

MINUTES of the MEETING of the
WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
held in the Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Godalming on
17 April 2012

* Cllr Richard Gates (Mayor)

* Cllr Tony Gordon-Smith (Deputy Mayor)

* Cllr Brian Adams	* Cllr Denis Leigh
* Cllr Stella Andersen-Payne	* Cllr Peter Martin
* Cllr Mike Band	* Cllr Tom Martin
Cllr Gillian Beel	* Cllr Bryn Morgan
* Cllr Patrick Blagden	* Cllr Stephen Mulliner
* Cllr Maurice Byham	* Cllr David Munro
* Cllr Elizabeth Cable	* Cllr Elliot Nichols
* Cllr Carole Cockburn	* Cllr Jennifer O'Grady
* Cllr Jim Edwards	* Cllr Stephen O'Grady
* Cllr Brian Ellis	* Cllr Donal O'Neill
* Cllr Patricia Ellis	* Cllr Julia Potts
* Cllr Jenny Else	* Cllr Stefan Reynolds
* Cllr Mary Forszyski	Cllr Ian Sampson
* Cllr Pat Frost	* Cllr Janet Somerville
* Cllr Michael Goodridge	* Cllr Roger Steel
* Cllr Lynn Graffham	* Cllr Stewart Stennett
* Cllr Jill Hargreaves	* Cllr Christopher Storey
* Cllr Christiaan Hesse	* Cllr Adam Taylor-Smith
* Cllr Stephen Hill	* Cllr Jane Thomson
* Cllr Nicholas Holder	* Cllr Simon Thornton
* Cllr Simon Inchbald	Cllr Brett Vorley
* Cllr Peter Isherwood	* Cllr John Ward
* Cllr Diane James	Cllr Nerissa Warner-O'Neill
* Cllr Carole King	* Cllr Keith Webster
* Cllr Robert Knowles	Cllr Ross Welland
Cllr Martin Lear	* Cllr Liz Wheatley
* Cllr Nicky Lee	* Cllr Nick Williams

* Cllr Andrew Wilson

* Present

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, prayers were led by the
Reverend Camilla White.

53. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 February 2012 were confirmed and signed.

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gillian Beel, John Ward and Nerissa Warner-O'Neill.

55. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no interests raised under this heading.

56. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that he had received a letter from Her Majesty sending thanks for the loyal greetings sent from the Council to mark the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of her Accession to the Throne. She wished the people of Waverley a memorable and enjoyable Diamond Jubilee year.

A sponsored swim had taken place at St Catherine's School and the Mayor thanked everyone who took part and for sponsorship which raised £2500 towards the Mayor's Charity. Two Sports Relief Mile events, at Frensham and at Charterhouse School, had also been very well attended and the Mayor thanked the Leisure team for organising them.

The Mayor recognised the commemorative service held at the Phillips Memorial in Godalming in memory of the Titanic and Jack Phillips, Chief Telegraphic Officer from Godalming, as a highlight of his year. The Service had been very well attended and was one of a series of events leading up to the 100 anniversary of the sinking on 15 April.

The Mayor had been present at the signing of the Military Covenant at Pirbright where he had heard moving speeches from senior members of the army about the needs of the military in society. The Mayor undertook to ensure that Waverley made very effort to consider how they could offer support to the army in the Borough.

The Mayor announced that an Extraordinary Council meeting would take place at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 8 May, prior to the Annual Council meeting which would commence at 7.30 p.m. or at the conclusion of the earlier meeting.

57. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions were received in accordance with Procedure Rule 10:-

i. from Mrs Celia Sandars of Farnham:-

"Brightwell Gardens, tennis courts and bowling green were given to the residents of Farnham in 1920. If Waverley Council decides to appropriate Brightwell Gardens and then dispose of the land on a long lease, will the appropriated land be placed on the open market to achieve best consideration, in accordance with s.123 of the Local Government Act, thus allowing the people of Farnham an opportunity to make an offer and buy their own land back?"

The Executive Portfolio Holder for East Street replied as follows:-

“I understand that Brightwell Gardens were not given as a gift to the residents of Farnham, but instead came about following the acquisition by Farnham Urban District Council of Brightwell House from Florence Paget in June 1920. At that time they paid £3,750 for the acquisition – a not insignificant sum at that time. The Council then appropriated the gardens of the house for public use as a garden, tennis courts and a bowling green.

Under Section 123 of the 1976 Act, unless Secretary of State consent is obtained, a disposal by way of a lease for more than seven years may not be for a consideration less than the best that can be reasonably obtained. Evidence of best consideration being obtained by the Council is demonstrated by the fact that the East Street Scheme was subject to rigorous tendering processes, and the successful bidder, CNS, has entered into a Development agreement with the Council that requires payment to the Council of the Minimum Land Value in respect of the disposal.

The Council therefore does not propose to put the land on the open market, having already secured best consideration under the Development Agreement.”

ii. from Dr M A Coombes of Farnham:-

“Waverley Borough Council is reported (*Godalming Messenger* 26 March 2012) to be ‘poised to make a bid’ for Godalming’s becoming one of the pilot areas for revitalising high streets recommended in the government commissioned ‘Portas Review into the Future of Our High Streets’ (December 2011, www.bis.gov.uk). Waverley Council is described as working to encourage ‘the new independent retailers of the future’ in Godalming. At the heart of the Portas report is the view that, in developing plans for local high streets, ‘the public should no longer be seen simply as customers but as co-creators of place’.

In the light of Waverley Council’s apparent support for the Portas recommendations and for independent retailers in Godalming, could the Council explain how it intends to show similar support to Farnham with respect to the plans for regenerating Farnham’s East Street area, given that this is clearly a ‘high street’ site, and how it plans to revise its current attitude to the Farnham public as being merely potential ‘customers’?”

The Council was informed that Dr Coombes had withdrawn her question since the agenda had been published.

58. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE

58.1 Meeting of 6 March 2012

It was moved by the Chairman of the Executive, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on 6 March 2012 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

58.2 Meeting of 27 March 2012

It was moved by the Chairman of the Executive, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on 27 March 2012 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted, subject to the correction in the last line of paragraph 156.2 to read '6 years'.

59. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

It was moved by the Chairman of the Committee, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 20 March 2012 be approved.

60. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

It was moved by the Chairman of the Committee, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 2 April 2012 be approved.

The meeting concluded at 7.53 p.m.

Mayor