



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2019 AT 7.30 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 14 May 2019

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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1.

ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

To elect a Mayor for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

The outgoing Mayor will address the Council for up to 5 minutes to include any presentations that the Mayor may wish to make.

The outgoing Mayor will then call for nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2019/20.

The outgoing Mayor will ask the Council to vote on the nomination(s).

At this point in the proceedings the outgoing Mayor and the incoming Mayor will adjourn to the Mayor's Parlour to place the Cloak and Chain of Office on the incoming Mayor.

The incoming Mayor will take the chair and make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as required by Section 83(3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Mayor to address the Council for up to 5 minutes.

The Mayor to present the Past Mayor's Badge to the outgoing Mayor.

2.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

To appoint a Deputy Mayor for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

The Mayor will call for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2019/20.

The Mayor will ask the Council to vote on the nomination(s).

The Deputy Mayor will make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as required by Section 83(3) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

The Mayor will present the Deputy Mayor's badge of Office to the Deputy Mayor and the Deputy Mayor to address the Council for up to 3 minutes.

- 3.** **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** 11 - 44
 To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2019.
- 4.** **APOLOGIES**
 To receive any apologies for absence
- 5.** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 To receive any declarations of interest
- 6.** **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
- 6.1 Wescott Martin Branch has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement the following question:
- Question**
 As 18m has been described as a reasonable distance between an over-looking window and my property, what distance would be considered as unreasonable below 18m?
- 6.2 Arborfield; Barkham Gill Purchase has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement the following question:
- Question**
 How much did Crest Nicholson contribute via the section 106 agreement for the provision of a Swimming Pool within the Arborfield Strategic Development Location?
- 6.3 Norreys Tom Mayers has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:
- Question**
 On the 18th March I reported a pothole on Binfield Road near junction to Barrett Crescent which has not

yet been repaired. I got an email from the Council on 1st April saying that they aim to repair the pothole within 28 days which has now been been and gone. I got a further update email on 11th April saying that they have investigated the pothole and confirmed that it needed fixing at the time. As of 13th May it's still not been repaired and is getting worse and will only get worse. I would like to ask the Council when do they think they will get this repaired?

7.

PETITIONS

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

8.

None Specific

REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER - BOROUGH AND TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

45 - 48

The Council's Assistant Director, Governance, as Returning Officer, to report on the Borough and Town/Parish elections held on 2 May 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council notes the report of the Returning Officer.

9.

MAYOR'S OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

10.

ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

In accordance with the governance arrangements which were adopted by Council at its meeting on 18 November 2010, the Mayor will call for nominations for the Office of Leader of the Council for a four year term (or until the Leader's Term of Office as a Councillor expires).

The Mayor will then ask the Council to vote on the nomination(s).

The Leader of Council will notify Council of the name of his/her Deputy and the remainder of the Members appointed to the Executive, outlining the scope of their respective portfolios, the terms of delegation to them and Officers if applicable (**To be tabled**).

The Leader of Council/Executive Members will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes in total. The Leader of the Opposition will be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes.

11.

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

To answer any Member questions.

A period of 30 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.

11.1 None Specific

Rachel Burgess has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question

The local welfare provision scheme exists to provide emergency crisis support for those who find themselves in urgent financial difficulty, and to prevent serious risk to the health, well-being or safety of some of our most vulnerable residents.

Wokingham's funding in 2014/15 for such provision was £77k in the form of payments and loans, provided by the DWP. Fast forward to 2018-19 and the funding allocation for welfare assistance payments, now provided by WBC, was £23k – and actual spend last year just £6k.

It is extremely concerning that, in a time where our residents are turning to food banks or other forms of charity, the funds available to Wokingham's residents in a time of crisis have dropped by 70% in just four years.

Does the executive member agree with me that this funding is wholly inadequate to serve the needs of the most vulnerable in our borough?

11.2 None Specific

Lindsay Ferris has asked the Deputy Leader the following question:

Question

As a result of the recent local elections a number of now former Councillors were Non Executive Directors of the 100% WBC owned subsidiary companies including WHL &, Optalis. Can we understand when they will relinquish these posts and be advised that this has happened?

11.3 Hawkedon;
Hillside; Maiden
Erlegh

Andrew Mickleburgh has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

		Question On the 22nd March I presented a petition signed by over 1000 Earley residents, calling for a full-time civil enforcement officer permanently and exclusively for Earley. What is the current status of this request?
11.4	None Specific	Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement the following question: Question When will the Borough Design Guide be updated, it is not part of the local plan update because it is a companion guide, especially since the parking standards are out of date and WBC is one of the largest car owning vehicle boroughs in England?
11.5	None Specific	Sarah Kerr has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Leisure and Libraries the following question: Question In January of this year, I was in attendance at a workshop held for members of local arts and cultural groups in the Borough, here at the Council offices. This was the kick off meeting to look at arts and culture across the Borough, considering what Wokingham Borough already does well, what it can do better, and suggestions for developing its culture. In particular, it was to consider the possibility of a year of culture 2022 once the regeneration work was complete. This initiative was being spearheaded by Philip Mirfin. The question was raised by an attendee whether this had the full backing of Wokingham Borough Council, and would it continue, even if there were changes within the Executive. At the time we were assured this would be the case, but the following meeting scheduled was subsequently cancelled and no new date has been circulated. My question is, with the change of Executive, will this initiative continue?
11.6	Maiden Erlegh	Tahir Maher has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question: Question Following the results of the recent local elections can I ask the Executive Member if they can confirm that the unnecessary expansion of Aldryngton Primary School will now definitely not go ahead?

11.7	None Specific	Imogen Shepherd-Dubey has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question: Question Last year, we were told that there would be a cross party Highways working group to tackle issues surrounding our road infrastructure. Can I please ask when that is likely to be established?	
11.8	Hillside	Caroline Smith has asked the Executive Member for Housing the following question: Question Can the Executive Member for Housing confirm when the 'planning for real' exercise will take place for the woodland next to Chalfont Park known as Area DD?	
12.	None Specific	POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION AND APPOINTMENT TO SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND BOARDS To receive a report on the political balance of the Council and to appoint to Council Committees/Panels/Boards in accordance with the Groups' wishes as set out in Appendix 1. Further information relating to nominations will be circulated before or at the meeting.	49 - 60

RECOMMENDATION That Council:

- 1) having reviewed the representation of the political groups on the Council, confirms that it has 31 Conservative Group Members, 16 Liberal Democrat Group Members, 4 Labour Group Members and 3 Independent Group Members (as set out in Para 1.1);
- 2) approves the appointment and composition of Committees and Boards as set out in Para 2.1;
- 3) approves the allocation of seats on Committees and Boards on the basis that, of the 92 seats (as set out in Para 3.6), 53 be allocated to the Conservative Group 27 be allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group, 7 be allocated to the Labour Group and 5 be allocated to the Independent Group;
- 4) approves the proposals submitted by the respective Group Leaders and that those Members be appointed to the Committees and Boards as set out in Appendix 1;
- 5) agree that the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of those Council Committees etc, set out in

		Appendix 1 be appointed at the first meeting of each of the Committees etc and therefore Rule 4.2.1.1u) of the Constitution be deleted;	
6)		agrees that the principles of proportionality be applied when Members are appointed to Sub Committees, Panels or Working Groups;	
7)		notes the appointment of the Independent Persons to assist the work of the Standards Committee and the co-opted Parish/Town Council Representatives as set out in Appendix 1;	
8)		notes the elected Member representatives on the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board, as set out in Appendix 1, as nominated by the Leader of Council in accordance with Section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.	
13.	None Specific	APPOINTMENT TO PANELS/WORKING GROUPS ETC To consider and approve the appointment of Members to serve on Joint Committees, Various Bodies and Panels/Working Groups in accordance with the Groups' wishes as set out in Appendix 2. Further information relating to nominations will be circulated before or at the meeting.	61 - 64
14.	None Specific	APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES To consider and approve the appointment of Members to serve on Outside Bodies in accordance with the Groups' wishes as set out in Appendix 3. Further information relating to nominations will be circulated before or at the meeting.	65 - 70

CONTACT OFFICER

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