



**Waverley Borough Council**  
Council Offices, The Burys,  
Godalming, Surrey  
GU7 1HR  
[www.waverley.gov.uk](http://www.waverley.gov.uk)

To: All Members of the Council

Emma McQuillan, Democratic Services  
Manager

**Policy and Governance**

E-mail: [emma.mcquillan@waverley.gov.uk](mailto:emma.mcquillan@waverley.gov.uk)

Direct line: 01483 523351

Calls may be recorded for training or monitoring

Date: 8 April 2016

Dear Councillor

**COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY, 19 APRIL 2016**

A MEETING of the WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, THE BURYS, GODALMING on **TUESDAY, 19 APRIL 2016** at **7.00 pm** and you are hereby summoned to attend this meeting.

The Agenda for the Meeting is set out below.

Yours sincerely

ROBIN TAYLOR

Head of Policy and Governance

Agendas are available to download from Waverley's website ([www.waverley.gov.uk/committees](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/committees)), where you can also subscribe to updates to receive information via email regarding arrangements for particular committee meetings.

Alternatively, agendas may be downloaded to a mobile device via the free Modern.Gov app, available for iPad, Android, Windows and Kindle Fire.

Most of our publications can be provided in alternative formats. For an audio version, large print, text only or a translated copy of this publication, please contact [committees@waverley.gov.uk](mailto:committees@waverley.gov.uk) or call 01483 523351.

**Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Mayor will receive any informal questions from members of the public, for a maximum of 15 minutes.**

**The meeting will be webcast from the conclusion of Informal Question Time and can be viewed by visiting [www.waverley.gov.uk/committees](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/committees)**

---

## AGENDA

1. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 24)

To confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 February 2016 (herewith).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Mayor to report apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive from Members, declarations of interest in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Waverley Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. LOYAL ADDRESS FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

The Leader of the Council has proposed that the Council should agree the following resolution and forward it to Buckingham Palace:-

May it please your Majesty,

We, the Mayor, Freeman and Citizens of the Borough of Waverley (at a Council meeting on 19 April 2016) wish to offer your Majesty our most loyal and hearty best wishes on your 90th birthday.

We hope that you enjoy the planned birthday activities this year and hope that they represent a celebration of your life, reflecting your love of the United Kingdom, dedication to the commonwealth and international affairs and your deep involvement with the Navy, Army and Air Force, together with your love of the countryside and horses..

We earnestly pray that your Majesty will enjoy good health and we look forward to your continued service in future years.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To answer the following questions from members of the public, received in accordance with Procedure Rule 10:-

i. from Mr H Alexander of Hambledon

“In relation to the fraud that occurred in April 2014, 19 senior Conservative councillors knew of the fraud. Knowledge of the fraud was deliberately kept from all junior Conservative councillors, all Ukip councillors and all Independent councillors. The fraud was not reported in the 2013/14 Annual Financial Statements as a post balance sheet event and nor was it disclosed in the 2014/15 Annual Financial

Statements, the year in which it occurred.

The Waverley Members' Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires that its members behave with Openness, Accountability and Integrity. This behaviour is also required of those in public life under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act"). There is prima facie evidence that these requirements of the Code and the Act have been breached by the 19 senior Conservative councillors as follows:

1. Openness – by concealing the fraud from other councillors and all residents, and not disclosing it in the Annual Financials Statements, the 19 Conservative councillors have clearly breached this aspect of the Code and the Act; 2. Accountability – by concealing the fraud, the 19 Conservative councillors have prevented themselves from being held to account for their actions; 3. Integrity – the 19 Conservative councillors have shown a lack of integrity by concealing the fraud from opposition councillors. This lack of integrity is particularly serious given there was a Borough election in May 2015 and, by concealing the fraud, the Conservatives enhanced their electoral prospects.

In view of the fact that: 1. there is prima facie evidence that Councillors have broken both the Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011, and 2. The breach of the Code and the Act was extensive, with 19 Conservative councillors implicated, and 3. the breach of the Code and the Act has been sustained for a long period of time (more than 20 months), will the Council be ordering a full, independent and transparent investigation into the 19 councillors conduct?"

ii. from Mr Jerry Hyman of Farnham

Mr Mayor. Waverley has issued a "Concluding Statement" regarding the £233,000 fraud incident. However, important questions remain regarding how the matter was dealt with.

Under the heading of "Matters relating to fraud" requiring communication, Grant Thornton's Audit Findings Report for 2013-14 stated that, "*We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Audit Committee and been made aware of an external fraud affecting the Council in April 2014.*" No other information was provided.

As Members are no doubt aware, Waverley deals with numerous external fraud incidents, mostly relating to benefits fraud. Any backbencher or member of the public would assume the matter to have been of no public interest, because the nature, extent and significance of the fraud incident was completely hidden. With hindsight, many might say that it rather looks like a cover-up.

Indeed, last year's 2014-15 Audit Findings Report states at page 15 that "*We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Audit Committee. We have not been made aware of any incidents in the period*". That statement by the Auditor is clearly false.

Furthermore, at page 22 the Report, under the heading of 'Financial Control', the Auditor adds, "*Our review of Internal Audit's reports identified that no significant issues were identified in respect of your key financial systems ...*", and it goes on to say that, "*We have identified strong arrangements in place to ensure robust financial governance*". In the circumstances, such statements by the Auditor would appear to be quite inappropriate.

Mr Mayor, there is a clear need to instil a culture of accountability and transparency at Waverley, in order that such falsehoods in the Council's and the Auditors' reports do not occur. What effective action could Members and the public take to ensure that standards are improved as necessary? Thank you."

**[NB. Questions from members of the public express personal views of the questioners and Waverley does not endorse any statements in any way and they do not reflect the views of Waverley Borough Council].**

7. QUESTION TIME

To answer any questions received in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.2.

8. MOTIONS

To receive any motions submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1.

9. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE

To receive the minutes of the Executive (coloured grey):

9.a Meeting of 1 March 2016 (Pages 25 - 58)

9.b Meeting of 5 April 2016 (Pages 59 - 68)

10. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE (Pages 69 - 70)

To receive the minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 24 March 2016 (coloured bright green).

11. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 71 - 80)

To receive the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 15 March 2016 (coloured lilac).

12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider the following motion, to be moved by the Mayor, where appropriate:-

That, pursuant to Procedure Rule 20 and in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any matter on this agenda on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s), there would be disclosure to them of exempt information (as defined by Section 100I of the Act) of the description specified in the appropriate paragraph(s) of the revised Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (to be identified at the meeting).