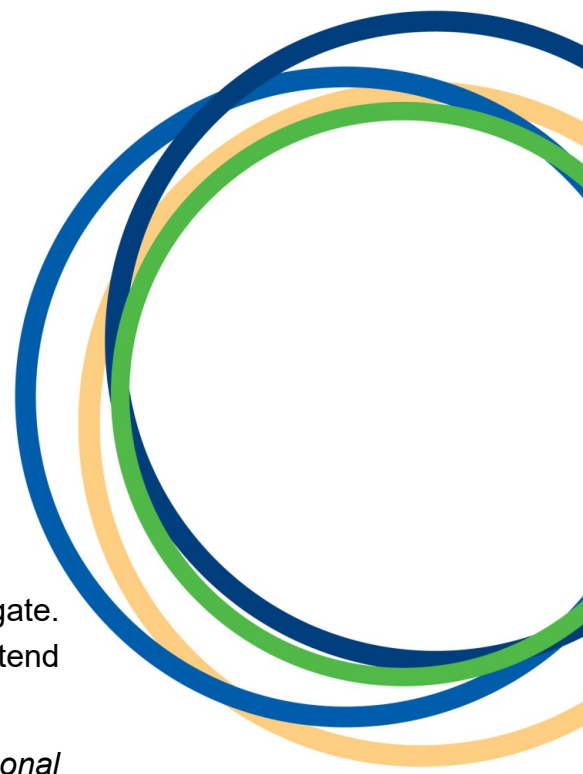


Agenda

Council



Thursday, 28 July 2022 at 7.30 pm

New Council Chamber, Town Hall, Reigate



Members will assemble at the Town Hall, Reigate. Members of the public and Officers may attend remotely.

All attendees at the meeting have personal responsibility for adhering to any Covid control measures. Attendees are welcome to wear face coverings if they wish.



Members of the public may observe the proceedings live on the Council's [website](#).

Members of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council are respectfully summoned to attend a meeting of the Borough Council on Thursday, 28 July 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, prayers will be said by the Mayor's Chaplain

Mari Roberts-Wood
Head of Paid Service

For enquiries regarding this agenda;

Contact: 01737 276182

Email: democratic@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Published 20 July 2022

Reigate & Banstead
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate

1. Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve for signature the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 May 2022.

2. Apologies for absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. Urgent business

To consider any urgent business.

5. Public questions

To consider any questions received from members of the public under Council Procedure Rule 2.14.

6. Petition: Condemn Crispin Blunt MP for saying people didn't follow Covid lockdown rules (Pages 9 - 12)

To receive and consider a Petition regarding the conduct of Crispin Blunt MP.

7. Questions by Members

To consider any questions received from Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 2.15.

8. Recommendations for decision

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Council's Executive, committees and sub-committees for decision, including:

Employment Committee meeting held on 19 July 2022 (reconvened)

- Minute 11 – Senior Management scoping/benchmarking and recommendations to Council (including 151 Officer appointment) (*to follow*)

9. Statements

To receive any statement from the Leader of the Council, Members of the Executive, Chairmen of Committees or the Head of Paid Service.

10. Leader's announcements

To receive any announcements by the Leader of the Council.

11. Mayor's announcements

To receive any announcements from the Mayor.



Our meetings

As we would all appreciate, our meetings will be conducted in a spirit of mutual respect and trust, working together for the benefit of our Community and the Council, and in accordance with our Member Code of Conduct. Courtesy will be shown to all those taking part.



Streaming of meetings

Meetings are broadcast live on the internet and are available to view online for six months. A recording is retained for six years after the meeting. In attending any meeting, you are recognising that you may be filmed and consent to the live stream being broadcast online, and available for others to view.



Accessibility

The Council's agenda and minutes are provided in English. However, the Council also embraces its duty to anticipate the need to provide documents in different formats, such as audio, large print or in other languages. The Council will provide such formats where a need is identified prior to publication or on request.



Notice is given of the intention to hold any part of this meeting in private for consideration of any reports containing "exempt" information, which will be marked accordingly.

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BOROUGH OF REIGATE AND BANSTEAD

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate, RH2 OSH on 26 May 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors J. S. Bray (Mayor), R. S. Turner (Deputy Mayor), M. A. Brunt (Leader), T. Schofield (Deputy Leader), R. Absalom, G. Adamson, T. Archer, R. H. Ashford, H. Avery, J. Baker, R. Biggs, M. S. Blacker, J. Booton, Z. Cooper, P. Chandler, V. Chester, J. C. S. Essex, R. Harper, N. D. Harrison, G. Hinton, J. Hudson, E. Humphreys, F. Kelly, S. A. Kulka, A. King, J. P. King, V. H. Lewanski, S. McKenna, R. Michalowski, N. C. Moses, S. Parnall, A. Proudfoot, R. Ritter, S. Sinden, C. Stevens, M. Tary, C. Thompson, D. Torra and S. T. Walsh

In remote attendance: Councillors Elbourne and Sachdeva.

Before the start of the meeting the Mayor reminded all present that this meeting of the Council would be webcast live on the Council's website.

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

Madam Mayor announced that the first item of business was the election of the Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor Brunt and seconded by Councillor Blacker that Councillor Kelly be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED that Councillor Kelly be elected Mayor of the Borough of Reigate and Banstead for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

The retiring Mayor vacated the Chair, and the newly elected Mayor made the Declaration of Office and signed the Acceptance of Office Book. In returning thanks for his election, the Mayor announced "*Be The Difference*" as the theme for his year in office and the *Surrey and Sussex Healthcare Charity (SASH)* and the *Include Choir* as his designated charities.

Councillor Harrison expressed the Council's thanks and appreciation to the retiring Mayor (Councillor Bray) and her Consort (Mr Mantle) for their services during the past Municipal Year.

The Mayoress presented the outgoing Mayor with a medallion, denoting her past office and the outgoing Consort with a badge of office. The outgoing Mayor responded.

Agenda Item 1

Council
26 May 2022

Minutes

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor Lewanski and seconded by Councillor Biggs that Councillor Absalom be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED that Councillor Absalom be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Reigate and Banstead for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

The Deputy Mayor made the Declaration of Office, signed the Acceptance of Office Book, and returned thanks for her election.

Councillor Brunt, the Leader of the Council, expressed the Council's thanks and appreciation to the retiring Deputy Mayor (Councillor Turner) for her work during the past Municipal Year. The outgoing Deputy Mayor responded and received a presentation from the Mayoress.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 7 April 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Head of Paid Service reported to Council that apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Bramhall, Buttironi, Harp and Neame.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made to the meeting.

6. THE RESULT OF LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Head of Paid Service reported that at the election of Borough Councillors, held on 5 May 2022, 10 serving Members had been re-elected together with five new Members who had been listed in the agenda.

7. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

- 1) To constitute the Ordinary Committees of the Council and appoint their Membership for 2022/23 as detailed in the agenda.
- 2) To appoint Members to the Surrey County Council Local Committee and the Governance Task Group for 2022/23 as detailed in the agenda.
- 3) To appoint a representative on the Police and Crime Panel Joint Committee for 2022/23 as detailed in the agenda.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to be addressed by Council.

9. VOTE OF THANKS TO COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

Councillor Brunt, the Leader of the Council, expressed the Council's thanks to the Council's employees for their services during the 2022/23 Municipal Year. The Head of Paid Service responded noting the challenges faced caused by the Pandemic, its aftermath and economic pressures which were adding to complexity

and need. The determination, engagement, positivity, and resilience of staff were noted.

10. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader expressed thanks on behalf of Council to the five retiring Members for their services to the Council and residents (past Councillors Feeney, Horwood Lynch, Philpott and Whinney).

11. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that the Beacon in Priory Park would be lit at 7:30pm on Thursday 2 June 2022 in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee with Big Jubilee Lunches being held in Redhill Memorial Park, Reigate Priory Park and Lady Neville Park on Sunday 5 June 2022. Horley would be holding its own celebrations on Saturday 4 June 2022.

The Civic Church Service was to be held at the Holy Trinity Church, Redhill at 10am on Sunday 3 July 2022. This was also announced as the venue for the Mayoral Christmas Service with more details to be forthcoming.

A "*Dress to Impress*" Mayoral Ball was to be held at Reigate Manor Hotel on Saturday 13 May 2023, with attendees asked to hold the date. A calendar of forthcoming events was to be published.

The Mayor announced that the Reigate and Banstead Awards would open for nominations in June 2022 with encouragement given to make nominations. Information was to be made available on the Council's website.

The Meeting closed at 9.23 pm

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Agenda Item 6



SIGNED OFF BY	Head of Legal and Governance
AUTHOR	Annette Wiles, Deputy Democratic Services Manager
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EMAIL	annette.wiles@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
TO	Council
DATE	Thursday 28 July 2022
EXECUTIVE MEMBER	Leader of the Council

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	N
WARDS AFFECTED	(All Wards)

SUBJECT	Petition: Condemn Crispin Blunt MP for saying people didn't follow Covid lockdown rules
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RECOMMENDATION

- (i) **That Full Council considers the petition received seeking to condemn Crispin Blunt MP for saying people didn't follow Covid lockdown rules.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Council's Petition Scheme, any petition with more than 400 signatures is referred to the Council for debate.

The Council has received a petition of 419 signatures relating to comments made by Crispin Blunt MP regarding a widespread public failure to follow Covid-19 restrictions. The petition requests the Council to condemn Crispin Blunt MP for these comments.

STATUTORY POWERS

1. The Council approved a revised Petition Scheme in May 2013 taking account of the Localism Act 2011. The scheme sets out how the Council will respond to petitions.
2. The Localism Act 2011 revoked requirements placed on Councils in relation to petitions. However, the Executive agreed to retain its Petition Scheme to which Procedure Rule 11 requires adherence.

Agenda Item 6

BACKGROUND

3. The Petition Scheme sets out the type of response the Council will provide, based on the number of signatories to the petition.

4. The table below summarises the Council's approach:

Number of signatories	Response
Less than 20	Response from Officer (treated as standard correspondence)
20 – 199	Response from the relevant Member of the Executive
At least 200	Referred to the Executive
At least 400	Debated at a meeting of the Full Council

KEY INFORMATION

The Petition

5. An e-petition was accepted on 17 March 2022 which requests Reigate & Banstead Borough Council:

“to condemn the offensive, dismissive and potentially dangerous media statements recently made by Reigate MP Crispin Blunt about widespread public failure to follow Covid-19 restrictions and about their lack of importance”

6. It also calls on:

“Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to pass and execute a motion at the earliest opportunity to: 1. Publicly declare in writing its thanks and respect for the people of Reigate and Banstead for their sacrifice and neighbourly behaviour since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic; and 2. Write, deliver and publish a letter to Crispin Blunt MP stating that the Council condemns the undermining of trust in public health measures caused by his recent, unsupportable remarks that “probably inside most homes and inside most businesses, and inside most places of public administration, people may not have kept absolutely to the rules” and that criminality under the Covid-19 public safety law was like a speeding offence.”

7. The petition notes that:

“...available evidence shows that the people across the UK were highly compliant with Covid-19 lockdown and other safety measures, often at great personal cost and out of respect for the safety of others. This contradicts what Crispin Blunt said.”

8. The petition closed on 17 March 2022, and at its close had received 419 signatures, meaning that the threshold for reporting to Council (400) has been exceeded.

9. In line with the Petition Scheme, details of the petition have been published and are available from the Council's website along with the e-signatories. The Petition Scheme indicates that the Council will decide how to respond to the petition. It may decide to support the action the petition requests, or not, or refer the matter to the Executive (or the Executive decision maker) for further consideration. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of the Council's decision.

10. Under the Petition Scheme, a spokesperson for the petitioners may present the petition and speak at the Council meeting for up to 5 minutes. A representative of the Petitioners will be attending the meeting to address Council.

Statement from Crispin Blunt MP

11. Crispin Blunt MP has requested the opportunity to provide a written statement, which is published here in full:

“This e-petition is regrettably misleading and its recommendations ignore and misrepresent the language carefully used by me to mean precisely what I said. That most households, businesses, and places of public administration will have found it almost impossible to have kept absolutely to the rules in no way contradicts the very commendable compliance of the British public overall with the purpose of the Covid-19 lockdown measures and other safety measures.

It is also factually accurate to point out the enforcement measures were police issued fixed penalty notices, as are most speeding penalties. This political point scoring is a regrettable use of everyone’s time which could have been used towards something more constructive.”

OPTIONS

12. The Petition Scheme provides that Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. The options for the Council in relation to the petition are:
1. Refer the petition to the Executive decision maker for consideration.
 2. To support the action requested on the petition; or
 3. Note the request of the petitioners and take no further action.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The statutory position is set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no direct financial implications in respect of this report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

15. The Council has a statutory duty to consider equalities implications in all of its decisions.
16. The activities suggested by the petition are not considered to disadvantage any equality target groups.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

17. The activities suggested by the petition are not considered to have any direct environmental implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda Item 6

18. E Petition (<https://reigate-banstead.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=50&RPID=2697651&HPID=2697651>)