

PARISH OF GODALMING

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

OF THE PARISH OF GODALMING HELD

ON THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2026

- * Town Mayor (Cllr Crooks)
- * Deputy Town Mayor (Cllr Kiehl)

* Councillor Adam	* Councillor Marshall
0 Councillor Crowe	* Councillor Martin
0 Councillor C Downey	* Councillor PMA Rivers
0 Councillor S Downey	* Councillor PS Rivers
* Councillor Duce	0 Councillor Steel
* Councillor Follows	* Councillor Thomson
* Councillor Heagin	* Councillor Weightman
* Councillor Holliday	* Councillor Williams

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

579. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 February 2026 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

580. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and recorded as above.

581. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Tom Kiehl declared an other registerable interest in Agenda Item 6 – transfer of assets on the grounds that Cllr Victoria Keihl, his wife, was one of the Waverley Borough Council Executive Members who made the decisions on behalf of that council on the transfer of assets. Cllr Tom Kiehl remained in the Chamber when that agenda item was debated but did not vote on the item.

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

No petitions/statements/questions had been received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order No 5.

583. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

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

584. TRANSFER OF COMMUNITY ASSETS FROM WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL & LGR UPDATE

Approval of Heads of Terms and Associated Legal Authorisations

Members considered the report, the Heads of Terms attached to the agenda and the associated recommendations (report and Heads of Terms attached to record minutes).

On the proposal of Cllr Follows, seconded by Cllr Weightman, it was **RESOLVED**:

- (a) To approve the Heads of Terms for the transfer from Waverley Borough Council to Godalming Town Council of:
- Public Toilets – Crown Court, Godalming
 - Public Toilets – North Street, Farncombe
 - The Burys Scout & Guide Headquarters
 - The Ockford Ridge Scout & Guide Headquarters
 - The Wilfrid Noyce Community Centre.
- (b) That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to instruct Godalming Town Council's solicitors to progress the legal conveyancing required to complete the transfers in accordance with the approved Heads of Terms.
- (c) That all associated legal, valuation and surveyor costs, including third-party legal costs, be met by Godalming Town Council and funded from the Local Government Reorganisation Reserve.
- (d) That, when received from Waverley Borough Council, approval of the Heads of Terms for the Burys Field, (if received on the same or similar terms to the Canon Bowring Recreation Ground) be delegated to the Policy & Management Committee, and that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to instruct GTC's solicitors to progress the legal conveyancing, noting that authority to seal and sign the Freehold transfer agreement remains reserved to Full Council.

Community Asset Transfer Requests Not Progressed

Members noted that two Community Asset Transfer (CAT) requests submitted by the Town Council had not progressed under Waverley Borough Council's CAT policy:

- Godalming Bandroom and Rangers' Station
- The Community Store

Godalming Bandroom

Members considered the reasons given for the previous application not progressing and were of the view that inclusion of the Rangers' Station, being an operational asset of Waverley Borough Council, was likely to have resulted in the application failing in its entirety.

On the proposal of Cllr Heagin, seconded by Cllr Follows, it was **RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive Officer be instructed to submit a new Community Asset Transfer application for the Godalming Bandroom, omitting any reference to, or request for, the Rangers' Station.

Members supported the proposal unanimously.

Community Store

In relation to the Community Store, Members expressed significant concern that a licence to occupy would not provide the level of security of tenure appropriate to such an important and valued community resource.

On the proposal of Cllr Follows, seconded by Cllr Paul Rivers, it was **RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive Officer be instructed to seek to strengthen the business case in support of a transfer of the part of the building occupied by the Community Store. Members supported the proposal.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update

The Mayor invited Cllr Heagin, as Chair of the LGR Working Group, and Cllr Follows, as Leader of the Council, to update Members on progress.

It was **noted** that:

- A second meeting of the Unitary Joint Steering Group had been held on 18 February in Spelthorne.
- Communications issued by the Steering Group would be shared with Members.
- A listening event would be held at the forthcoming Farncombe Market to seek residents' views on potential further asset transfers, including Borough Hall and Holloway Hill Recreation Ground.
- A town-wide leaflet was shortly to be distributed seeking residents' views on additional potential transfers.
- The LGR Working Group would update the Asset Transfer Register in light of decisions taken and present this to the next meeting of the Policy & Management Committee.
- The LGR Working Group would consider whether a letter, similar to that previously sent regarding Borough Hall, should be sent to Waverley Borough Council in relation to Holloway Hill Recreation Ground and would bring forward a recommendation to Policy & Management Committee.

Although previous indications had suggested that the complexities associated with Broadwater Park were beyond the current capacity of the Town Council, some Members expressed a wish for the LGR Working Group to continue to explore potential options in respect of the park.

Members further expressed a desire to:

- Invite Waverley Borough Council to provide a presentation on progress of works at Broadwater Park; and
- Invite Cllr Follows, in his capacity as Leader of Waverley Borough Council, to attend a meeting of the Environment & Planning Committee to provide information and answer questions regarding the park.

The updates were noted.

585. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Full Council meeting is scheduled to be held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 14 May 2026 at 6.30pm.

586. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were invited to join the mayors of Waverley & Godalming at 09.30 on Tuesday, 24 February, by the Waverley Flagpole to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.

The Chair of Staffing, Cllr Heagin informed Members that there were no staffing matters to consider in exempt session and that changes to the CEO's working hours means he will not be in the office after 2pm on a Tuesday.

Exempt Session

587. STAFFING MATTERS – WITHDRAWN FROM AGENDA

There being no matters to consider in exempt session this item was withdrawn.