

MINUTES of the WAVERLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL held in
the Council Chamber, Council
Offices, The Burys, Godalming
on 21 May 2024 at 6.00 pm

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

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| * Cllr Lauren Atkins | * Cllr Andy MacLeod |
| * Cllr Jane Austin | * Cllr Peter Martin |
| * Cllr Zoe Barker-Lomax | * Cllr Mark Merryweather |
| * Cllr David Beaman | * Cllr Kika Mirylees |
| Cllr Dave Busby | * Cllr Alan Morrison |
| * Cllr Laura Cavaliere | * Cllr David Munro |
| * Cllr Peter Clark | * Cllr George Murray |
| * Cllr Carole Cockburn | * Cllr Peter Nicholson |
| Cllr Janet Crowe | Cllr Nick Palmer |
| * Cllr Jerome Davidson | * Cllr Ken Reed |
| * Cllr Kevin Deanus | * Cllr Ruth Reed |
| * Cllr Adam Duce | * Cllr Connor Relleen |
| * Cllr Alan Earwaker | * Cllr Paul Rivers |
| * Cllr Tony Fairclough | * Cllr John Robini |
| * Cllr Paul Follows | * Cllr Julian Spence |
| * Cllr Maxine Gale | * Cllr James Staunton |
| Cllr Michael Goodridge | * Cllr Richard Steijger |
| * Cllr George Hesse | * Cllr Phoebe Sullivan |
| * Cllr Michael Higgins | Cllr Liz Townsend |
| * Cllr Jerry Hyman | * Cllr Philip Townsend |
| * Cllr Jacquie Keen | * Cllr Terry Weldon |
| * Cllr Victoria Kiehl | * Cllr Graham White |
| * Cllr Andrew Laughton | * Cllr Michaela Wicks |
| * Cllr Gemma Long | * Cllr Steve Williams |

*Present

Apologies

Cllr Dave Busby, Cllr Janet Crowe, Cllr Michael Goodridge, Cllr Nick Palmer and Cllr Liz Townsend

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, at the invitation of the Mayor, Council received a presentation from the pupils of Loseley Fields School

CNL1/24 ELECT A COUNCILLOR, OTHER THAN AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER, TO BE THE MAYOR (Agenda item 1.)

The retiring Mayor, Cllr Penny Rivers, welcomed Councillors and guests to the Annual Meeting of the Council and invited nominations for the election of Mayor of Waverley for the Council year 2024/25.

Cllr David Munro proposed that Cllr John Ward be elected as Mayor of Waverley for the Council year 2024/25, and this was seconded by Cllr Gale. Short speeches in support of their nomination followed.

There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr John Ward be elected mayor of Waverley for the Council year 2024/25.

Having been invested with the Mayoral Robes and Chain of Office, Councillor John Ward made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the chair for the remainder of the Council meeting. The Mayor made a Speech of Acceptance, thanking those who had spoken for their kind words and Councillors for electing him.

CNL1/24 APPOINT A COUNCILLOR, OTHER THAN AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER, TO BE THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Agenda item 2.)

The Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of Deputy Mayor for 2024/25.

Cllr Kiehl proposed Cllr Penny Rivers as Deputy Mayor, and this was seconded by Cllr Duce.

There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Penny Rivers be elected Deputy Mayor of Waverley for the Council year 2024/25.

Councillor Penny Rivers made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Councillors for electing her as Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor was invested with the Badge of Office, together with the Past Mayor's badge; and the Mayor presented the retiring Mayor's Consort with a token of appreciation. The Mayor then invested the Deputy Mayoress with the Badge of Office.

CNL3/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 3.)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Busby, Crowe, Goodridge and Palmer.

CNL4/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Agenda item 4.)

There were no interests declared.

CNL5/24 MINUTES (Agenda item 5.)

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23 April 2024 were confirmed and signed.

CNL6/24 RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, HEAD OF PAID SERVICE, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER AND/OR MONITORING OFFICER (Agenda item 6.)

There were no announcements.

CNL7/24 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR (Agenda item 7.)

Cllr Paul Follows proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Penny Rivers, and yielded to Helen Jackson of the Meath charity to speak in reflection on the retiring Mayor's year.

Councillor Penny Rivers responded to the vote of thanks and expressed her appreciation for the support of Officers and Members throughout her Mayoral year.

CNL8/24 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES 2024/25 (Agenda item 8.)

The Mayor moved the recommendations proposing the re-establishment of the Ordinary Committees of the Council for the 2024/25 Council year. Cllr Follows seconded the motion.

There being no speakers, the Mayor moved to the vote and Council

RESOLVED unanimously that the committees as set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report be established for the 2024/25 municipal year with committee sizes shown.

CNL9/24 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2024/25 (Agenda item 9.)

The Mayor moved the recommendations proposing the allocation of committee seats in accordance with political balance and the wishes expressed by political group leaders. Cllr Follows seconded the motion.

There being no speakers, the Mayor moved to the vote and Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

1. Committee seats be allocated to political groups and Independent Members as set out in Appendix 1;
2. The nominations for membership of the committees and joint committees for the 2024/25 municipal year as shown in Appendix 2 be approved in accordance with the wishes of the political groups;
3. To approve the election of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the committees as shown in Appendix 2.

CNL10/24 ADOPT THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION AND AGREE THE SCHEME OF OFFICER DELEGATIONS, OTHER THAN THOSE RELATING TO EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS (Agenda item 10.)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2 xiii, Council adopted the Constitution.

CNL11/24 JOINT LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES STRUCTURE PROPOSALS
(Agenda item 11.)

Councillor Kiehl, Executive Portfolio Holder for Organisational Development and Governance introduced the report which set out the continuation of the creation a robust and sustainable framework within the legal and democratic services functions which would reduce the utilisation of interim staff and instead offer career development opportunities and succession planning through new permanent roles.

The recommendation of the Executive was that Council approve the making of all necessary arrangements for the discharge of functions through joint arrangements between Waverley Borough Council and Guildford Borough Council, by officers of Waverley Borough Council, and for such arrangements to be included in the Inter-authority Agreement in accordance with s113 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The proposal was duly seconded by Cllr Follows, whereupon the Mayor invited Members to debate the proposal.

Members' speeches against the recommendation included:

- Expressing concern about the Solace report on governance at Guildford Borough Council and the perception of its indirect impact on Waverley Borough Council
- The report sought further annual funding for legal services in addition to that agreed in December 2023; and
- Expenditure on agency staffing had increased since 2021.

Members' statements in favour of the recommendation included:

- That the Solace report related to Guildford Borough Council only
- The Council was responding to long-term reduction in funding from central government by collaborating with Guildford Borough Council
- Many local authorities were facing resource challenges and utilising short term interim resources.

There being no further debate, the Mayor called upon Members to vote by a show of hands and it was

RESOLVED: to approve the making of all necessary arrangements for the discharge of functions through joint arrangements between Waverley Borough Council and Guildford Borough Council, by officers of Waverley Borough Council, and for such arrangements to be included in the Inter-authority Agreement in accordance with s113 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The meeting concluded at 7.23 pm

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