



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 18 MAY 2023 AT 7.30 PM

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 10 May 2023

Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in accordance 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://youtube.com/live/VxOamLgMPjc?feature=share>

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.
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1.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

To elect a Mayor for the 2023/24 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 2023/24 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

To appoint a Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

The Mayor will call for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 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** **9 - 38**
To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 March 2023.
5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of interest.
6. None Specific **RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT ON MAY 2023 ELECTIONS** **39 - 42**
The Council's Assistant Director Governance, as Returning Officer, to report on the Borough elections held on 4 May 2023.
7. **MAYOR'S OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive any urgent announcements by the Mayor or from the Head of Paid Service.
8. **ELECTION OF LEADER OF COUNCIL**
To elect the Leader of the Council and receive notification from the Leader of his/her Deputy and the remainder of the Members appointed to the Executive and their respective portfolios, Deputy Executive Members and, if applicable, the terms of delegation to Executive Members 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.
9. **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

9.1 Winnersh

Heather Howath has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

Question:

We have been waiting for 19 months for the Winnersh Park and Ride to resume the 500 bus to Reading. A lot of money has been spent and what for, may I ask?

I travel on this bus service regularly to Reading and the bus was very popular. It was the most convenient way to Reading without taking my car.

In Hurst there is a bus service which travels to Reading. However, this is an hourly service in the week and Saturday its 2 hourly. Not a direct route.

The Mere oak Park and Ride is too far away from Hurst to make it viable to use.

While the Winnersh Park and Ride was temporarily out of action, you provided a bus from the TVP. Not ideal but was temporary so ok. That stopped as you said due to lack of demand. This service was never going to be popular from our area as Winnersh one was.

What a White Elephant and waste of money the car park is unless the 500 Park and Ride Bus continues to run.

Please reinstate our number 500 Park and Ride Bus.

9.2 None Specific

Anthony Johnson has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport & Leisure the following question:

Question:

During the election campaign, residents of Shinfield North expressed opposition; concerns; lack of knowledge; or support for the proposed changes for waste collection.

Opponents were scornful of the decision making process; whether it would save money or not. Parents, carers who use disposable nappies (and neighbours) enquired as to hygiene or foul smells especially during summer.

Concerns ranged from “where are we going to put things for two weeks” or “more hard plastic - how green is that”; the negative visual impact and the practicality. As one resident asked “how's my 84 year old neighbour going to get the bin up and down all those steps?”

Support came from those who were fed up with the litter all over the place after collection day, which was ascribed to bags being ripped open by foxes or from spillage during collection.

One question was tantamount to "how did WBC come this decision - was it based on a biased consultation where you couldn't say what you wanted?"

Residents' views were significantly divided between blue bags and wheelie bins, also between weekly and two-weekly collection.

What messages should all Councillors, or candidates, be communicating to residents in response to their concerns or opposition?

9.3 Winnersh

Graham Clifford has asked the Executive Member for Planning & Local Plan the following question:

Question:

Hatchwood Mill has 433 houses, with approximately 1,300 residents. It was granted planning permission in 2016, by an Extraordinary Planning Committee with 53 planning conditions, thereafter, included within a binding Section 106 agreement.

7 years later, with construction over, we continue to have serious issues including.

An unsafe central road through the estate not built to the approved plans.

An unsafe ditch which we cannot find on any planning application. A flood risk to neighbouring houses due to changes that weren't communicated in advance.

Unsafe Mown Amenity Grass areas, not cleared of construction rubble making them dangerous to play on. Five streetlights still not connected. SUDS

drainage clogged with algae, bullrushes and willow. Thousands of dead and missing trees and plants. A play park that's still not built. Developers are planning to leave site and handover to a management company, leaving residents with the ongoing maintenance responsibility.

I'd like to ask the Executive Member for Planning what action does WBC intend to take to assure the residents of Winnersh, that Developers will be held responsible for their undertakings, and that matters will be delivered in the way that WBC, as the Local Planning Authority, first agreed back in 2016?

9.4 Loddon

Stephen Browning has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport & Highways the following question:

Question:

From the West side of Loddon Park Estate are two new bridges over the Old River branch of the Loddon onto an 'Island' between the Old and New branches.

There is a gravel pathway across the 'Island' up to the old Haul Bridge across the New River branch. The latter connects to Footpath 30 which runs from Sandford Lane below its Loddon Bridges up to Park Lane in Hurst.

The deck plates of the Haul Bridge are indeed rusted but the structure otherwise appears intact and is very strong, having been designed to carry HGVs.

It was finally shut off at the start of the Pandemic. Can you please consider its repair and reopened for Pedestrian and Cycle traffic, to provide a safer route than Sandford Lane.

The repair could be affected by first treating the existing Deck plates to stop any further degradation. Then welding new cross beams on top of those deck plates and a new set of deck plates on the top of those bars to just support Pedestrian and Cycle Traffic. Much cheaper than trying to renovate the existing deck.

It should be possible to overcome Footpath 30 adjacent Landowner objections.

10.

PETITIONS

To receive any petitions which Members or members

of the public wish to present.

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.

12.

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 the appendices to this report.

Report to follow.

13.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

43 - 44

To consider and approve the appointment of Members to serve on Outside Bodies in accordance with the Groups' wishes, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report. (Appendix 1 - to follow)

14.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

45 - 54

To note the 2022/23 annual report of the Chair of Standards Committee.

CONTACT OFFICER

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