



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM

Manjeet Gill
Interim Chief Executive
Published on 15 November 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.
46.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
47.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2017.	17 - 46
48.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
49.		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	
49.1	Hillside	David Hare has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question: Question: Please can you let me know when the pathway from Kerris Way, towards Radstock School, will be reopened?	
49.2	Emmbrook; Wescott	Peter Humphreys has asked the Executive Member for Business and Economic Development and Regeneration the following question: Question: When the new shopping centres opened recently in Bracknell and Oxford approximately 25% of the units were vacant. To date only one retail unit has been pre-let in both	

Peach Place and Elms Field.

What can be perceived as lack of confidence in the Elms Field development has been demonstrated by Wetherspoons, a business one would assume to be in a position to benefit due to its location at the gateway to that scheme approaching from the town centre, announcing it is closing next year.

To make matters worse the Council's grand idea was to have flagship business' at either end of the town centre to encourage footfall at the smaller units when shoppers' walk from one to the other. The closure of M&S wrecked that plan.

Taking all these factors into consideration when will the council be announcing that the Elms Field scheme is being abandoned and that £80 million is not going to be gambled on a white elephant?

49.3 Wescott

Graeme Robertson has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

I have been issued with a blue badge from Wokingham Borough Council because I cannot walk 20m.

I am a member of the 1 life and am a regular user of the gym/pool at the Carnival Pool, attend a weekly yoga session at St Crispin's Leisure Centre and the gym at Loddon Valley - all run by WDC for people with long term conditions.

I have Primary Progressive MS diagnosed in 1998 - as part of my condition I have to maintain my fitness which is vital for therapy/rehabilitation and retain my independence

I have a blue badge and use a rollator (granny walker) to get in and out of the gym - I can manage to use equipment in the gym but cannot walk very far.

Recently there have been 4 disabled spaces near the main entrance, which apart from able-bodied people abusing the spaces!, has been ideal for me to stagger in and out of the gym.

The Council have re-located the disabled parking spaces into the new car park which is too far for me to walk and the disabled spaces are too far away at St Crispin's and Loddon Valley.

The Council claim that they meet the British Standards for disability, by putting benches en-route.

They think it is OK for disabled people to sit outside in the winter time, in the rain etc - I am pretty sure the BS recommends that benches are used, they need to be covered and well lit.

Why have the Council removed disabled spaces outside the Carnival Pool and moved them into the new car park meaning people who have long term conditions who cannot walk, but want to be independent, cannot use the facility?

49.4 Emmbrook;
Wescott

Caroline Smith has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question:

Wokingham Borough Council is promising us a dream of a town but getting there is a nightmare. Footfall is dramatically down and with Christmas coming, the retail scene is dismal.

The town centre is surrounded by fences, bridges and holes accompanied by high noise levels from the works. Not only have we got two major construction and highway projects happening at the same time, we now have civil enforcement of parking and the opening of the Lexicon driving people to shop elsewhere, we also seem to have major infrastructure works on just about every route into town.

The Council has acknowledged there is a problem. However, the free parking after 3pm has made no difference to the town so please could they go further and increase it to all day or make the first two hours of parking in any session free?

49.5 Evendons

Helen Power has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question:

Local residents are becoming increasingly concerned about pedestrians trying to cross Molly Millars Lane to get to and from Lidl. This is very dangerous and they have seen pedestrians stranded in the middle of the road unable to complete their crossing due to fast and busy traffic.

Will you look into providing a safe place for pedestrians to cross on Molly Millars Lane by the Lidl store?

49.6 Maiden Erlegh Guy Grandison has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question:

Following the unfortunate accident at the Three Tuns traffic lights and in light of the coroner's report, can we ask that the Borough highways officers carry out a review of safety features in cooperation with their counterparts in Reading Borough Council and the Police to ensure that all practical measures are in place?

49.7 Emmbrook Rachel Bishop-Firth has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question:

I know that a lot of Wokingham residents have concerns about the 'eyesore' temporary bridge over the railway line at the Tan Hill crossing.

Pedestrians now have to use two bridges to get over the railway at this crossing, and the very steep temporary bridge is impossible to use if you have a bike, pram or wheelchair.

Network Rail's Community Relations Team has written to me stating that the temporary bridge was put in place with the agreement of Wokingham Council. They have also assured me that 'once the local authority install the planned over span bridge which is a permanent solution to this problem, then Network Rail will remove this temporary structure'.

Could the Council please confirm the planned date for building the permanent over span bridge at the Tan Hill Crossing, and can they confirm that the new bridge will be useable by residents with a pram or wheelchair?

49.8 Shinfield South Simon Cooper has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question:

On the matter of speeding in Grazeley, a recent independent speed survey conducted by the local residents found that the average speed was 48mph and a top speed of 81mph was recorded, following serious accidents in the village as a direct cause of excess speed and the constant fear when trying to exit residents' drives or walk along the paths in the village, please can Chris Bowring advise why it is that

Thames Valley Police, Shinfield Parish Council and the local residents of Grazeley all accept there is a serious issue in the village with speeding however WBC persist in their denial there is an issue and refuse to attend the site to witness the daily onslaught that residents live with?

- 50. PETITIONS**
To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.
- 51. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive any announcements by the Mayor
- 52. None Specific PROPERTY PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT STRATEGY 47 - 50**
To consider the Property Portfolio Investment Strategy; which was considered by the Executive on 28 September 2017.
- RECOMMENDATION** Council is recommended to:
- 1) note the recommendations agreed by Executive on 28 September 2017, as set out in the report;
 - 2) agree that up to £100m borrowing powers, in line with the Property Portfolio Investment Strategy, are delegated to the Director Corporate Services, in consultation with the Leader, Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Member for Business, Economic Development and Regeneration;
 - 3) agree that in line with the Property Portfolio Investment Strategy the Director Corporate Services, in consultation with the Leader, Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Member for Business, Economic Development and Regeneration, be delegated authority to invest up to a maximum of £20m for a single transaction.
- 53. None Specific REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES LEVELS 51 - 60**
To receive the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following their annual review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.
- RECOMMENDATION** The Independent Remuneration Panel recommends to Council that:

- (1) The time contributed component of the Basic Allowance be increased by 1% to reflect the increase in Officer pay, backdated to 1 April 2017;
- (2) There be no change made to the multiples of the Special Responsibility Allowances paid to those roles as set out in the current Members' Allowances Scheme;
- (3) With effect from 1 April 2018, Special Responsibility Allowances should be limited to one per Member (not including Non-Executive Director payments) that being the one with the highest value;
- (4) In line with the motion passed by Council on 26 September 2016, Members be reminded to provide information for publication on the website regarding payments received from any outside bodies to which they were appointed by Wokingham Borough Council;
- (5) The publication of Members' payments on the website be reviewed with a view to make the information more prominent and immediately visible;
- (6) The £500 component of the Basic Allowance for out of pocket expenses should be increased to £600, to contribute to the cost of parking at Shute End;
- (7) The £500 component of the Basic Allowance for the provision of IT should continue to be claimed only by those Members who provide facilities which allow constituents and Officers to communicate with them by e-mail and the self-certification process be continued;
- (8) The rate payable for the Childcare and Dependants Carers' Allowance be increased to £10ph for up to 35 hours per month.

54. None Specific

**APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICER -
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE SERVICES**

Council is required to appoint the statutory officers, including the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Adult Social Services.

Following of the departure of Judith Ramsden, the Director People Services, it was necessary to appoint

an interim Director to have responsibility for the statutory children's and adults social care functions.

RECOMMENDATION: That Paul Senior be appointed as Interim Director People Services and take on the statutory responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Adult Social Services with immediate effect.

55. None Specific

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

61 - 72

To consider a report containing revisions to the process for extraordinary Council meetings, the Licensing and Appeals Committee terms of reference, Officer Employment Procedure Rules, Delegated Powers Relating to Staffing Matters, the Financial Regulations and the Procurement and Contract Rules and Procedures; as agreed by members of the Constitution Review Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION That Council agree the following changes to the Constitution as recommended by the Constitution Review Working Group:

1) Chapter 4 The Council Meeting

that Rule 4.2.3.2 be amended as follows:

4.2.3.2 Business

"The business to be conducted at an extraordinary meeting of the Council shall be a single item only ***unless exceptionally agreed by the Mayor.***"

2) Chapter 8 Regulatory and Other Committees

that Rule 8.4.2 be amended as follows:

8.4.2 Meetings of the Licensing and Appeals Committee

"The Licensing and Appeals Committee shall ***schedule a minimum of*** ~~meet at least four times~~ ***meetings*** per Municipal Year, as scheduled in the Timetable of Meetings, agreed by Council;"

3) revisions to Rules 11.5.3, 11.5.4 and 11.6.5.3 (Officer Employment Procedure Rules and Chapter 11.6 Delegated Powers Relating to Staffing Matters) as set out in paragraph 4 of the report;

- 4) revisions to the Financial Regulations as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- 5) revisions to the Procurement and Contract Rules and Procedures as highlighted in Appendix 2 to the report.

56.

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

57.

STATEMENTS 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.

58.

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

58.1

Barkham;
Shinfield South;
Twyford

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

Question:

In answer to my question 28.1 at the Executive meeting held on the 27th of July 2017 you stated that

“We recognise the important contribution that Parish and Town Councils can bring to the planning process and will be actively engaging with them and Borough Councillors in the site assessment work which will inform the Local Plan Update. We will shortly be

starting to engage with them on our initial assessments. The intention is to batch those sites up into wards, then invite Parish and Town Council representatives and ward Members to discuss the initial assessments”.

Can you update me on how you consulted with the Members, Parish/Town Councillors and residents prior to the public announcement that Master Planners will be funded to look at development opportunities in Barkham, Grazeley and the Twyford areas.

58.2 Remenham,
Wargrave and
Ruscombe

John Halsall has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:

Question:

One year ago the Licensing and Appeals Committee decided “to commission an external review of evidence to support the adoption of a Cumulative Impact Policy for the parish of Remenham, subject to the agreement from the Executive Member for Resident Services due to the financial implications” The agreement was given.

What has happened and why have I not been kept informed?

58.3 Wescott

Lindsay Ferris has asked the Executive Member for Adults' Services, Health, Wellbeing and Housing the following question:

Question

With regard to the 22 Peach Place Flats, where WBC will be using public funds (namely Section 106 Commuted Sums) to pay for these flats, when will these costs be in the public domain?

58.4 None Specific

Chris Smith has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement the following question:

Question

Is the Council taking a robust approach to people who do not follow planning guidance?

58.5 Wescott

Alison Swaddle has asked the Executive Member for Adults' Services the following question:

Question

Could the Executive Member explain why the call-in of affordable housing at Peach Place by the Liberal Democrats was overturned by the Overview and

Scrutiny Management Committee?

- 58.6 None Specific Angus Ross has asked the Executive Member for Business and Economic Development and Regeneration the following question:
- Question**
Please could you provide me with an update on the rollout of superfast broadband across the Borough?
- 58.7 None Specific Michael Firmager has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:
- Question**
Could the Executive update the Council on the implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement?
- 58.8 None Specific Bill Soane has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:
- Question**
What is the Council doing to combat flytipping across the Borough?
- 58.9 None Specific Pauline Jorgensen has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:
- Question**
The 19a/c bus services in Woodley and Earley have been reduced by Reading Buses on the grounds that these services are supposedly loss-making. Could the Executive Member confirm that Wokingham Borough Council increased its funding for those services, yet Reading Buses still reduced the parts of those bus services that actually made money?
- 58.10 Winnersh Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:
- Question**
With all the extensive preplanning over several years that occurred on the Longdon Roadworks for the Winnersh Relief Road, Health and Safety planning for school children and residents missed something because one pavement will be closed on one side of the road and then the other side of the road will be closed for weeks for the works. There have been several near misses of people crossing the road, luckily no one has been seriously injured. Why wasn't a temporary signalised crossing been installed at the point a pavement was

closed?

58.11 None Specific

Clive Jones has asked the Executive Member for Strategic Highways and Planning the following question:

Question

It is looking increasingly likely that the number of houses that this Conservative government is going to expect this council to build in Wokingham between 2016 and 2036 will be nearly 900 a year, a total of 18,000.

This we feel is far too high and would lead to grid lock across many parts of the Borough and also put at risk the very character of this area. It should be opposed as hard as it can be.

However should the council agree to build this many houses in just 2, 3 or 4 locations, is it your understanding and the Councils officers and legal teams understanding that no other houses will need be built in any other parts of the Borough?

58.12 None Specific

Ian Pittock has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question

Members will recall the unanimous agreement my motion of November 2016 received - that all allowances Members receive from any internal or external posts to which they are appointed by this Council are to be declared to Democratic Services and published in one location on the WBC website. Could the Leader of the Council please state her level of confidence that Conservative Members have declared all allowances for FY2016-17 so allowing Democratic Services to publish these?

58.13 None Specific

Andy Croy has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question:

In yesterday's budget, was there any recognition or remediation given to the fact that in 2019/20 Wokingham Borough Council will have a negative Revenue Support Grant and will, in effect, have to pay £6.9 million pounds to central government?

59. 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

60. 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

60.1 None Specific **Motion 400 submitted by Prue Bray**

This Council recommends that no councillor on this authority who carries out more than one council-appointed role for which additional payments are available, including

- roles for which Special Responsibility Allowances are payable;
- roles as Non-Executive Directors of council-owned companies; and
- roles on Outside Bodies which attract payment;

should take more than one of those additional payments.

60.2 None Specific **Motion 401 submitted by Andy Croy**

Buses in Woodley and Earley

This Council notes:

(1) The Local Transport Plan 3, 2011 to 2026, (LTP);

(2) The public consultation for the LTP (p33) identified "ensuring that public transport is affordable and accessible" as the most popular response from the public;

(3) One of the goals of the LTP is: "to promote an integrated and inclusive public transport network that provides a convenient, acceptable, reliable and affordable alternative to car travel";

(4) The LTP states (p75): "Bus services are a vital means of transport for vulnerable and economically challenged people as they provide access to key facilities such as employment locations and health care. Better services will improve accessibility for everyone;

(5) Policy PT2 (of the LTP): Increasing our residents use of bus services. We will work with bus operators to enhance the quality, viability and attractiveness of bus services across the Borough so that the need to provide subsidies is minimised;

(6) Policy PT6 (of the LTP): Availability of Services. We will work in partnership with key organisations to enhance bus service provision to health, education, leisure, retail and employment opportunities;

(7) The report to the Executive on 29 June which stated:

"The 19a/c bus services provided the following social benefits:

- The only bus service along Drovers Way & Coppice Road,
- The only bus service along Miles Way & Comet Way,
- The only bus service along Culver Lane, Woodley
- The only bus service along Vauxhall Drive, Woodley
- The only bus service along Silverdale Road, Maiden Erlegh
- The only bus service along Church Road, Earley
- Access between Woodley and Maiden Erlegh
- Access to Hurricane Way GP's Surgery,
- Access to the Royal Berkshire Hospital,";

(8) The 19a/c served some the most deprived areas of the Borough;

(9) The 19a/c had a high proportion of concessionary bus users. This demonstrates the social need being met by the services;

(10) The 19a/c provided quick and affordable access to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, a service that was especially valuable for older residents;

(11) The 19a/c service was essential for residents to access work, healthcare and retail facilities; its 'village

on wheels' community spirit helped to reduce social isolation and increased the well-being of its users;

(12) A meaningful consultation on the future of the 19a/c service was not carried out before the service was stopped;

(13) A cap was imposed on the funds available to renew the 19a/c service;

(14) A tender process for replacement services is underway will not be complete until late 2018.

This Council:

(1) Regrets we have to date been unable to find adequate funding to extend the 19a/c service beyond September 2017;

(2) Acknowledges the replacement services are not fit for purpose;

(3) Apologises to residents for the distress, upset and inconvenience caused by the ending the 19a/c service;

(4) Instructs the Lead Member for Highways and Transport to discuss with Reading Buses any opportunity to re-extend the 19a/c service until the tender process is completed and an acceptable new service is in place;

(5) Instructs the Lead Member for Finance to agree with the Lead Member for Highways, adequate additional funding until the tender process is completed and an acceptable new service is in place.

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