

MINUTES of the WAVERLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL held in
the Caudle Hall, Wilfred Noyce
Community Centre, Crown
Court Car Park, Godalming,
GU7 1DY on 1 November 2021
at 7.00 pm

- * Cllr John Robini (Mayor)
- * Cllr John Ward (Deputy Mayor)

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| * Cllr Brian Adams | Cllr Peter Isherwood |
| * Cllr Christine Baker | * Cllr Jacquie Keen |
| * Cllr David Beaman | * Cllr Robert Knowles |
| * Cllr Roger Blishen | * Cllr Anna James |
| * Cllr Peter Clark | * Cllr Andy MacLeod |
| * Cllr Carole Cockburn | * Cllr Penny Marriott |
| Cllr Steve Cosser | * Cllr Peter Marriott |
| * Cllr Martin D'Arcy | * Cllr Michaela Martin |
| * Cllr Jerome Davidson | * Cllr Peter Martin |
| Cllr Kevin Deanus | * Cllr Mark Merryweather |
| * Cllr Simon Dear | Cllr Kika Mirylees |
| * Cllr Sally Dickson | * Cllr Stephen Mulliner |
| Cllr Brian Edmonds | * Cllr John Neale |
| * Cllr Patricia Ellis | * Cllr Peter Nicholson |
| * Cllr David Else | * Cllr Nick Palmer |
| * Cllr Jenny Else | Cllr Julia Potts |
| Cllr Jan Floyd-Douglass | * Cllr Ruth Reed |
| * Cllr Paul Follows | * Cllr Paul Rivers |
| Cllr Mary Forszowski | * Cllr Penny Rivers |
| Cllr Maxine Gale | * Cllr Anne-Marie Rosoman |
| * Cllr Michael Goodridge | * Cllr Trevor Sadler |
| Cllr John Gray | * Cllr Richard Seaborne |
| * Cllr Joan Heagin | * Cllr Liz Townsend |
| * Cllr Val Henry | * Cllr Philip Townsend |
| Cllr George Hesse | * Cllr Michaela Wicks |
| * Cllr Chris Howard | * Cllr Steve Williams |
| Cllr Daniel Hunt | * Cllr George Wilson |
| * Cllr Jerry Hyman | |

*Present

Apologies

Cllr Steve Cosser, Cllr Kevin Deanus, Cllr Brian Edmonds, Cllr Jan Floyd-Douglass, Cllr Mary Forszowski, Cllr Maxine Gale, Cllr John Gray, Cllr George Hesse, Cllr Daniel Hunt, Cllr Kika Mirylees and Cllr Julia Potts

- 56.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Steve Cosser, Kevin Deanus, Brian Edmonds, Jan Floyd-Douglass, Mary Forszewski, Maxine Gale, John Gray, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Kika Mirylees and Julia Potts.

CNL57/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 2.) F_PR

- 57.1 The Council noted that the Chief Executive had declared an interest in item 3 (Appointment to the post of Joint Chief Executive) and was therefore not present at the meeting.

CNL58/21 APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda item 3.) F_PR

- 58.1 The Leader presented the report which set out the recommendation of the Guildford and Waverley Joint Appointments Committee to appoint Tom Horwood as Joint Chief Executive of Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils. The Joint Appointments Committee had been established by both Councils to carry out the recruitment process and he thanked the Members of that Committee for their constructive input into the process, officers from Waverley and Guildford and South East Employers for their help and support. The process had been robust and rigorous and was confident that the candidate brought the right level of expertise to the collaboration and commended the recommendations to the Council, which were duly seconded by Councillor Clark.
- 58.2 Councillor Mulliner spoke on the recommendations, wishing Mr Horwood well for the future on behalf of the Conservative Group, but advising that he would not be voting for the recommendations due to concerns over the underlying issues with the collaboration. Any modest savings made would be as a result of making a number of senior officers redundant, which would not be risk free. If contract and agency staff had to be used to maintain services due to an increased workload, this would negate the effect of any savings made. He felt that the project had been rushed, resulting in a lack of proper scrutiny of the risks involved. He felt that the decision should have waited until the end of the Council year, to properly understand the impact of the recovery from the pandemic on the Council.
- 58.3 Councillor Seaborne spoke on the recommendations, echoing the points made by Councillor Mulliner and expressing concern over the lack of the assessment of risk of the collaboration. The presentation of a list of risks was not the same as a proper risk analysis or risk management. He wished Mr Horwood well in the event that the Council approved the recommendation, however would not be voting for the appointment on the basis of his concerns over the collaboration.
- 58.4 Councillor Hyman sought clarification on the wording of the recommendation regarding finalising of the negotiations, and whether it was possible for the Council to agree to the appointment if the terms and conditions had not yet been agreed.
- 58.5 Councillor Wilson asked Members to remember why the Council was in the financial position it found itself in and why they it was having to take these decisions.

- 58.6 Councillor Merryweather spoke in support of the recommendations as the first step in the collaboration with Guildford Borough Council, and on the rationale for the collaboration, giving an overview of the financial situation of the Council. The Council's costs would increase due to the increased rate of inflation and there was uncertainty over the retention of business rates.
- 58.7 Councillor Liz Townsend spoke in support of the appointment, which she felt was reasonable and timely. The £1.5m savings which Waverley was required to make were considerable and the current financial climate meant that the Council must respond accordingly.
- 58.8 Councillor Peter Martin expressed some concern over the process for recruitment, as he was of the view that there should have been an external recruitment process carried out to enable the Council to choose from more than one candidate. The Leader raised a point of order that Members should keep to the item in question and not stray into other matters.
- 58.9 Councillor Palmer reminded Members that the Council had previously discussed and agreed the merging of the senior level of officers. Services would need to be cut if the savings could not be made. The recommendation was to appoint a Joint Chief Executive and he supported the recommendation of Mr Horwood as suitable candidate.
- 58.10 Councillor Baker reminded Members that there was no need to go out to an external recruitment process as Mr Horwood had the qualities required for the role.
- 58.11 Councillor Clark referred to the earlier proposal to wait until the Council term and stressed that the Council could not afford to wait that long. As a point of explanation, Councillor Mulliner clarified that he had been referring to the end of the Council year.
- 58.12 At the request of the Mayor, the HR Manager addressed the point made by Councillor Hyman and advised that the terms and conditions could not be accepted by Mr Horwood until a contract of employment had been placed before him. There was also a requirement for some of the terms and conditions to be compatible with Guildford's and this work had been carried out.
- 58.13 The Leader concluded by addressing the comments made by the Council regarding the collaboration. Much of the process was defined by law and the appointment in question would save the Council money. The recommendations were clear, which he commended to the Council.
- 58.14 The Mayor moved to a vote on the recommendations, which were carried: votes in favour 28, votes against 2; and 14 abstentions and it was

RESOLVED that

- 1. Tom Horwood be appointed to the post of Joint Chief Executive of Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils, and to the statutory roles of Head of Paid**

Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for both Councils.

- 2. That the above appointment be confirmed once contract negotiations have finalised.**

CNL59/21 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN TO OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES
(Agenda item 4.) F_PR

RESOLVED that Councillor Stephen Mulliner be appointed as Chairman of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Kevin Deanus be appointed Chairman of the Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The meeting concluded at 7.35 pm

Mayor