

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Town Hall, Slough on Tuesday, 27th April, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bal), in the chair; Councillors Anderson, Bains, Basharat, Buchanan, Chaudhry, Chohan, Choudhry, Cryer, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, S K Dhaliwal, Dodds, Finn, Hewitt, Jenkins, Maclsaac, Mann, Matloob, Munkley, O'Connor, Pabbi, Pantelic, Parmar, Plimmer, Qureshi, Rasib, Shine, Stokes, Swindlehurst, Walsh, Wright and Zarait.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Coad, Dale-Gough, Dhillon, Grewal, Haines and Long.

PRAYERS

At the request of the Mayor, his Chaplain, The Reverend Linda Hillier said prayers.

77. **Declarations of Interest**

The Worshipful the Mayor declared a personal interest in that members of his family worked for the Borough Council.

78. **Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 26th January, 2010, 22nd February 2010, and 24th March, 2010**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meetings held on 26th January, 2010, 22nd February, 2010, and 24th March, 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

79. **To receive the Mayor's Communications**

Plane Crash in Russia- Condolences to Polish Community

The Mayor offered his sincere condolences to the Polish community, following the tragic plane crash when the President of Poland, his wife and senior officials had lost their lives. The town was united in sadness for Polish communities across the world and books of condolence had been placed in Council buildings.

The Mayor invited those present to join him in observing one minute's silence as a mark of respect to those who lost their lives in the tragedy.

Cllr Grewal, Deputy Mayor

Council - 27.04.10

The Mayor advised that Cllr Grewal, Deputy Mayor was recovering from an operation and Members joined him in wishing Cllr Grewal a speedy recovery.

Reverend Linda Hillier

The Mayor offered his sincere thanks to his Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier, who had officiated at every meeting and supported him during his year of office.

Cllr Cryer

The Mayor advised that Cllr Cryer would be standing down at the election. On behalf of the Council, he conveyed his gratitude to Cllr Cryer in recognition of the hard work and dedication he had shown to the people of Slough since first becoming associated with the Council in the 1960's.

Cllr Cryer and his family were wished the very best for the future.

80. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9

None received.

81. Questions from Members regarding the Thames Valley Police Authority under Procedure Rule 10

None received.

82. Changes to Designated Polling Places

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That the report be received”.

The recommendation was put and carried.

Resolved – That the following decisions made by the Returning Officer be noted:

- (a) That Manor Park Young Peoples Centre, Villiers Road, in Baylis and Stoke Ward, be designated as the polling place for polling District A.
- (b) That the Iqra School in Central Ward, be designated as the polling place for polling District CB and CC.

83. Appointment of additional Members to the School Admission/Exclusion Independent Appeals Panel

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That the recommendation as set out in report be approved and adopted”.

The recommendation was put and carried.

Council - 27.04.10

Resolved – That Ann Smith and Preeti Walhekar be appointed to the Independent Appeals Panel to hear appeals from parents in respect of School Exclusions and Admissions.

84. Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2009/10

It was moved by Councillor Mann,
Seconded by Councillor Davis,

“That the recommendation as set out in the report be approved and adopted”.

The recommendation was put and carried.

Resolved - That the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2009/10 be received.

85. Motions

Motion (A) – Slough Borough Council Garages

It was moved by Councillor Hewitt,
Seconded by Councillor Stokes,

“This Council:

- Notes that no accurate record of SBC garages exists and Officers have asked residents to inform Officers of occupied and unoccupied garages.
- Notes that some residents have been refused garage tenancies because “none are vacant” despite some garages being vacant for years.
- Notes that SBC does not and has not exercised the contractual right to inspect garages.
- Notes that some SBC garages are used for storage and/or business purposes in contravention of the conditions of tenancy.
- Notes that some of the organisations using SBC garages are not local organisations and some organisations run businesses from two or three SBC garages.
- Regrets that concerns expressed by residents about possible health and safety risks arising from the storage of chemicals and other hazardous materials in SBC garages have been ignored.
- Regrets that concerns expressed by residents about the possible use of some SBC garages for illegal purposes have been ignored.

Accordingly this Council resolves to require Officers to:

- Prepare a comprehensive and accurate record of all SBC garages within three months.
- Inspect all SBC garages.
- Identify all breaches of the “Conditions of Tenancy” agreement.
- Terminate the tenancies of all organisations in breach of the “Conditions of Tenancy” and
- Thereby alleviate some of the Slough’s car-parking problems by making more garages available to local residents”.

Council - 27.04.10

The Motion was put and lost by 13 votes to 19 votes with 1 abstention and on a show of hands, a prior request having been made for a record of the voting:-

There voted for the Motion:-

Councillors Basharat, Buchanan, Choudhry, Cryer, Finn, Hewitt, Jenkins, Maclsaac, Munkley, Plimmer, Shine, Stokes, and Wright
13

There voted against the Motion:-

Councillors Anderson, Bains, Chaudhry, Chohan, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, S K Dhaliwal, Dodds, Mann, Matloob, O'Connor, Pabbi, Pantelic, Parmar, Qureshi, Rasib, Swindlehurst, Walsh, and Zarait
19

There abstained from the voting:-

The Worshipful the Mayor
1

Resolved – That Motion A – Slough Borough Council Garages be rejected.

Motion (B) – The Royal British Legion

It was moved by Councillor Cryer,
Seconded by Councillor Plimmer,

“This Council:

- Notes the excellent work of the Royal British Legion in campaigning on behalf of our Armed Forces and welcomes and supports the principles of the Legion Manifesto.
- Notes that many Slough Borough Council councillors have seen an increase in the number of service personnel visiting their surgeries and that those personnel face specific problems in their lives and in accessing Council services.
- Notes that although figures for Slough are difficult to come by, MOD figures reveal that there are 23,975 people in receipt of a war pension in the South East – including widows/widowers who have inherited their spouses pension – of whom 18,890 are actual former service personnel.
- Notes that MOD figures also reveal there to be 1,080 service personnel in the South East region who received a lump sum under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, a scheme set up specifically for those injured in the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and which came into force on 6th April 2005.
- Notes that the city centre war memorial located at the rear of St Mary’s Church has been allowed to deteriorate into a state of disrepair and that

Council - 27.04.10

many veterans would find the Council's failure to adequately honour their fallen comrades an insult.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (a) Request the Chief Executive to write to the Royal British Legion to express the Council's support for the Legion Manifesto Campaign.
- (b) Request the Chief Executive and Leader of Council to write the Secretary of State for Defence and the MP for Slough, Fiona Mactaggart, to urge support for the Legion Manifesto.
- (c) Request that all Council Members work within their own political parties to further the aims of the Legion Manifesto.
- (d) Ask the Chief Executive and Leader of Council for an urgent review of where Slough Borough Council services can be made more accessible and/or effective for ex-military personnel residing in Slough, be they returning to civilian life in the Borough or having returned to it some time ago but still experiencing difficulties, and to consider what more the Authority might do to provide for those to whom return to civilian life is presenting serious challenges.
- (e) Urgently commission a survey of the town centre war memorial to evaluate what work needs to be carried out to restore it to its former glory.
- (f) Commission any work that needs doing to the town centre war memorial as soon as possible and without delay".

The Motion was put and carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the Council:

- (a) Request the Chief Executive to write to the Royal British Legion to express the Council's support for the Legion Manifesto Campaign.
- (b) Request the Chief Executive and Leader of Council to write the Secretary of State for Defence and the MP for Slough, Fiona Mactaggart, to urge support for the Legion Manifesto.
- (c) Request that all Council Members work within their own political parties to further the aims of the Legion Manifesto.
- (d) Ask the Chief Executive and Leader of Council for an urgent review of where Slough Borough Council services can be made more accessible and/or effective for ex-military personnel residing in Slough, be they returning to civilian life in the Borough or having returned to it some time ago but still experiencing difficulties, and to consider what more the Authority might do to provide for those to whom return to civilian life is presenting serious challenges.

Council - 27.04.10

- (e) Urgently commission a survey of the town centre war memorial to evaluate what work needs to be carried out to restore it to its former glory.
- (f) Commission any work that needs doing to the town centre war memorial as soon as possible and without delay.

2. Motion (C) – Recognition of the Sikh Ethnic Group within the Census

It was moved by Councillor S K Dhaliwal,
Seconded by Councillor Rasib,

“This Council notes:

1. That Sikh ethnicity is recognised in UK law as a distinct community by virtue of the characteristics set out following a ruling by the House of Lords. (*Mandla v Dowell-Lee* [1983] 2 AC 548 (House of Lords).
2. That the UK census is carried out to count the population of the country including certain characteristics such as ethnic background, and since 2001, religious belief.
3. That although Sikh is included as a religious belief, it is not included as an ethnic group.
4. Notes the answer from the Minister for the Cabinet Office in response to a question by Mark Pritchard on the issue on 4th March 2010, which confirms that the content for the 2011 census has been determined and passed by Parliament.
5. That Slough has the largest Sikh population in the UK, many of whom wish to be recognised as such in the national census.
6. Notes the considerable demand from within the Sikh community nationwide, and the support of local community leaders for this change to be implemented.
7. Further notes that MPs, Parliament, and other organisations should be respectful, sensitive, respective and inclusive to the populations they represent.

This Council therefore resolves:

- (a) That as an officially recognised and distinct community, members of the Sikh ethnic group should be recorded on the Census.
- (b) To lobby the Office of National Statistics and the Minister for the Cabinet Office to include a Sikh option in the ethnic background section of the Census”

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Stokes,
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan,

“That the motion be amended by the insertion of ‘c’ to the resolution:

“(c) To request Fiona Mactaggart MP to raise the matter formally in Parliament”.

The mover and seconder of the Motion indicated their agreement to the amendment and the substantive motion was put and carried unanimously.

Council - 27.04.10

Resolved –

- (a) That as an officially recognised and distinct community, members of the Sikh ethnic group should be recorded on the Census.
- (b) That the Council lobby the Office of National Statistics and the Minister for the Cabinet Office to include a Sikh option in the ethnic background section of the Census.
- (c) To request Fiona Mactaggart MP to raise the matter formally in Parliament.

86. Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

Questions from Members together with responses received from relevant Chairs and Commissioners were tabled.

87. Minute Book

The Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet and Committees held since the last ordinary meeting of the Council were received as follows:

Standards of 11.01.10
Overview and Scrutiny of 14.01.10
Cabinet of 18.01.10
Planning of 19.01.10
Employment and Appeals of 28.01.10
Overview and Scrutiny of 04.02.10
Cabinet of 08.02.10
Planning of 17.02.10
Cabinet of 22.02.10
Licensing of 24.02.10
Overview and Scrutiny of 25.02.10
Cabinet of 08.03.10.

88. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Councillor Swindlehurst moved and Councillor Matloob seconded a Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor for his service during the past municipal year. The Mayor replied to the Vote of Thanks and added his own thanks to those Members and Officers who had supported him during the year.

89. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Deputy Mayor

Councillor Rasib moved and Councillor Matloob seconded a Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Deputy Mayor.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 p.m. and closed at 8.40 p.m.)