

MINUTES AND REPORT OF THE POLICY & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 JUNE 2025

* Councillor Follows – Chair
* Councillor Weightman – Vice Chair

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| * Councillor Adam | * Councillor Holliday |
| # Councillor Clayton | * Councillor Kiehl |
| * Councillor Crowe | * Councillor Martin |
| 0 Councillor C Downey | * Councillor PMA Rivers |
| 0 Councillor S Downey | * Councillor PS Rivers |
| * Councillor Duce | * Councillor Steel |
| * Councillor Heagin | 0 Councillor Thomson |
| | * Councillor Williams |

* Present # Absent & No Apology Received 0 Apology for Absence L Late

75. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2025, having been previously circulated were signed by the Chair as a true record.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and recorded as above.

77. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS

Councillor Heagin declared an other registerable interest in Agenda Item 10 on the grounds that she is a volunteer with Citizens' Advice. Councillor Heagin remained in the Chamber when that agenda item was debated and spoke in the debate.

78. PETITIONS/STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Two residents of Chalk Road attended the meeting and made representations about speeding along Chalk Road. The residents pointed out that Chalk Road is a main pedestrian thoroughfare to local schools, and also that it experiences speeding motorists who accelerate from the railway bridge towards Jewsons. The residents asked the Committee to consider the installation of a 30mph road traffic sign.

The Committee Chair permitted two ward councillors (Williams and Holliday) to speak briefly in support of their residents. The Chair went on to explain to the residents that the Town Council is not the Highways Authority (Surrey County Council is) and that the Town Council cannot install road traffic signs. However, he invited the residents to remain in the meeting to hear Agenda Item 8 (a motion in support of introducing 20mph speed limits across Godalming) and determined to take that item immediately (Min No 82-25 below refers).

79. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No questions from Councillors were submitted in accordance with Standing Order 6.

80. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – UPDATE

Members received a report on the Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey from the Committee Chair and an update from the Chair of the Council's LGR Task & Finish Group on

the work of that group. The Committee Chair referred to a letter from Jim McMahon, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, to Tim Oliver, Surrey County Councillor and Chair of the County Council Network (CCN) and the letter's ambiguity about consulting/involving town and parish councils in Local Government Reorganisation. The Committee Chair went on to inform the Committee that the Surrey district councils have elected three Council leaders to represent them in discussions with Surrey County Council and that he, Councillor Follows, in his role as Leader of Waverley Borough Council is one of those three.

There was also an update about the potential transfer of assets to town and parish councils within Waverley with Farnham and Godalming Town Councils participating actively in that process.

81. FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLIANCE

The Committee RESOLVED unanimously to:

a. Approve the commissioning of Fire Risk Assessments for the following Council properties:

- GTC Offices and Museum Building
- Wilfrid Noyce Centre
- Broadwater Youth & Community Centre
- Eashing Cemetery Workshops
- Ockford & Aarons Hill Hub
- The Pepperpot
- Crown Court Public Toilets
- Farncombe Public Toilets

at a total cost of £3,886.00.

b. Note that the cost exceeds the previously authorised budget and agreed to fund the difference of £886 from available budget underspends or earmarked reserves if necessary.

c. Confirm that this action supports the Council's commitment to robust health and safety management and compliance with current legislation.

82. MOTION ON NOTICE

Upon the written proposal of Councillor PMA Rivers, seconded by Councillor Follows the Committee considered the motion below:

The Motion:

Having noted:

- the recent communications from Surrey County Council indicating a complete reversal of policy and position on speed limits and specifically 20mph areas (Appendix 1, 3);
- the recent consultation from Surrey County Council that has re-opened the issue for discussion. (Appendix 2); and
- the long-standing support of the communities of Godalming as well as the Surrey County Councillors for Godalming North and Godalming South, Milford and Witley and Waverley Borough Council for 20mph schemes.

Godalming Town Council:

- a. Requests that the Town Clerk compiles all requests for 20mph areas within Godalming, Farncombe and Binscombe that have been submitted by this council from May 2019 (including requests to consider pedestrianisation of Godalming High Street, 20mph area zones in Farncombe, Ockford Ridge and numerous school adjacent roads) and resubmit them to Surrey County Council for reconsideration.
- b. Empowers the Town Clerk to respond to the formal consultation from Surrey County Council on behalf of the Town Council.
- c. Requests that the Town Clerk invites the cabinet member for Highways and his team to a meeting of this council to discuss our requests before October 2025.

End Of Motion

Councillor Williams moved to amend the motion by adding an additional point at the beginning (a new item “a”) being:

- a. “Reaffirms Godalming Town Council’s support for an area wide 20mph speed limit for the Parish of Godalming”.

With Councillor PMA Rivers’ agreement that amendment was made.

A further amendment was agreed adding the words “and residents” to the newly numbered point “b” (shown as “a” above) to the second line immediately after the words “submitted by this council”.

The majority of Members spoke in support of the amended motion with a recap on the history of the 20’s Plenty campaign initiated by Councillor PMA Rivers in 2010 after the death of Sheila Mitchell. Members welcomed Surrey County Council’s change of policy and position on speed limits and specifically 20mph areas, accepting the benefits of 20mph speed limits to road safety. There were observations about adopting traffic calming measures alongside 20mph speed limits, the importance of enforcement, discussion of the potential benefits of Community Speedwatch schemes and the potential pedestrianisation of the High Street for seven days a week.

The issue of a blanket 20mph for the whole parish area was a point of contention with one Member stating his opposition to a blanket 20mph speed limit.

The Committee Chair requested a recorded vote and votes were given as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| Councillor Adam | For | Councillor Martin | Against |
| Councillor Crowe | For | Councillor PMA Rivers | For |
| Councillor Duce | For | Councillor PS Rivers | For |
| Councillor Follows | For | Councillor Steel | For |
| Councillor Heagin | For | Councillor Weightman | For |
| Councillor Holliday | Abstain | Councillor Williams | For |
| Councillor Kiehl | For | | |

Upon a majority vote it was RESOLVED that Godalming Town Council:

- a. Reaffirms Godalming Town Council’s support for an area wide 20mph speed limit for the Parish of Godalming.
- b. Requests that the Town Clerk compiles all requests for 20mph areas within Godalming, Farncombe and Binscombe that have been submitted by this council and residents from May 2019 (including requests to consider pedestrianisation of Godalming High Street, 20mph area zones in Farncombe, Ockford Ridge and numerous school adjacent roads) and resubmit them to Surrey County Council for reconsideration.

- c. Empowers the Town Clerk to respond to the formal consultation from Surrey County Council on behalf of the Town Council.
- d. Requests that the Town Clerk invites the cabinet member for Highways and his team to a meeting of this council to discuss our requests before October 2025.

83. POLICY DOCUMENT REVIEW

Members review the Code of Conduct for Members and RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the unamended LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct remains extant.

84. CITIZENS ADVICE

Members noted the report from Citizens' Advice showing the statistics for financial year 23-24, and 24-25, for clients living in the five Godalming wards, as well as the additional 3 areas.

There was discussion of the difficulty of identifying the numbers of Godalming residents being supported by Citizens' Advice and the observation that if the Town Council cannot identify the support being given to its residents then it might have to consider withdrawing its financial support.

85. UPCOMING EVENTS

Members noted the following upcoming event(s):

| Date | Event |
|------------------|--|
| Saturday, 7 June | Godalming Town Show & High Street Parade |
| Saturday 14 June | ChoirBLAST |
| Saturday 14 June | Farncombe Market |
| Sunday, 6 July | Godalming Food Festival & Classic Car Show |

86. TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL BODIES

There were no updates received.

87. COMMUNICATIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

Members identified the following items from this meeting to be publicised and the type of publicity required:

The resolution on 20mph speed limits (Min No 82-25 above refers) is to be publicised and, related to that, there is to be specific communication with the two Chalk Road residents about outcomes.

88. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Policy & Management Committee is scheduled to be held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 17 July 2025 at 7.00pm or at the conclusion of the preceding Environment & Planning Committee meeting, whichever is later.

89. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

IN PURSUANCE OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 S.1(2), THE COMMITTEE RESOLVED TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS FROM THE MEETING AT THIS POINT PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM(S) 16 BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED I.E STAFFING MATTERS.

90. STAFFING MATTERS

Members received an update and report on Staffing Matters from the Chair of the Staffing Committee relating to the recruitment of a Deputy Chief Officer and a Finance Manager.

Members RESOLVED to approve an uplift of £20,833 plus a 10% contingency in the 2025/26 budget for cost centre 101 in support of the recruitment of a Deputy Chief Officer and a Finance Manager and approved the appointment of Louise Steele (contracted from LGRC Associates Ltd) as Interim Finance Manager from 9 June 2025.