



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 21 JULY 2022 AT 7.30 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 13 July 2022

Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the 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/VvH3pwRU9dE>

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.

Our Vision
<i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i>
Enriching Lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion excellent 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 enable healthy choices for everyone. • Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of. • Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.
Providing Safe and Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people. • Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care. • Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish. • Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.
Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future. • Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy. • Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity. • Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.
Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future. • Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, 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, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.
Keeping the Borough Moving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways. • Tackle traffic congestion and 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 in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.
Changing the Way We Work for You
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be relentlessly customer focussed. • Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers. • Communicate better with customers, 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.
Be the Best We Can Be
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice. • Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working. • Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business. • Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient. • Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough. • Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
21.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
22.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 May 2022 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 22 June 2022.	13 - 48
23.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
24.		MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements by the Mayor	
25.		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	
26.		PETITIONS To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.	
27.	None Specific	PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AND THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER To receive a presentation from the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, John Campbell, and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber. The presentation is expected to be approximately 20 minutes in duration after which there will be an opportunity for Member questions of no more than 10 minutes in duration.	

28.	None Specific	<p>ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022-23 To consider the Annual Pay Policy Statement.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2022-23, as recommended by Personnel Board.</p>	49 - 60
29.	None Specific	<p>AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee on the work undertaken over the past year.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the Audit Committee Annual Report 2021-2022 be noted.</p>	61 - 64
30.	None Specific	<p>STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 201-22 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Standards Committee on the work undertaken over the past year.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the Standards Committee Annual Report 2021-2022 be noted.</p>	65 - 72
31.	None Specific	<p>WOKINGHAM BOROUGH WELLBEING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board on the work undertaken over the past year.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2021-2022 be noted</p>	73 - 108
32.	None Specific	<p>CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer setting out proposed changes to the Constitution as considered by the Constitution Review Working Group.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION that Council agree the following changes to the Constitution, as recommended by the Monitoring Officer, via the Constitution Review Working Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) additional wording to be added to Chapter 4.2, as set out in paragraph 1 of the report; 2) that 4.4.11 (Rules of debate Audit Committee) and 8.4.8 (Rules of debate Licensing and Appeals Committee), 9.1.9 Rules of Procedure (Standards Committee) be removed, and subsequent sections renumbered, as set out in paragraph 1 of the 	109 - 112

report;

- 3) additional wording to be added to Rule 4.4.19, as set out in paragraph 2 of the report.

33. None Specific

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Given that Council does not often manage to get through all its items of business at each meeting it is proposed that an additional Council meeting be scheduled in October in order to enable the transaction of further Council business.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council agree to amend the timetable of meetings to schedule an additional Council meeting on Thursday 20 October 2022 at 7:30pm.

34.

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

34.1 Charvil; Hurst;
Remenham,
Wargrave and
Ruscombe;
Sonning;
Twyford

Michael Firmager has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

Question

Given that coalition Members have criticised the lack of development in Hurst, Twyford and the Northern Parishes, will the Executive Member for Planning explain how many houses the Council plans to build there?

34.2 Emmbrook

Phil Cunningham has asked the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing the following question:

Question

Does the coalition support the principle of a dementia care home in Toutley?

34.3 Barkham

Charles Margetts has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

Question

Can the lead member for Planning let me know what discussions are underway over the possible development of Rooks Nest Farm?

Motion 480 submitted by Rachel Burgess

Wokingham Borough Council must continually review the support offered to families facing financial crisis to ensure a robust safety net is in place for those in need.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic there were already too many families in Wokingham struggling to make ends meet, and now many more families have been thrown into crisis, without the ability to pay their rent, heat their homes or feed their children.

The Local Welfare Provision Scheme exists to provide immediate financial support to households facing an emergency situation.

However the number of people helped by this scheme in Wokingham Borough has fallen by 76% since 2016-17, with just 21 people helped in 2020-21. In 2019-20 just £3,000 was spent providing support through this scheme. Over the three years to 2020-21 only 23% of the allocated budget was actually spent, on average.

Wokingham Borough Council will:

- Review the effectiveness of Wokingham's Local Welfare Provision Scheme
- Consult with residents and the voluntary sector to ascertain how those who need crisis assistance can be better supported
- Ensure residents in need of support can easily access the scheme and work to remove barriers to application
- Ensure effective signposting of the scheme in conjunction with the voluntary sector
- Ensure frontline staff are trained so that they are fully aware of the scheme and are able to advise residents on how to apply
- Consider prioritising the delivery of cash-first support, which is more empowering and respectful to those on lower incomes
- Aim to provide support within 24-48 hours of a successful application
- Consider relaxing the qualifying criteria and disclosure requirements for the scheme, ensuring that residents' dignity is respected throughout.

Motion 482 submitted by Adrian Mather

There needs to be a fundamental change in how we generate and consume energy in all aspects of our lives. Both electricity generation and distribution are undergoing rapid evolution, in both shape and scale.

The distribution grid, must now cope with power flows in both directions. In scale, electrification of heat and transport will require a quadrupling of electricity capacity. Local, community-based energy schemes can make a significant contribution to addressing both issues and encourage a sense of local empowerment to tackle climate change.

Community schemes encourage local generation and storage to match local demand thus relieving pressure on the grid. Local schemes would be given new impetus and be able to contribute more renewable energy if local people could buy their electricity directly from local suppliers. But the disproportionate cost of meeting regulatory approvals makes it impossible to be a local energy supplier at a local scale and so, under the current system, this local energy gets sold back to the central grid.

The Local Electricity Bill is a private members' bill with cross-party support that was introduced unopposed in June 2020. If this Bill was passed in Parliament it would give the energy regulator, OFGEM, a duty to create a Right to Local Supply. This would enable local community energy groups to achieve their vision of supplying generated energy back to the local area, help us as a Council to meet our carbon reduction aspirations for the Borough, and also bring multiple benefits to the local community. It is supported by many stakeholders, local authorities, and town councils and currently has the backing of 208 MPs.

Council Agrees to:

Resolve to support the Bill.

- Authorise the Leader to contact our MPs to discuss their support for the Bill and how they can enable its passage into law.
- Authorise the Chief Executive to write to the Minister of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, supporting the aims of the Bill and asking for these aims to be taken into account in the forthcoming Energy White

38.3 None Specific

Motion 483 submitted by Sarah Kerr

We are in a cost-of-living crisis. One of the factors is the sharp increase in energy bills. Insulating homes and generating renewable energy directly on homes not only helps our communities during this difficult time but has the added benefit of helping us reach our carbon neutral aspirations.

Little progress has been made in reducing emissions from the energy used for heating and cooling buildings in the UK. This is mainly due to the UK's poor standards of building insulation and an ageing housing stock, coupled with a heavy reliance on fossil fuels for heating.

In Wokingham Borough, housing is the largest source of carbon emissions, which needs to be tackled urgently if we are to become carbon neutral by 2030. Progress has been made in insulating some of the Borough's housing stock through the ECO and GHG-LAD schemes which assists low income and vulnerable residents. The majority of households do not qualify however, and insulation is just one of the tools that homeowners can use in reducing their carbon emissions.

In order to stimulate the market, the barriers of consumer inertia and the lack of trust and understanding need to be addressed. Investing hard earned income into home improvements can be daunting, especially when there's a wide range of options and combinations to consider, each property is unique, and there are cowboy tradespeople in the industry.

To overcome this, this Council seeks to facilitate the creation of a home decarbonisation service, to provide impartial advice for residents on the options available for:

- home insulation,
- alternatives to gas for heating,
- generating renewal energy, and
- energy storage,
- and to assist with assessing value for money from these options.

Officers are requested to prepare a business case assessing the feasibility and options for delivering

such a service and make a recommendation as to whether it should be operated in house, or as a shared service with other local authorities, as a partnership with the voluntary sector or others, or through a 3rd party, with the business case to be presented to council at the September 2022 meeting.

38.4 None Specific

Motion 484 submitted by Charles Margetts

Wokingham Borough Council believes in promoting alternatives to car travel wherever possible. The Council notes the successes of previous administrations in creating sustainable and active travel alternatives, such as greenways and footpaths, as well as working with bus companies to provide bus services across the Borough.

The rail service between from Earley to London Waterloo, including Winnersh, Winnersh Triangle and Wokingham, is ridiculously slow. The journey usually takes one hour and ten minutes to cover a distance of 36 miles to London. Some years ago, a scheme was proposed for trains on this line to not stop at intermediate stations between Twickenham and Waterloo, reducing journey times down by 15 minutes.

This Council calls on South Western Railway to implement measures to speed up journey times and make their service more competitive.

38.5 None Specific

Motion 485 submitted by Gary Cowan

Wokingham Borough Council:

- is concerned about the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year, regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels in England - and notes the issue predominantly concerns goldfish
- is concerned for the welfare of those animals that are being given as prizes
- recognises that many cases of pets being as prizes may go unreported each year
- supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Wokingham Borough Council land.

The Council agrees to:

- ban outright the giving of live animals as

prizes, in any form, on Wokingham Borough Council land.

- write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

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