



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on
FRIDAY 19 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.00 PM

Manjeet Gill
Interim Chief Executive
Published on 11 January 2018

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.
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61.

APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence

62.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest

63.

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 items included within this agenda.

Subject to meeting certain timescales questions can only relate to items which are 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

64.

PETITION

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.

64.1 Emmbrook;
Evendons;
Norreys;
Wescott

Petition submitted by Clive Chafer

At the Council meeting held on 23 November 2017 the following petition was submitted:

“Wokingham is being strangled by traffic. Two main roads (A329 and A321) meet in the centre. But so far the only effort that has been made to relieve this and make the centre an attractive place to meet, walk and shop is to put all the through traffic onto existing small streets and roads (Wellington, Rectory, Langborough, Murdoch ...) near the centre. These roads were never built to take through traffic, and the narrow streets in the centre (Peach, Denmark...) are certainly not up to the job. We need a plan to take this traffic out of the centre, give us back our market town, and make living, shopping and socialising here a pleasure again. Less noise, less pollution, less danger, less frustration. We have the power to make the change.”

65. None Specific

COUNCIL TAX BASE 2018/19

To set the Council Tax Base for 2018/19 in respect of the whole Borough and all constituent parts so that each precepting parish can subsequently set their Council Tax budgets for the year.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council is asked to:

- 1) agree the proposed Council Tax Base, for the whole area and by Parish, as set out in the report;

- 2) approve the proposed allocation of £40,000 grant to the parishes in respect of council tax reduction as set out in the council tax base table.

66. None Specific

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

11 - 14

To adopt a Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme which will ensure that all working age Borough residents who may experience financial difficulties in paying their council tax liabilities have access to a scheme of assistance, designed locally, offering financial help to them.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council approve the following:

- 1) a local CTR scheme for 2018/19 is adopted on the same basis as the 2017/18 scheme;
- 2) that all applicable amounts, premiums, allowances, disregards and deductions used in the calculation of entitlements are uprated in line with the same increases applied to the Government set Prescribed and Default CTR schemes, along with any other legislative changes;
- 3) that the full disregard currently allowed for War Widows and War Disability Pensions is continued from 1 April 2018 in respect of the Prescribed and Local Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit schemes;
- 4) that funds be made available to the hardship fund, known as Section 13A, for those who cannot pay their council tax liabilities. This sum will be funded from the general fund and spend for 18/19 is estimated at £18,000.

CONTACT OFFICER

Anne Hunter
Tel
Email
Postal Address

Democratic & Electoral Services Lead Specialist
0118 974 6051
anne.hunter@wokingham.gov.uk
Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN