e) once a motion has been put forward it will be voted on without discussion or amendment;
- f) if the motion falls then the Mayor will ask for a further motion to be put forward;
- g) if the Mayor is of the opinion that a decision on how to respond to the petition cannot be reached then he/she can decide, on behalf of the Council, not to take the action that the petition requests.

86.1 None Specific

Petition submitted by Rachel Bradley

On 1 March 2017 the following petition was submitted to the Chief Executive. The petition contained in excess of 1,500 signatures, which is the threshold to trigger a debate at Council:

“Fair Funding for Wokingham Borough Schools

We, the undersigned, petition Wokingham Borough Council to do everything in its power to persuade the Government to improve the level of funding for schools in the Borough. Our schools deliver a high standard of education but receive the lowest level of funding in the country and additional money is needed now to prevent their financial position becoming unsustainable, as well as in the longer term when the national funding formula is introduced.”

87.		<p>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements by the Mayor</p>	
88.	None Specific	<p>APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS To appoint members to the Independent Review Panel.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That Council appoint Thomas Berman, David George and Nicholas Oxborough to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of 3 years, commencing on 24 March 2017.</p>	33 - 36
89.	None Specific	<p>ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES 2016-17 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees over the past year.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be noted.</p>	37 - 66
90.	None Specific	<p>AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee on the work undertaken over the past year.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee be noted.</p>	67 - 70
91.	None Specific	<p>STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Standards Committee on the work undertaken over the past year.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Standards Committee be noted.</p>	71 - 76
92.	None Specific	<p>REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES To note those reports received from Members on Outside Bodies as circulated in the agenda.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies be noted.</p>	77 - 130

93. Hawkedon;
Twyford
- OUTCOME OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**
As a result of complaints received about Councillors Lindsay Ferris and Clive Jones an investigation was conducted into the matter.
- A Hearings Panel met on 20 February 2017 and determined that Councillor Ferris and Jones had failed to follow Wokingham Borough Council's Code of Conduct and decided to formally censure the Members in writing and instruct the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the Members.
- In accordance with Rule 9.1.16.3 of the Council's Constitution the decision notice was published on the Council's website on 24 February 2017. The Constitution also requires that the matter is reported to the next meeting of the Council. In relation to this complaint there is no further action required.
- RECOMMENDATION:** That Council notes that Councillors Lindsay Ferris and Clive Jones were found to be in breach of the Member Code of Conduct.
94. None Specific
- STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS, AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**
To receive any statements by the Leader of the Council, Executive Members, and Deputy Executive Members.
- In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.23 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 20 minutes, and no Member shall speak for more than 5 minutes
95. None Specific
- STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL OWNED COMPANIES**
To receive any statements from Directors of Council Owned Companies.
- In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.24 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 10 minutes, and no Director, except with the consent of Council, shall speak for more than 3 minutes.
- 96.
- MEMBER QUESTION TIME**
To answer any member questions
- A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions submitted under Notice

Any questions not dealt with within the allotted time will be dealt with in a written reply

96.1 None Specific

Tim Holton has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question

Can the Executive Member inform the Council of the attendance for this year's Budget Engagement Sessions with Borough residents?

96.2 None Specific

Alistair Auty has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

The Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is working to ensure that schools and public buildings are safely equipped to deal with fires. Could the Executive Member confirm that all schools currently being planned or built will be fitted with sprinkler systems?

96.3 None Specific

Chris Smith has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question

Does the Executive Member for Finance agree that changes to the Council Tax Discount for empty homes brings greater fairness to our Council Tax system?

96.4 None Specific

Shahid Younis has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services the following question:

Question

21st Century Council will see a transition to greater use of self-service to make our residents' interactions with the Council more efficient. What steps is the Council taking to ensure that our residents who are less IT-literate, particularly the elderly, still have the means of contacting us if they have a problem?

96.5 None Specific

Laura Blumenthal has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

Could the Executive Member set out what part the Council played in the changes to the Reading Buses Orange routes in Woodley?

- 96.6 None Specific Alison Swaddle has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:
- Question**
Could the Executive Member provide an update on the Multi-Academy Trust Working Group in light of the Government's confirmation that it will no longer pursue compulsory academisation of all schools?
- 96.7 None Specific Abdul Loyes has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:
- Question**
Could the Leader set out the ways in which our residents will benefit from the changes from 21st Century Council?
- 96.8 None Specific Mike Haines has asked the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing the following question:
- Question**
Every morning on my way to work outside Reading station I see a number of people huddled in doorways; some sleeping, some begging, and some wandering around with a number of bags looking as if they have been out all night. To my untrained eye the number of homeless appears to be increasing and clearly this problem isn't going to stop at the Borough boundary. Please could the Executive Member responsible advise what trends are we seeing in the number of people presenting as being Homeless across Wokingham Borough over the recent 3 year period?
- 96.9 None Specific Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:
- Question**
Would you provide several examples of each of WBC contracts on major infrastructure and roads that are delivered on time and on budget and when it goes wrong with slipping timetables and cost overruns?
- 96.10 None Specific Clive Jones has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:
- Question**
At the Council's budget meeting on February 23rd, I asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question which he chose not to answer. Could you answer it for me?

Why do you think there will be a saving of over £1M in the waste and recycling budget in 2019-20? Especially as we will have to collect from many more new houses by that time.

96.11 None Specific

Imogen Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Because, quite rightly, we have parental choice about where children go to school it means that many parents have no choice but to drive their children lengthy distances to get them there on time. This, of course, is exacerbating our traffic problems at peak times, with parking problems around our schools.

For children where walking to school is not possible, what transport solutions have been considered?

96.12 None Specific

Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Regeneration the following question:

Question

In the light of two recent Planning Appeal decisions at Charvil and Spencer's Wood where the 5 year land supply was challenged by the inspectorate as well as in social media Pegasus Planning was the decision to secretly raise the Core Strategy number of houses from 661 a year to 856 a year in April 1st 2013 a wise and justifiable move.

96.13 Winnersh

Philip Houldsworth has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

Phase I of the Winnersh Relief Road will be finished this year and there will be a demand to use it before Phase II is built. In the light of this urgency when will the Council finish the building of Phase II?

96.14 None Specific

Ian Pittock has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

WBC plans to build an unlit greenway from the FBC Centre in Finchampstead via California Country Park up to Commonfield Road and then through an unlit SANG to Bohunt School. With her children's safeguarding hat firmly on her head will the Executive Member for Children's Services confirm that she is

fully satisfied that this route will be safe for unaccompanied school children aged 11 and 12 to use as WBC's designated safe cycle route to the school from Finchampstead throughout the entire school year starting September 2017?

97.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WARD MATTERS

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions in relation to the latest circulated volume of Minutes of Meetings and Ward Matters

98.

MOTIONS

To consider any motions

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.11.2 a maximum period of 30 minutes will be allowed for each Motion to be moved, seconded and debated, including dealing with any amendments. At the expiry of the 30-minute period debate will cease immediately, the mover of the Motion or amendment will have the right of reply before the Motion or amendment is put to the vote

98.1 None Specific

Motion 392 submitted by Lindsay Ferris:

This Council believes that our current Objectively Assessed Housing Need figure of 856 homes per annum which covers the period up to 2036 is far too high and unsustainable.

This volume of house building (in excess of 17000 homes) will cause significant harm to this area and destroy the rural nature of many parts of the Borough for ever. It will also cause significant traffic problems over and above our current ones, potentially leading to grid lock in various parts of the Borough.

We call on the Senior Members of this Council to:

- (a) Actively lobby for a substantial reduction in this figure to one more in line with, or below those of our neighbouring councils.
- (b) Ensure that any homes being proposed include housing for low income families, plus make allowance for key workers, without whom our Hospitals, Schools, Nursing Homes and other vital services would not be able to function properly in the future.
- (c) Ensure that the Green Belt is protected wherever possible, with any impact kept to an absolute minimum.

- 98.2 None Specific **Motion 393 submitted by Ian Pittock:**
Whitehall requires that where the Executive System is used each Executive Member shall be subject to a scrutiny committee. This Council believes that it is essential to demonstrate avoidance of clear conflicts of interest and over centralisation of power through patronage provided by the Special Responsibility Allowance system. Therefore, the Council Leader, who appoints the Executive Members and such Executive Members themselves, should in no way be involved in the pre-Council and Council processes used to appoint Members to scrutiny and audit committees, nor the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of such.
- This Council resolves that non-Executive Members themselves shall pre-appoint Members to scrutiny and audit committees, ensuring political balance, and the Members of each committee shall themselves pre-appoint their own Chair and Vice-Chair with these names then being sent to Council for formal appointment, with Executive Members declaring an interest and abstaining in the vote.
- 98.3 None Specific **Motion 394 submitted by Parry Batth:**
This Council encourages public buildings in Wokingham Borough to fly the Union Flag. In a time of discord and uncertainty, this Council believes that these actions would help to inspire residents of different faiths and backgrounds to feel united as part of our national life and proud to be British.
- 98.4 None Specific **Motion 395 submitted by David Sleight:**
Our Vision is that our Borough should be a great place to live and an even better place to do business. The latter needs excellent transport links but our journey times by train from Wokingham to Waterloo are uncompetitive having been extended over the past 40 years. With the re-franchising of the South Western about to be completed, we call for a journey time reduction so that journeys from and to Waterloo take no more than 59 minutes – in other words, Wokingham in One.
- 98.5 None Specific **Motion 396 submitted by Richard Dolinski:**
Recent figures have revealed that the number of blood donors in England has fallen by 25 percent in the last 10 years. A particular shortage has been identified in young blood donors, black and Asian donors, and donors with blood groups O-negative and A-negative. This Council supports the Missing Type campaign run by NHS Blood and Transport, which is

encouraging people to register as donors. This Council will publicise details of the campaign and how to give blood on its website and in Council publications. Further, this Council will lead a drive to increase blood donations from Wokingham Borough councillors and staff.

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