



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 20 MAY 2021 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 12 May 2021

Note: Although members of the public are entitled to attend the meeting in person, space is very limited due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. You can however participate in this meeting virtually, in line with the Council's Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually, via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services. The meeting can also be watched live using the following link: https://youtu.be/d_sJBYC3xxI

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

Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council's control.



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business

Enriching Lives

- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

Safe, Strong, Communities

- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

A Clean and Green Borough

- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

Right Homes, Right Places

- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

Keeping the Borough Moving

- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.

Changing the Way We Work for You

- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

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 2021/22

To elect a Mayor for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

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

The outgoing Mayor will then call for nominations for the Office of Mayor for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

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 may adjourn in order 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 2021/22

To appoint a Deputy Mayor for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

The Mayor will call for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

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.

The Deputy Mayor will address the Council for up to 3

- minutes.
3. **APOLOGIES**
To receive any apologies for absence.
4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** 13 - 40
To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 March 2021.
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 None Specific Rio Elms has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

Question:
As the pandemic has split us apart so much socially, there hasn't been enough done to try and aid young people aged 11-17 in terms of places to go and things to do. The Council has not provided places for young people to commune independently. As a result, young people have been socialising in places that were not intended to have any number of people. This can be exemplified in the Woosehill underpass which has had several complaints from residents on social media about gatherings of young people before and during the pandemic. So, the question that I put to the Council today is; In light of the things that I have stated today what will you do to make a place for our young people to gather in Wokingham?
- 6.2 Emmbrook Kate Benson has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

Question:
Based on the amount of opposition from local

residents following on from the Public Path Creation Order notices in Jubilee Ave recently, and that the public consultation in summer 2020 was not widely known about, I would like to ask, please can you reconsider the routing of Greenway Route B through the middle of the land that runs alongside Jubilee Ave?

The local residents' opposition is clear that Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980, 'would add convenience or enjoyment to a large section of the public or local residents' cannot be demonstrated. Please consider adjusting this section of the greenway, so as not to destroy the wildlife habitats within this wildlife corridor from Joel Park to Cantley Park. Please either widen the pavement on the northern side or adapt this section to be signage, like is planned for the Clifton Road section

- 6.3 None Specific Andy Croy has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question:

The Government's plan to introduce a requirement for photographic identification before allowing people to exercise their right to vote will disenfranchise Wokingham Borough residents who do not have photo ID. Depending on the forms of ID allowed, about 8% of electors do not have photo ID. I am sure no member of this Council will wish to see voter suppression on this scale or indeed any attempt at voter suppression. Will the Leader of the Council write to the Borough's MPs to express Council's opposition to voter suppression and to urge the MPs to speak out against these measures and to vote against the Bill when it comes before Parliament?

7. PETITIONS

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

8. MAYOR'S OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

9. None Specific **RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT ON MAY 2021 ELECTIONS** 41 - 44
- The Council's Assistant Director, Governance, as Returning Officer, to report on the Borough elections held on 6 May 2021.

		RECOMMENDATION: That the Council notes the report of the Returning Officer.	
10.	None Specific	HOUSING STRATEGY 2020 - 24 To consider and approve the Council's Housing Strategy 2020-24, as recommended by the Executive.	45 - 90
		RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the adoption of the proposed Housing Strategy 2020-2024.	
11.		STATEMENTS FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION The Leader of Council will notify Council of any changes to the Executive and their respective portfolios, Deputy Executive Members and, if applicable, the terms of delegation to them and Officers. 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.	
12.		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.	
12.1	Winnersh	Rachelle Sheperd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question: Question: What is being done about visibility problems with Reading Road residents exiting their driveways near the new relief road roundabout?	
12.2	Maiden Erlegh	Tahir Maher has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question: Question: According to the Wokingham Borough Council Yearbook – 2020/2021, page 52 shows the Parishes/Town, Population, households subject to council tax and Band D equivalent tax.	

Calculating the proposed Band D tax, as shown, the total band D council tax paid by Earley households is 18% of the total (which is only bettered by 22% paid by the households in Wokingham).

Based on this large share of council tax contribution made by Earley Households – shouldn't they get better equivalence on roads that needs resurfacing for their residents, especially, for those roads that are near schools - specifically, those in Maiden Erlegh.

- 12.3 Twyford Stephen Conway has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question:

Would the Executive Member for Highways agree that the 40 MPH speed limit on the stretch of the A321 from the A4 roundabout to the outskirts of Wargrave village should be reduced to increase the safety of pupils walking to the school?

- 12.4 Emmbrook Imogen Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

Question:

While on the most part we all support Greenways, there is a lot of concern about the proposed Jubilee Avenue section in Emmbrook. The concerns are about damage to the historic trees as well the undergrowth & local wildlife. The off-road greenway being put in this location will be so short that it has very little to offer cyclists or pedestrians along this already quiet road. However, it just ends at a busy roundabout junction, with no obvious benefit. I have yet to meet a resident who thinks this section along Jubilee Avenue, is a good idea and good value for money, but it feels like this is just being railroaded through.

We do not feel that the consultation for the Jubilee Avenue section has been done properly. Residents are confused about what is happening and are horrified by what it might mean. The first that most knew about this was when they saw notices about a small section of bridleway, but there has been nothing that shows the full plans for this area. Residents want to ask questions. Please can we have a consultation that includes displays, full detailed designs and proper bi-directional communication. If not, why not?

- 12.5 Evendons Sarah Kerr has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:
- Question:**
- The absence of a woodland management plan for the Council owned part of Foxhill woodland in Woosehill has been raised in both public and Members questions in the past. Whilst some progress has been made regarding engagement with the community volunteer group Friends of Foxhill, who are finally able to do some conservation works in the woodland, they are not responsible for the management or the health and safety of the woodland. There needs to be a clear management plan from this Council similar to what Reading Borough Council have with Clayfield Copse. What is the time scale for developing and publishing the woodland management plan for Foxhill woodland?
- 12.6 Norreys Rachel Burgess has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:
- Question:**
- The new cycleway on London Road in Wokingham is not fully segregated and for long stretches cyclists share the road with heavy traffic moving at 40 mph with just a single white painted line between them and the passing cars, lorries and buses.
- Published research has shown a statistically significant increase in risk associated with an on-road cycle lane, and that such painted lines lead to vehicles passing cyclists more closely. Back in 2019 six cycling commissioners described them as “pointless white lines on the road” and a waste of public money.
- The design does not represent best practice for cycleways and due to safety concerns, a build-up of grit from the passing traffic, or the fact that the cycleway diverts from the road to the shared path and back again, it may in fact put cyclists off.
- Why hasn't the Council implemented a properly segregated cycleway on the London Road?
- 12.7 None Specific Shirley Boyt has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:
- Question:**
- In March this year, the Guardian published a report

revealing a huge disparity in school exclusions, between black and mixed-race children compared to their white peers.

Research by the Runnymede Trust has shown that exclusions have a detrimental impact on children, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and with diminished life chances. The report revealed that in Wokingham had the largest disparity in the country at 12.8% meaning that black and mixed-race students at schools in the Borough are 5 times more likely to be excluded than white students.

According to the Guardian, WBC declined to comment on the report. What will the Council do to ensure black and mixed-race children are treated fairly in our schools?

13.

POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION AND APPOINTMENT TO SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

91 - 116

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 the nominations will be circulated before or at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION That Council:

- 1) having reviewed the representation of the political groups on the Council, confirms that it has 31 Conservative Group Members, 18 Liberal Democrat Group Members, 3 Labour Group Members, and 2 Independent Group Members;
- 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 89 seats (as set out in Para 3.6), 53 be allocated to the Conservative Group 28 be allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group, 5 be allocated to the Labour Group and 3 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 (to follow);

- 5) agrees that the second part of procedure rule 4.2.1.1r) and procedure rule 4.2.26 continues to be suspended and for the 2021/22 Municipal Year enabling the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of those Council Committees etc, set out in Appendix 1A to be appointed as stated;
- 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.

14.

APPOINTMENTS 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.

15.

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.

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