



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', written in a cursive style.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 12 October 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/KeBKr09Jbno>

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.
56.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
57.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 September 2022.	15 - 46
58.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
59.		MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements by the Mayor.	
60.		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	
60.1	Maiden Erlegh	Jeremy Evershed has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question: Question The proposed 3G pitch at Maiden Erlegh school is going to require significant investment from the Council given the engineering work to remove the 10-foot slope on the pitch, improvements to drainage to avoid downstream flooding, pitch replacement every 7 years costing more than £200,000, plus, potentially unbudgeted Noise Reduction fences. How much will the Council spend on internal staffing and external fees to confirm whether the business case is still viable at the stated cost of £800,000 as per the	

published minutes of the July meeting of the Executive?

60.2 Maiden Erlegh

Judith Clark has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question

I live in Sevenoaks Road. Already at school drop-off and pick-up times, in addition to the sometimes dangerous behaviour of moving traffic (with vehicles driving on pavements if there is a delay) I have to close my windows to shut out the fumes and noise from cars parked outside my house after drop off or before pick-up, with engines running as drivers look at messages, listen to loud music, or converse by phone with the loudspeaker on?

If the 3G plans go ahead, particularly when there are matches from visiting teams, there will be traffic congestion outside school hours and I shall have to continue closing windows through the evening until after 10.00pm and at weekends too. The slamming of car doors will continue after 10.00pm, if players pick up refreshments at the shops outside the school and continue conversations or arguments on the road.

The school has no power to control users' behaviour once they leave school premises, and the Council already does not keep daytime traffic in check, so how can it ensure that residents do not suffer further stress, noise, and air pollution in the evenings and at weekends too?

60.3 Maiden Erlegh

Karen Brown has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question

With regard to the 3G Pitch proposed for Maiden Erlegh How do you propose to ensure that the mental health of the local residents is not affected by excessive noise from users of the sports facility, cars with banging doors and excess fumes, 4.5 metre oppressive acoustic fencing, floodlighting till 10 pm weekday nights, all day and evening till 8pm at weekends. There is no respite from a 7 day and night a week facility. An area that is overall very tranquil and undisturbed will be turned into an area of noise and traffic chaos. Where is the care and consideration to families with young children, the elderly and the myriad of health issues with which people may be struggling with?

60.4 Maiden Erlegh Dr David Walker has asked the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Business and Economic Development the following question:

Question

If the proposed scheme for a 3G pitch at Maiden Erlegh School passes the scrutiny of the Council and then it passes to a Planning Application, it is crucial that homeowners living in Avalon Road and Sevenoaks Road know beforehand the EXACT distances of the pitch, fencing and lighting from their properties. My question, therefore is what are these distances?

60.5 Maiden Erlegh Sandra Spencer has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question

Maiden Erlegh School has a nature area, known as Buckhurst Copse, at the edge of the playing field which is a remnant of ancient woodland. This provides a habitat for a large variety of wildlife, including bats, many species of birds, moths and foxes which come into our adjacent garden. Moth traps have revealed the copse supports significantly more moths than surrounding roads. The playing field is home to millions of insects and invertebrates and therefore an essential feeding ground for the wildlife - in addition to absorbing carbon dioxide. What assessment have you carried out on the effect of ripping up the school field and replacing it with plastic, erecting a very tall fence that will hinder or prevent migration, non-stop noise seven days a week and floodlighting the entire area every evening which will seriously affect the bat and moth population?

60.6 None Specific Andy Bailey has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

Question

Berkley homes produced a map showing 97% of new housing development taking place in the South of the Borough and only 3% taking place in the North.

Can the Executive explain how they plan to address this imbalance in the next iteration of the Local Planning Update?

60.7 Maiden Erlegh Marc Bates has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following

question:

Question

The consultation for the 3G pitch at Maiden Erlegh was undertaken following a Technical Appraisal. The technical appraisal only listed one con for the Maiden Erlegh site being 'Construction would need to be during school holidays', this would not actually be possible as it would take at least 12-14 weeks. Other cons that should have been included are Traffic issues, close proximity to housing (boundary less than 10 metres away) and loss of grass pitch (consultation document states 'no loss of grass pitch' in Pro's which is wrong). The technical appraisal is not fit for purpose and misleading to residents and others who may rely on it such as the Football Foundation. Would the Council agree that a Technical Appraisal is a key part of any consultation of this type and therefore this should be undertaken again properly if the proposal is not shelved following this initial consultation process?

60.8 None Specific

Amanda Bates has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question

According to information supplied by Sport England, noise levels for residential properties where the boundary is located less than 10 metres away from a 3G pitch will more than likely exceed the maximum noise levels recommended by the World Health Organisation notwithstanding the installation of high quality acoustic fencing. How are the council going to protect local residents from the intrusion of noise and light from a facility less than 10m from property boundaries?

61.

PETITIONS

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

62. None Specific

THE TENANTS' CHARTER UPDATE 2022

To receive a presentation from Steve Bowers, Chairperson of the Tenant and Landlord Improvement Panel (Tenant Volunteer). Followed by an opportunity for Members to ask questions.

47 - 78

RECOMMENDATION:

- i) The Tenant Volunteers would like to ask the

Council to consider the new aspirations outlined in the Tenants Charter update 2022 report and continue to work in partnership with them to achieve these.

- ii) The Tenant Volunteers would like the Council to note the Tenant Charter video.
- iii) The Tenant Volunteers would like the Council to note the report Three Years on – What we have achieved so far! This shows some of the projects, documents and reviews the Tenant Volunteers have been involved with in the last year.

63. None Specific

COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (LGBCE) CONSULTATION

79 - 130

To approve the Council's submission to the LGBCE as set out in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves its submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) as recommended by the Electoral Review Working Group and set out in Appendix 1 and the accompanying maps.

64.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

131 - 142

To agree changes to the Constitution as set out below and in the attached report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council agree the following changes to the Constitution, as recommended by the Monitoring Officer via the Constitution Review Working Group that:

- 1) The following proposals relating to the following areas of Council Rules of Procedure be agreed:
 - a. sections relating to Member and public questions as set out in paragraphs 1.1-1.4 of the report;
 - b. that Rules 4.2.1.1 Timing and order of business [Annual Council] and 4.2.2.1 Timing and order of business [Ordinary Council meetings] be amended as set out

in paragraph 2 of the report;

- c. that Rule 4.2.13.13 Motions on Expenditure or Revenue be deleted and Rule 4.2.11.2 be amended as set out in paragraph 3 of the report;
 - d. proposals relating to statements by the Leader of Council etc and from the Council Owned Companies being incorporated into the Minutes of Committee and Board Meetings and Ward Matters agenda item as set out in paragraph 4 of the report;
 - e. that Rule 4.2.2.1 Timing and Order of Business (Ordinary Meetings be amended as set out in paragraph 5 of the report;
 - f. that Rules 4.2.9.5, 4.2.10.5, 5.4.29 and 5.4.37 – Scope of Public and Member Questions be amended as set out in paragraph 6 of the report;
 - g. Rules 4.2.8 Duration of Meetings, 4.2.8.1 Consideration of Motions and 4.2.12 Motions without Notice be amended, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report;
- 2) that it be noted that Rule 5.2.10.4 [Responsibilities of Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure] as set out in paragraph 8 of the report, will be amended;
 - 3) it be noted that Rule 5.2.7.17 [Responsibilities of Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Housing] as set out in paragraph 8 of the report, will be added;
 - 4) that Rule 5.4.19 Timing of the [Executive] meeting be amended as set out in paragraph 9 of the report;
 - 5) that Section 6.2 Overview and Scrutiny, be amended as set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report:
 - 6) changes to Chapter 8.2 – Planning Committee Procedure Rules as set out in paragraph 12 of the report;
 - 7) changes to Chapter 8.3 – Planning Member Guidelines on Good Practice as set out in

paragraph 13 of the report

65.

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.

65.1

None Specific

Graham Howe has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Given that we all know the demand for SEND places is growing, can the Lead Member explain how capacity is going to be accommodated in a timely manner by having 2 new schools built at Rooks Nest and Grays Farm, which will take a considerable amount of time for planning consent, inclusion in the local plan, and funding to be agreed with the Dept of Education?

65.2

None Specific

Laura Blumenthal has asked the Executive Member for Equalities, Inclusion and Fighting Poverty the following question:

Question

The Government announced in May that it would be extending its Household Support Fund scheme in October, so this Council knew it would get a guaranteed lump sum to spend on helping struggling residents. Please can you confirm that it is the Government's Household Support Fund that will be funding free school meals during holidays in the Borough, right up to May 2023?

65.3

None Specific

Chris Bowring has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question

At the September meeting of the Executive, it was resolved to reduce the number of blue waste bags per property per annum from 80 to 54. As an afterthought, or so it seemed to me, you decided to keep the possibility of more blue bags for larger households 'under review'. What exactly do you

propose to 'review' and why, after being in control of the council for five months, were you unable to bring a fully formed policy to the Executive?

66. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WARD MATTERS

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions in relation to the latest circulated volume of Minutes of Meetings and Ward Matters

67. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS, AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

To receive any statements by the Leader of the Council, Executive Members, and Deputy Executive Members.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.23 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 20 minutes, and no Member shall speak for more than 5 minutes

68. STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL OWNED COMPANIES

To receive any statements from Directors of Council Owned Companies.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.24 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 10 minutes, and no Director, except with the consent of Council, shall speak for more than 3 minutes.

69. MOTIONS

To consider any Motions

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.11.2 a maximum period of 30 minutes will be allowed for each Motion to be moved, seconded and debated, including dealing with any amendments. At the expiry of the 30-minute period debate will cease immediately, the mover of the Motion or amendment will have the right of reply before the Motion or amendment is put to the vote

69.1 None Specific

Motion 489 submitted by Laura Blumenthal

'At present, a Member taking leave to look after their new-born or newly adopted child could find themselves in breach of s85(1), Local Government Act 1972 ("if a member of a Local Authority fails,

throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority”).

It is therefore proposed that this Council agrees the following Motion with the intention of introducing a Leave Policy for Members who become parents. This Council therefore resolves that: The Assistant Director of Governance be commissioned to work with the Head of Legal and the Assistant Director of Human Resources, to draft a Leave Policy for Members who become parents, taking into account guidance issued by the LGA, for approval by Council at the earliest opportunity.’

69.2 None Specific

Motion 490 submitted by Rachel Bishop-Firth
Many Wokingham residents are facing severe and increasing financial hardship. By September 2022:

- The cost of living was rising by 9.9% with some forecasts as high as 18.6% in the new year, while rises in pay and benefits fell far short of this.
- Typical household energy bills were expected to be over £2,500 a year.
- Interest rates had reached a 20 year high, putting added pressure on rents and mortgages.
- The removal of the temporary £20 a week uplift in universal credit had substantially reduced the income of those living on the lowest incomes.

For many Wokingham residents, price increases will be a real concern. For residents on the lowest incomes who were already struggling to heat their homes and feed their families, they're a disaster. Many of these residents cannot increase their income through work, for example because they have full time caring responsibilities or are incapacitated.

Use of foodbanks was soaring even before the latest

financial turmoil. Wokingham Foodbank distributed 4,811 crisis food parcels between April 2021 and March 2022, which was a 78% increase on the previous financial year.

Voluntary and community organisations are seeing a steep increase in residents approaching them for help over the course of this year, and they are already deeply concerned. They are seeing increased numbers of people who were previously coping financially but are now struggling.

Responding to this crisis adequately will take community-wide action and central government backing of the kind that we saw during the Covid crisis, at a time that council finances are also under enormous pressure because of inflation.

Wokingham Borough Council therefore declares a Cost of Living Crisis in the borough and commits to doing all that we can to support our residents during this very difficult time. We commit that this will be one of the council's main priorities during the coming winter and will work with the Hardship Alliance and the Hardship Alliance Action Group to support our residents.'

- 69.3 None Specific **Motion 491 submitted by Rebecca Margetts**
'Wokingham Borough Council congratulates the England Lionesses on their incredible achievement of becoming European Champions. Many of these women were not offered the opportunity as children to play football at school and the only reason for their success was they were prepared and able to travel great distances to pursue their dream. Wokingham Borough Council believes all children should be offered the opportunity at school to play football and calls on all schools in Wokingham Borough to ensure that football is offered to every child who wishes to play.'
- 69.4 Wescott **Motion 492 submitted by Charles Margetts**
'Residents who live of William Heelas Way in Wokingham have raised significant concerns with me about the speed of traffic outside Floreat Montague Park Primary School. The link road between London Road and the future Southern Relief Road has a 30mph speed limit and traffic levels which will only get busier when the Southern Relief Road opens. Wokingham Borough Council believes it is of vital importance that

young children can travel to school on foot or by bicycle in complete safety. To ensure children can walk and cycle safely to school Wokingham Borough Council will change the speed limit outside all primary schools to 20 mph.'

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