

MINUTES of the WAVERLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL held in
the Council Chamber, Council
Offices, The Burys, Godalming
on 26 September 2022 at 6.00
pm

- * Cllr John Ward (Mayor)
- * Cllr Penny Rivers (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Christine Baker	Cllr Jacquie Keen
* Cllr David Beaman	* Cllr Robert Knowles
* Cllr Roger Blishen	Cllr Andy MacLeod
* Cllr Peter Clark	Cllr Penny Marriott
* Cllr Carole Cockburn	Cllr Peter Marriott
* Cllr Steve Cosser	Cllr Michaela Martin
* Cllr Martin D'Arcy	Cllr Peter Martin
Cllr Jerome Davidson	* Cllr Mark Merryweather
* Cllr Kevin Deanus	* Cllr Kika Mirylees
Cllr Simon Dear	* Cllr Stephen Mulliner
Cllr Sally Dickson	* Cllr David Munro
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 Forszewska	* Cllr John Robini
Cllr Maxine Gale	Cllr Anne-Marie Rosoman
Cllr Michael Goodridge	Cllr Trevor Sadler
* Cllr Joan Heagin	* Cllr Richard Seaborne
Cllr Val Henry	Cllr Julian Spence
* Cllr George Hesse	* Cllr Liz Townsend
Cllr Chris Howard	* Cllr Philip Townsend
Cllr Daniel Hunt	* Cllr Michaela Wicks
* Cllr Jerry Hyman	* Cllr Steve Williams
* Cllr Anna James	* Cllr George Wilson

*Present

Apologies

Cllr Christine Baker, Cllr Jerome Davidson, Cllr Simon Dear, Cllr Sally Dickson, Cllr Brian Edmonds, Cllr David Else, Cllr Jenny Else, Cllr Jan Floyd-Douglass, Cllr Mary Forszewska, Cllr Maxine Gale, Cllr Michael Goodridge, Cllr Val Henry, Cllr Chris Howard, Cllr Daniel Hunt, Cllr Jacquie Keen, Cllr Andy MacLeod, Cllr Penny Marriott, Cllr Peter Marriott, Cllr Michaela Martin, Cllr Peter Martin, Cllr Nick Palmer, Cllr Anne-Marie Rosoman, Cllr Trevor Sadler and Cllr Julian Spence

WELCOME AND REFLECTION

Before the meeting began, the Mayor invited the Council to observe a moment of reflection for the late Queen Elizabeth II.

The Mayor announced the sad death of Councillor Gray and advised that the Union Flag outside the Burys was flying at half mast as a mark of respect. Councillors Mulliner, Follows, Williams and Hyman all paid tribute to Councillor Gray, followed by the Council standing in a moment of reflection.

CNL31/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 1.)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Baker, Davidson, Dear, Dickson, Edmonds, Floyd-Douglass, Jenny Else, Howard, Keen, MacLeod, Peter Martin, Palmer, Rosoman and Spence.

CNL32/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 2.)

There were no interests declared under this heading.

CNL33/22 APPOINTMENT OF JOINT S151 OFFICER (Agenda item 3.)

- 33.1 The Leader presented the report which set out the recommendation of the Guildford and Waverley Joint Appointments Committee to appoint Peter Vickers as the joint s151 officer for Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils, which was duly seconded by Councillor Clark.
- 33.2 Councillors Potts spoke on the report, seeking clarification on the process and the concerns raised at the Joint Appointments Committee. In response, the Leader confirmed that there was only one applicant due to the specific qualification requirement of the post and that the Committee were in favour of the appointment 5 votes to 1. The concerns raised at the Committee related to the reporting line of the s151 officer. It was proposed that the s151 officer would report to a Strategic Director, with a dotted line to the Chief Executive.
- 33.3 Councillor Seaborne sought clarification on whether the Joint Appointments Committee had considered the issue of conflict resolution and seeking independent financial advice.
- 33.4 Councillor Clark spoke in support of the recommendation, setting out a number of local authorities in the UK which have joint collaborative arrangements in place, including joint s151 officers.
- 33.5 Councillor Mulliner spoke on the report, clarifying some of the concerns over the responsibilities and expectations being placed on the new Joint Management Team and their ability to maintain a work life balance.
- 33.6 The Leader addressed the comments made in the debate, giving an assurance that the Council would maintain its right to seek independent legal advice, either on finance or legal matters, on a case by case basis. He was confident that all the new Joint Management Team appointees understood the roles they had applied for; and that they were competent and

knowledgeable. He reminded the Council that a s151 officer was a statutory requirement and was confident in the ability of the candidate and therefore commended the appointment to the Council.

- 33.7 In accordance with Procedure Rule 17.4, Councillor Potts requested a recorded vote and was duly supported by the requisite five other Councillors.

RESOLVED

That in the light of the decision of Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils to form a Joint Management Team (JMT), the Council is asked to appoint Peter Vickers to the role of Joint Executive Head of Service for Finance which includes the duties of the S151 officer.

For (24)

Councillors Beaman, Blishen, Clark, Cockburn, D'Arcy, Follows, Heagin, Hesse, Hyman, Merryweather, Mirylees, Mulliner, Munro, Neale, Nicholson, Reed, Paul Rivers, Deputy Mayor Councillor Penny Rivers, Robini, Liz Townsend, Philip Townsend, Mr Mayor Councillor Ward, Williams and Wilson

Against (4)

Councillors Ellis, James, Knowles and Potts.

Abstentions (4)

Councillors Cosser, Deanus, Seaborne and Wicks.

The meeting concluded at 6.24 pm

Mayor