

## GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Guildford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey on Tuesday 19 December 2023

\* The Mayor, Councillor Masuk Miah

\* The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sallie Barker MBE

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Councillor Bilal Akhtar        | Councillor Steven Lee           |
| Councillor Phil Bellamy        | Councillor Sandy Lowry          |
| * Councillor Dawn Bennett      | * Councillor Richard Lucas      |
| * Councillor Joss Bigmore      | * Councillor Julia McShane      |
| Councillor David Bilbe         | * Councillor Richard Mills OBE  |
| * Councillor Honor Brooker     | * Councillor Carla Morson       |
| Councillor James Brooker       | * Councillor Danielle Newson    |
| * Councillor Philip Brooker    | Councillor Patrick Oven         |
| Councillor Ruth Brothwell      | Councillor George Potter        |
| Councillor Yves de Contades    | * Councillor Maddy Redpath      |
| * Councillor Amanda Creese     | Councillor Merel Rehorst-Smith  |
| * Councillor Geoff Davis       | Councillor David Shaw           |
| Councillor Jason Fenwick       | * Councillor Joanne Shaw        |
| Councillor Matt Furniss        | * Councillor Katie Steel        |
| Councillor Angela Goodwin      | * Councillor Howard Smith       |
| * Councillor Lizzie Griffiths  | * Councillor Cait Taylor        |
| * Councillor Gillian Harwood   | * Councillor Jane Tyson         |
| * Councillor Stephen Hives     | * Councillor James Walsh        |
| * Councillor Catherine Houston | * Councillor Fiona White        |
| * Councillor Tom Hunt          | * Councillor Dominique Williams |
| * Councillor Bob Hughes        | * Councillor Keith Witham       |
| * Councillor James Jones       | * Councillor Sue Wyeth-Price    |
| * Councillor Vanessa King      | Councillor Catherine Young      |

\*Present

Honorary Freeman Keith Churchouse was also in attendance.

### CO81 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bilal Akhtar, Phil Bellamy, David Bilbé, Ruth Brothwell, Yves de Contades, Angela Goodwin, Steven Lee, Patrick Oven, George Potter, Merel Rehorst-Smith, and Catherine Young; and

from Honorary Aldermen Catherine Cobley, Jayne Marks, Tony Phillips, Lynda Strudwick, and Jenny Wicks.

**CO82 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest.

**CO83 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor had no communications to convey to the Council.

**CO84 LEADER'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:

Rural England Prosperity Fund grants

Grants of up to £50,000 were now available, which were funded by DEFRA, as part of the 'Levelling up' agenda. The grants were available to fund projects that would have a positive impact on small businesses and communities in the rural areas of Guildford, Waverley and Tandridge.

Small businesses in any of those areas could apply for grants of up to 50% of their project's capital costs. The programme aimed to strengthen the local rural economy by:

- supporting rural development
- job creation
- growth and community enterprise

More information about the Rural England prosperity fund grant was available on Surrey County Council's website.

Guildford House Open exhibition and art prize winner

An art exhibition from national artists, shortlisted through a competition in partnership with Parker Harris Contemporary Visual Arts Specialists, was currently open until 6 January.

Christmas/New Year office closing dates and emergency numbers

Over the Christmas period and New Year, the Council offices would be closed:

- from 4.30pm on Friday 22 December until Thursday 28 December 2023
- Monday 1 January 2024

The Hive would be closed from 1pm on 22 December until 2 January 2024. Emergency information was available on the Council's website.

### Christmas/New Year bin collections

Details of changes to bin collection days over the Christmas/New Year period were set out on the Council's website. There would be no garden waste collections for two weeks between Monday 25 December and Saturday 6 January.

The Leader wished local residents, businesses, officers and councillors a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

### **CO85 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public had registered to speak or ask a question at the meeting.

### **CO86 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

There were no questions from councillors.

### **CO87 APPOINTMENT OF JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE/HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

Following the announcement by Tom Horwood of his resignation as Joint Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, the search for a permanent appointment of Mr Horwood's successor had been carried out in conjunction with Penna.

The report to the Council had set out details of the recruitment campaign, and selection process, including the outcome of a stakeholder panel which led to the shortlisting of five candidates for final interviews by the Joint Appointments Committee (JAC).

Following the withdrawal of one of the candidates from the process, the JAC, at its meeting held on 14 December 2023, had interviewed the remaining four shortlisted candidates and took into account the technical and psychometric assessments and feedback received from the stakeholder panel in respect of each candidate. The JAC had unanimously agreed to recommend to both councils that confirmation of a formal offer of appointment to the post of Joint Chief Executive, and designation as Head of Paid Service, be made to Pedro Wrobel, who was currently Executive Director, Innovation and Change at Westminster City Council.

That confirmation was subject to the usual HR clearances and to no material or well-founded objection being made by either of the two Council Leaders on behalf of their respective Executives, in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001.

At the meeting, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that no such objection had been received.

Upon the motion of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julia McShane seconded by the Lead Councillor for Finance and Property, Councillor Richard Lucas, the Council:

RESOLVED: That the formal appointment of Pedro Wrobel to the post of Joint Chief Executive and designation as Head of Paid Service for both Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils be confirmed at a salary of £165,000 p.a., subject to the usual HR clearances.

Reasons:

- To appoint a Joint Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, as part of the agreed collaboration arrangements between Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils.
- To comply with the requirements of Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

The meeting finished at 6.20 pm

Signed .....

Mayor

Date .....