

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Town Hall, Slough on Tuesday, 19th April, 2011 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Grewal), in the chair; Councillors Abe (until 8.10 pm), Anderson, Bains, Bal, Buchanan, S Chaudhry, Chohan, Coad, Dale-Gough, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, S K Dhaliwal, Dodds, Long, MacIsaac, M S Mann, Matloob, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar, Plimmer, Qureshi, Rasib, Small, Sohal, Stokes (until 8.40 pm), Swindlehurst, Walsh (arrived 7.15 pm) A S Wright and Zarait

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Basharat, P Choudhry, Haines, P K Mann, Munkley and Pabbi

74. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared a personal interest in that members of his family are employed by Slough Borough Council. Councillor Stokes declared a personal interest in that he was in possession of a blue badge.

75. Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 1st February 2011 and 21st February 2011

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meetings held on 1st February, 2011 and 21st February, 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

76. Mayor's Communications

As this was the last Council meeting at which the Mayor would preside, he thanked his Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier who had officiated at every meeting during his term of office. He also conveyed his best wishes to those Members who were standing for re-election or standing down and thanked them for their commitment and service to the Council and the people of Slough.

77. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9

The Mayor advised that 10 questions had been received from residents and electors, copies of which had been tabled. A resident in attendance received a response to his question and submitted a supplementary question. Copies of all questions and replies would be forwarded to the questioners, all members and to the press.

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

None received.

79. Recommendations of the Licensing Committee of 23rd February, 2011

A – Review of Street Trading

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

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

The recommendation was put and carried.

Resolved - That the proposed changes to the Street Trading Protocol and Guidance as contained in Sections 1 to 4 in Appendix B of the report be approved.

(B) - Equality Act 2010 – Taxis and Private Hire Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

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

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

The recommendations were put and carried.

Resolved -

- (a) That the Authority maintains a list of all ‘Designated Wheelchair Accessible Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles’.
- (b) That the Licensing Manager be given authority to grant exemptions on medical grounds, with all other applications for exemptions on physical capabilities e.g. weight, strength and height being referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee.
- (c) That ALL drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles, both Taxis and Private Hire, that have not previously undergone ‘Passenger Assistance Training (PATs) must do so by 30th April 2011 or at the earliest opportunity, to be able to comply with the new duties.

80. Local Government Boundary Commission - Electoral Review

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,
Seconded by Councillor Dale-Gough,

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

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The recommendation was put and carried by 27 votes to 1 vote with 2 abstentions.

Resolved - That the Submission on Council Size, attached at Appendix A of the report be approved and forwarded to the LGBCE.

81. Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2010/11

It was moved by Councillor M S Mann,
Seconded by Councillor O'Connor,

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

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

That the report be referred back for further consideration of the effectiveness of Scrutiny.

The amendment was put and lost by 3 votes to 21 votes with 6 abstentions.

The recommendation was put and carried by 21 votes to 0 votes with 9 abstentions.

Resolved - That the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2010/11 be received.

82. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14

Motion (1) – Disability

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

“This Council resolves to:

- Support the continuing campaign by Mobilise - the charity that supports disabled drivers – to combat Blue Badge fraud.
- Require SBC Officers to produce a Blue Badge fraud control action plan for consideration by this Council within three months.
- Liaise with big retail units – such as supermarkets – to ensure that they enforce the regulations surrounding the use of blue badges effectively (such as encouraging spot checks of blue badge users to ensure that badges are in their name, etc).
- Look again at all measure brought in by the current administration and re-consider their impact on people living with disabilities in Slough.
- Liaise with Non-Governmental Organisations working in the field of disability rights to ensure that all measures that SBC instigates in order to cut the council's budget do not impact adversely on those living with disabilities in Slough”.

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A document providing a response from Officers to a letter received from Councillor Stokes was tabled.

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Anderson,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

That the motion be amended as follows:-

“This Council resolves to:

- Support the continuing campaign by Mobilise - the charity that supports disabled drivers – to combat Blue Badge fraud.
- Require SBC Officers to ~~produce a~~ ensure that Blue Badge facilities in the Borough are not fraudulently used ~~control action plan for consideration by this Council within three months.~~
- Liaise with big retail units – such as supermarkets – to ~~ensure that they enforce~~ advise them of the regulations surrounding the use of blue badges effectively (such as encouraging spot checks of blue badge users to ensure that badges are in their name, etc).
- ~~Look again at all measure brought in by the current administration and re-consider their impact on people living with disabilities in Slough.~~
- Continue to design disability compliance into all new Council facilities, and adapt existing buildings, where appropriate, to make Council facilities accessible to all
- ~~Liaise with~~ Continue to take prudent budget decisions and protect front line services from cuts while having regard to the work of Non-Governmental Organisations working in the field of disability rights to ensure that all measures that SBC instigates in order to cut the council's budget do not impact adversely on those living with disabilities in Slough”.

Councillor Stokes as mover of the original motion, with the agreement of his seconder, Councillor Maclsaac, indicated that he was prepared to accept the proposed amendment which was agreed by the Council as the substantive motion.

Resolved - This Council resolves to:

- Support the continuing campaign by Mobilise - the charity that supports disabled drivers – to combat Blue Badge fraud.
- Require SBC Officers to ensure that Blue Badge facilities in the Borough are not fraudulently used
- Liaise with big retail units – such as supermarkets – to advise them of the regulations surrounding the use of blue badges effectively (such as encouraging spot checks of blue badge users to ensure that badges are in their name, etc).
- Continue to design disability compliance into all new Council facilities, and adapt existing buildings, where appropriate, to make Council facilities accessible to all.
- Continue to take prudent budget decisions and protect front line services from cuts while having regard to the work of Non-Governmental Organisations working in the field of disability rights to ensure that all

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measures that SBC instigates in order to cut the council's budget do not impact adversely on those living with disabilities in Slough".

Motion (2) - Putting residents in the driving seat

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

"This Council resolves:

- To remain true to local priorities and context and not to allow the Government cuts to force the Council into actions which would be damaging to the local economy, in so far as funding allows.
- To continue the protection of front line services which are important to residents from damaging Government cuts, and explore ways of delivering these services in new ways to reduce costs and drive up service levels.
- To continue investment in infrastructure projects in Slough which are crucial to the local economy in the face of Government decimation of the Homes & Communities Agency budget from £30bn a year to £2.5bn a year.
- To compel any ruling group to adopt their election manifesto as Council policy at the first Cabinet meeting of the new municipal year, so that residents and Council Officers are clear about the priorities of the ruling group and so that their achievements can be judged against their proposed legislative programme".

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Dale-Gough,
Seconded by Councillor A S Wright,

That the motion be amended as follows:-

"This Council resolves –

- To remain true to local priorities and context and not to allow the Government ~~cuts~~ savings caused by the previous Labour governments gross mismanagement and uncontrolled expenditure to force the Council into actions which would be damaging to the local economy, in so far as funding allows.
- To continue the protection of front line services which are important to residents from ~~damaging~~ Government ~~cuts~~ savings caused by the previous Labour governments gross mismanagement and uncontrolled expenditure, and explore ways of delivering these services in new ways to reduce costs and drive up service levels.
- To continue investment in infrastructure projects in Slough which are crucial to the local economy in the face of Government savings caused by the previous Labour governments gross mismanagement and uncontrolled expenditure ~~decimation of the Homes & Communities Agency budget from £30bn a year to £2.5bn a year.~~
- To compel any ruling group to adopt their election manifesto as Council policy at the first Cabinet meeting of the new municipal year, so that residents and Council Officers are clear about the priorities of

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the ruling group and so that their achievements can be judged against their proposed legislative programme”.

The amendment was put and lost by 7 votes to 21 votes with 2 abstentions.

The substantive motion was put and carried by 22 votes to 0 votes with 7 abstentions.

Resolved – This Council resolves:

- To remain true to local priorities and context and not to allow the Government cuts to force the Council into actions which would be damaging to the local economy, in so far as funding allows.
- To continue the protection of front line services which are important to residents from damaging Government cuts, and explore ways of delivering these services in new ways to reduce costs and drive up service levels.
- To continue investment in infrastructure projects in Slough which are crucial to the local economy in the face of Government decimation of the Homes & Communities Agency budget from £30bn a year to £2.5bn a year.
- To compel any ruling group to adopt their election manifesto as Council policy at the first Cabinet meeting of the new municipal year, so that residents and Council Officers are clear about the priorities of the ruling group and so that their achievements can be judged against their proposed legislative programme.

83. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

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

84. Minute Book

To note the following Minutes of the Cabinet and Committees (circulated in the Minute Book)

Planning of 18th January 2011
Overview and Scrutiny of 20th January 2011
Cabinet of 24th January 2011
Audit of 25th January 2011
Overview and Scrutiny of 27th January 2011
Cabinet of 7th February 2011
Planning of 9th February 2011
Licensing Committee of 23rd February 2011
Overview and Scrutiny of 3rd March 2011
Cabinet of 14th March 2011
Employment and Appeals Committee of 15th March 2011
Planning Committee of 17th March 2011.

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85. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Councillor Swindlehurst moved and Councillor M S Mann seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor for his service during the past municipal year. A number of other Members added their thanks to the Mayor. 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.

86. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Deputy Mayor

Councillor Bal moved and Councillor Zarait seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Deputy Mayor. A number of other Members added their thanks to the Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor replied to the vote of thanks and added her own thanks to those Members and Officers who had supported her during the year.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.15 pm)