



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held virtually on **TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2020 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', with a long, sweeping tail.

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 8 June 2020

**Note:** The Council has made arrangements under the Coronavirus Act 2020 to hold this meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting can be watched live using the following link: <https://youtu.be/Rkgba4Jb-mo>

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.
1.		<p><b>ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21</b> To elect a Mayor for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.</p> <p>The outgoing Mayor will address the Council for up to 5 minutes.</p> <p>The outgoing Mayor will then call for nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2020/21.</p> <p>The outgoing Mayor will ask the Council to vote on the nomination(s).</p> <p>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 Acceptance of Office will be signed by the Mayor and the Chief Executive will sign it at a later date.</p> <p>The Mayor to address the Council for up to 5 minutes.</p>	
2.		<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21</b> To appoint a Deputy Mayor for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.</p> <p>The Mayor will call for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2020/21.</p> <p>The Mayor will ask the Council to vote on the nomination(s).</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor will make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as required by Section 83(3) of the Local Government Act, 1972. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be signed by the Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive at a later date.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor to address the Council for up to 3 minutes.</p>	
3.		<p><b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence</p>	
4.		<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 February 2020</p>	13 - 32

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](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions)

6.1 Evendons

Alexandra Fraser has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

**Question**

Would the person and department responsible for the management of Fox Hill Woods please show us their management plan?

6.2 Wescott

Morag Malvern has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

**Question**

With the recent investment in Denmark Street, what steps are being taken to encourage the Police to return to Wokingham's town centre?

6.3 None Specific

Steve Mayers has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency the following question:

**Question**

As we continue to improve the infrastructure to manage the increasing amount of traffic on our roads due the high number of new houses that have been built, why are we not investing in smart traffic lights that can detect when no cars are coming in one direction and change priority in the direction where cars are waiting? Two examples where this would be of benefit are the junctions of Rectory Road, Milton Road, Shute End and Denmark Street (Tudor House). Also the new junction at St Ann's Manor. Both these areas have red lights stopping traffic when nothing is

coming in the opposite direction. When we are being asked to switch off engines when we are in traffic, surely we should be investing in technology that will simply keep traffic flowing when there is no reason to stop it.

6.4 None Specific

Ella Wölfel has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency the following question:

**Question**

In a past meeting, the Council took a large step towards a greener more sustainable future by introducing a climate agenda. Naturally, this is just a start and much more needs to be done as the current plan has many faults. To improve this, it has to be a cross-party plan and so my question is: what have you done to ensure that all parties agree with the agenda (taking into account that in the last meeting Labour voted the plan down due to it being a one-party decision)?

6.5 None Specific

Lizzie Bishop has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

**Question**

Councillor Halsall, you kindly committed last year that you would support an LGBT Pride event in Wokingham in 2020, and you reaffirmed that commitment in the last Full Council meeting. When the rainbow flag was flown last year, many residents and businesses in the town centre responded with enthusiasm, and with their own gestures of support. Even in the current very difficult circumstances, we are hoping to build on this in 2020. During the week leading up to 11th July 2020, we are hoping that residents will look to find ways of building greater mutual understanding, respect for differences, and friendship between residents.

I am aware that no Council funding is available, and that all events must be safe, but in this spirit of building understanding, respect and friendship, could you please tell us what support the Council will be giving to Wokingham Pride in 2020?

6.6 Maiden Erlegh

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

**Question**

As a local Earley resident, I have noticed the very poor structural condition of the footbridge that carries the bridleway over the railway line at Earley station

and the A3290. What are the plans for repair or replacement of this bridge?

6.7 None Specific

Alex Cran has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

**Question**

One small positive to come out of lockdown has been seeing the huge numbers of people of all ages out cycling, walking and running on the quieter, cleaner and less congested roads.

It is great that in the past the Council has committed to active transport as shown by the ongoing completion of the Borough's section of the Newbury to Windsor cycle route.

Increasing levels of walking and cycling can help the Council meet its commitment to go carbon neutral by 2030 as well as keeping it at the top of the healthiest and best places to live in the UK, not to mention boosting local economies and reducing traffic congestion and travel times for those driving or travelling by bus.

In view of this, what specific plans does the Council have to nurture the recent enthusiasm for cycling and walking?

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.

**STATEMENTS FROM THE LEADER OF 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.

10.

## 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.

10.1 None Specific

Andy Croy has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency the following question:

### Question

Why has Wokingham Borough Council not eliminated the use of non-essential single use plastics from Shute End and all Council controlled environments?

10.2 None Specific

Daniel Sargeant has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

### Question

Were we able to use the lockdown productively in improving our roads?

10.3 None Specific

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

### Question

Please would you outline the impact of the Covid-19 virus on Children's Services and explain how have the Council has countered them?

10.4 None Specific

Pauline Helliar-Symons has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency the following question:

### Question

Many local and national businesses are making significant progress in reducing their carbon footprint. What efforts have WBC made to engage with local and national businesses and learn from their efforts in reducing our own Carbon Footprint?

10.5 Evendons;  
Norreys;  
Wescott

Michael Firmager has asked the Executive Member for Regeneration the following question:

### Question

What are your plans for regenerating Wokingham Town Centre after the Coronavirus?

- 10.6 None Specific Abdul Loyes has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:
- Question**  
Please could you update the Council of the situation in care homes?
- 10.7 None Specific Graham Howe has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:
- Question**  
During the height of the emergency, it was understandable normal meetings of the Council were suspended. In fact, they would not have been permitted within the regulations.
- What is the Council doing to return to a regular schedule of meetings to restore constitutional decision-making and proper scrutiny?
- 10.8 None Specific Jenny Cheng has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:
- Question**  
As the WBC representative on the Royal Berkshire Hospital Council of Governors, I would welcome your views on how we worked together during the emergency and how we can build on this and improve this relationship in the future.
- 10.9 None Specific Barrie Patman has asked the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee the following question:
- Question**  
How will Scrutiny examine our performance during the emergency?
- 10.10 None Specific Chris Bowring has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:
- Question**  
Please can you update the Council on the re-opening of our schools?
- 10.11 None Specific Guy Grandison has asked the Executive Member for Finance and Housing the following question:

**Question**

What has been the impact of the coronavirus and its response on the Council's finances thus far?

10.12 None Specific

Dianne King has asked the Executive Member for Regeneration the following question:

**Question**

What are we doing to help the Towns and Villages recover from the emergency?

10.13 None Specific

Gary Cowan has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

**Question**

I have been pressing the Council for some time now to set up a map of Wokingham showing virus case locations Borough wide. As the number is in the vicinity of about 600 it should not be an onerous task.

With no Council staff on furlough and all the Offices closed to the public, the Council should have enough staff to carry out such a task. The data gathered would highlight potential Covid-19 clusters in the Borough. It would then be very easy to continually update as circumstances change and the benefits to residents and their health/wellbeing goes without saying.

Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that such a proactive approach would be by getting us on the front foot for track and trace and be of real benefit to all our residents?

11. None Specific

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

33 - 46

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.

To appoint the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of these Committees/Panels/Boards as set out in Appendix 1A.

Any changes to the information contained Appendix 1 or 1A will be circulated before 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, 15 Liberal Democrat Group Members, 4 Labour Group Members, 3 Independent Group Members and one vacancy (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), 54 be allocated to the Conservative Group 26 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) agrees that the second part of procedure rule 4.2.1.1r) and procedure rule 4.2.26 be suspended and for the 2020/21 Municipal Year only the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of those Council Committees etc, set out in Appendix 1A 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.

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|-----|---------------------------------|--|---------|
| 12. | None Specific                   | <p><b>APPOINTMENT TO PANELS/WORKING GROUPS ETC</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Highlighted at the beginning of Appendix 2 are those bodies etc where more nominations than vacancies have been received and these will be voted on individually. All other nominations will be voted en bloc.</p> <p>Any changes to the information contained in Appendix 2 will be circulated before the meeting.</p>   | 47 - 50 |
| 13. | None Specific                   | <p><b>APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Highlighted at the beginning of Appendix 3 are those Outside Bodies where more nominations than vacancies have been received and these will be voted on individually. All other nominations will be voted en bloc.</p> <p>Any changes to the information contained in Appendix 3 will be circulated before the meeting.</p>  | 51 - 56 |
| 14. | Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe | <p><b>OUTCOME OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT</b></p> <p>Following a self-referral from Councillor John Halsall and a formal complaint received into the same matter, an investigation was conducted.</p> <p>It was determined that Councillor Halsall had failed to follow Wokingham Borough Council's Code of Conduct with regard to his Register of Interests and that Councillor Halsall should be formally censured in writing and the Monitoring Officer be instructed to arrange training for the Member concerned.</p> <p>In accordance with Rule 9.1.16.3 of the Council's Constitution the decision notice was published on the Council's website on 11 March 2020. 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.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> The Council notes that Councillor John Halsall was found to be in breach of the Member Code of Conduct.</p> |         |

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

**Anne Hunter**  
**Tel**  
**Email**  
**Postal Address**

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