

Present

Cllr Liz Wheatley (Mayor)	Cllr Martin Lear
Cllr Mike Band (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr Nicky Lee
Cllr Brian Adams	Cllr Denis Leigh
Cllr Maurice Byham	Cllr Peter Martin
Cllr Elizabeth Cable	Cllr Tom Martin
Cllr Carole Cockburn	Cllr Stephen Mulliner
Cllr Jim Edwards	Cllr David Munro
Cllr Brian Ellis	Cllr Stephen O'Grady
Cllr Patricia Ellis	Cllr Donal O'Neill
Cllr Jenny Else	Cllr Julia Potts
Cllr Mary Forszyszewski	Cllr Wyatt Ramsdale
Cllr Richard Gates	Cllr Stefan Reynolds
Cllr Michael Goodridge	Cllr Stewart Stennett
Cllr Tony Gordon-Smith	Cllr Chris Storey
Cllr Jill Hargreaves	Cllr Jane Thomson
Cllr Christiaan Hesse	Cllr Simon Thornton
Cllr Peter Isherwood	Cllr John Ward
Cllr Diane James	Cllr Keith Webster
Cllr Carole King	Cllr Nick Williams
Cllr Robert Knowles	Cllr Andrew Wilson

Apologies

Cllr Paddy Blagden, Cllr Pat Frost, Cllr Lynn Graffham, Cllr Stephen Hill, Cllr Nicholas Holder, Cllr Simon Inchbald, Cllr Bryn Morgan, Cllr Elliot Nichols, Cllr Jennifer O'Grady, Cllr Adam Taylor-Smith, Cllr Brett Vorley and Cllr Ross Welland

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, prayers and a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Gillian Beel were led by the Reverend Sally Davies.

57/14 MINUTES (Agenda item 1.)

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 February 2015 were confirmed and signed.

58/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2.)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Paddy Blagden, Pat Frost, Lynn Graffham, Stephen Hill, Nicholas Holder, Simon Inchbald, Bryn Morgan, Jennifer O'Grady, Elliot Nichols, Adam Taylor-Smith, Brett Vorley and Ross Welland.

59/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 3.)

There were no interests declared under this heading.

60/14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda item 4.)

The Mayor informed the Council of a number of events that she had attended since the last meeting, including the opening of new social housing schemes, raising of the commonwealth flag and a service at Stanwell to mark the signing of the Magna Carta. The Mass Bands Extravaganza for the Mayor's Charity had been held which was very well attended.

On behalf of Waverley, the Mayor went on to thank those members of the Council who were not seeking re-election for their valuable contribution. She named the fifteen councillors who would be standing down after 1, 2 or 3 terms and exceptionally Cllr Richard Gates who had served twenty years on the Council and fulfilled various roles including Leader of the Council, Executive Portfolio Holder, Chairman of Committees and Mayor of Waverley.

61/14 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 5.)

The following questions were received from members of the public in accordance with Procedure Rule 10:

i. from Mr Price

"Who is the present appointed Heritage Champion for WAVERLEY and when was the appointment made?"

The Leader of the Council gave the following reply:-

"Cllr Nick Holder was Waverley's Heritage Champion for some years but the position is currently vacant. We will be appointing to this position, along with a number of other appointments, after the elections in May".

ii. from Mr Jerry Hyman of Farnham

"The evidence from Visitor Surveys suggests that SANGs are having the opposite effect to intended, as visitor numbers to the TBHSPA have increased since 2005. Of course, common sense and principles indicated that would happen, but in hot pursuit of East Street and cramming Farnham, Waverley led the 13 'TBHSPA-affected' planning authorities to adopt the SANG strategy at the SEP EiP TBHSPA technical sessions in 2006/7.

Clearly this poses a very real threat of unmitigated disaster to endangered bird species, and even Natural England say they have no evidence that SANGs are effective. As we know, the NPPF and the law demand "convincing" evidence that the cumulative effect of development must not cause any significant harmful impact on the *protected species populations and their habitats*.

If this Council has any real evidence that the SANG strategy is not counter-productive, where can that evidence be found?"

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning, Cllr Brian Adams, responded:-

“It is worth clarifying that the SPA avoidance strategy is provided to enable the delivery of housing without having a significant effect on the SPA. The issue, therefore, is to demonstrate that there has not been an increase in recreational pressure *as a result of new housing development*. This is a different test to assessing whether visitor numbers overall have increased.

The Visitor Survey notes that although the total number of people counted entering the SPA at the survey locations was 10% higher than in 2005, the differences were not however significant and fall within the limits of what could be expected by chance’. The report further states Para. 3.58 that *‘Statistically there is no evidence of a real change in visitor numbers, and the 10% increase in the total count of visitors between 2005 and 2012/13 (Table 26) should be attributed to either location specific factors or unquantifiable sampling variation.’*

It is also worth highlighting that consideration of the effectiveness of the SPA avoidance strategy also needs to take into account the full range of mitigation measures. This includes access management – eg wardening on the SPA – which has now commenced. The wardens’ role includes promoting a positive conservation message to SPA visitors, encouraging responsible dog walking, and promoting the suite of SANGs to SPA users as alternative sites. This is an important element of the strategy and as part of this new initiative, the project will be identifying and refining measures of success to judge the effectiveness of access management measures on the ground.

Your view therefore that the SANG and delivery framework is ineffective is premature, based on a partial analysis of Natural England’s conclusions and is not supported by the evidence they have gathered.”

62/14 QUESTION TIME (Agenda item 6.)

A question was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.2 by Cllr Bryn Morgan:-

“Given the highly controversial manner in which the Farnham Brightwells Scheme at East Street has evolved, the continuing unpopularity of the proposed development with the majority of local Farnham residents, the ineffective waste of millions of pounds of council taxpayers’ funds, the very radical proposals for the development of the adjacent Woolmead site, and no likelihood for the foreseeable future that the current CNS scheme will find anything like the required funding to be viable, will the Leader either confirm that this scheme is now a dead duck or that it remain suspended until a full re-appraisal can be undertaken by the new Council following next month’s elections?”

In the absence of Cllr Morgan, the Leader of the Council undertook to send him a written reply with the answer.

63/14 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE (Agenda item 8.)

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive held on 3 and 31 March 2015 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

64/14 MINUTES OF THE JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE (Agenda item 9.)

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Joint Planning Committee held on 18 February, 30 March and 1 April 2015 be approved.

65/14 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE (Agenda item 10.)

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 19 March 2015 be approved and the recommendation contained therein adopted.

66/14 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (Agenda item 11.)

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 23 March 2015 be approved.

The meeting concluded at 8.01 pm

Mayor