

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Town Hall, Slough on Thursday, 29th September, 2011 at 7.00 pm

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor S K Dhaliwal), in the Chair; Councillors Abe, Anderson, Bains (arrived at 7.25 pm), Basharat, Buchanan, Carter, S Chaudhry, Chohan, Dar, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, Grewal, Haines, Long, M S Mann, P K Mann, Matloob, Minhas, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Plimmer, Rasib, Sharif, Small (arrived at 7.10 pm), Smith, Sohal, Stokes, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Walsh, A S Wright and S P Wright

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors P Choudhry, Coad, Dale-Gough, Dodds, Munawar and Qureshi

### 23. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Basharat and S Chaudhry declared a personal interest in that members of their family were employed by the Council.

### 24. Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### 25. To receive the Mayor's Communications

#### Civic Service

The Mayor thanked members who had attended the Civic Service on 18<sup>th</sup> September and also thanked the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier for her help in arranging this very important civic occasion. The service was very successful and generous donations of food and other items were given in aid of SHOC and East Berkshire Women's Aid.

#### Former Councillor and Mayor, Jo Mansell

The Mayor thanked those members who attended the civic funeral service of former Councillor and Mayor (1999-2000), Jo Mansell. The service was very well attended and family and friends were able to pay tribute to Jo's contribution to Slough.

The Council stood for one minute's silence in memory of Councillor Mansell.

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### Charity Ball

The Mayor's Charity Ball held on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September was attended by 400 people and was a great success. Certificates and Awards were presented to volunteers who were nominated by colleagues for their outstanding contribution to the community. The money raised for charity so far was in the region of £3000 and further donations were expected.

### Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday Services

The Mayor advised that the two minutes silence on Armistice Day would take place on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November in the Town Square. The Annual Remembrance Sunday Service would be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November and details of both events would be circulated in the near future. Members were asked to note the dates in their diaries as support at these annual events was very important.

### Christmas Party

Members were advised that the Mayor would hold a Christmas Party on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Council Chamber and further details would be circulated in due course.

## **26. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9**

None received.

## **27. Questions from Members re the Thames Valley Police Authority under Procedure Rule 10**

None received.

## **28. Electoral Matters - Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review, Polling District and Polling Place Review and Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review**

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

- (a) That the draft Submission on proposed Warding Arrangements for the Borough as set out at Appendix A of the report be approved and forwarded to the LGBCE.
- (b) That the outcome of the review of Polling District and Polling Places be noted and that:-
  - (1) with the exception of (2) and (3) below, existing Polling Districts and Polling Places be retained.
  - (2) Upton Lea Community Centre be designated as the Polling Place for Polling District NB (Wexham Lea) with immediate effect.
  - (3) That a decision on the Polling Place for Polling District (NC) (Wexham Lea Ward) be deferred to the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

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The recommendations were put and carried by 23 votes, to 6 votes, with 6 abstentions, and on a show of hands, a prior request having been made, for a record of the voting:

There voted for the recommendations:

Councillors Anderson, Bains, Carter, S Chaudhry, Chohan, Dar, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, Grewal, M S Mann, P K Mann, Matloob, Minhas, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Rasib, Sharif, Small, Sohal, Swindlehurst and Walsh ..... 23

There voted against the recommendations:

Councillors Haines, Long, Plimmer, Smith, Stokes, and S P Wright..... 6

There abstained from voting:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillors Abe, Basharat, Buchanan, Strutton and A S Wright..... 6

### Resolved-

- (a) That the draft Submission on proposed Warding Arrangements for the Borough as set out at Appendix A of the report be approved and forwarded to the LGBCE.
- (b) That the outcome of the review of Polling District and Polling Places be noted and that:-
  - (1) with the exception of (2) and (3) below, existing Polling Districts and Polling Places be retained.
  - (2) Upton Lea Community Centre be designated as the Polling Place for Polling District NB (Wexham Lea) with immediate effect.
  - (3) That a decision on the Polling Place for Polling District (NC) (Wexham Lea Ward) be deferred to the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

## 29. Committee/Council Membership

The Mayor proposed and the Council agreed that consideration of Councillor Choudhry's attendance at meetings would be deferred to the Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011, if necessary.

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

- (a) That the allocation of seats agreed by Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011 be noted.
- (b) That Councillor Munawar be appointed to the Licensing Committee with immediate effect and that the one remaining vacancy (BILLD) on the Committee be noted.
- (c) That Mr Ronald Roberts be appointed to the Standards Committee as an independent Co-Opted member with immediate effect, to the day

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before the Council's Annual Meeting in 2015, or until such time that the Council makes other arrangements for the Local Standards Regime under the provisions of the Localism Bill when enacted.

**Resolved-**

- (a) That the allocation of seats agreed by Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011 be noted.
- (b) That Councillor Munawar be appointed to the Licensing Committee with immediate effect and that the one remaining vacancy (BILLD) on the Committee be noted.
- (c) That Mr Ronald Roberts be appointed to the Standards Committee as an independent Co-Opted member with immediate effect, to the day before the Council's Annual Meeting in 2015, or until such time that the Council makes other arrangements for the Local Standards Regime under the provisions of the Localism Bill when enacted.

**30. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14**

**(A) PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM**

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

"This Council resolves to:

Write to the Government urging it to re-think its proposed changes to the planning system which the Council is concerned will lead to more inappropriate development; the undermining of locally elected representatives and strategic local decision making; and the unnecessary cost pressures that will be placed on Councils in an already difficult financial climate".

The motion was put and carried by 28 votes, to 5 votes, with 2 abstentions.

**Resolved** - This Council resolves to:

Write to the Government urging it to re-think its proposed changes to the planning system which the Council is concerned will lead to more inappropriate development; the undermining of locally elected representatives and strategic local decision making; and the unnecessary cost pressures that will be placed on Councils in an already difficult financial climate.

**(B) MEDIA BRIEFINGS**

It was moved by Councillor Haines,  
seconded by Councillor Plimmer,

"This Council resolves to:-

- 1) Notify all members and their Political Group Officers (PGOs) of when a media briefing is going to be delivered. Adequate notice should be given.

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- 2) Notify all members and their PGOs as to the subject matter of the briefing. Adequate notice should be given and reasonable detail should be provided.
  
- 3) Allow PGOs to sit in on any briefings as non-contributory observers.”

The motion was put and lost by 11 votes, to 22 votes, with 2 abstentions, and on a show of hands, a prior request having been made, for a record of the voting:

There voted for the motion:

Councillors Abe, Basharat, Buchanan, Haines, Long, Plimmer, Smith, Stokes, Strutton, A S Wright and S P Wright ..... 11

There voted against the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Bains, Carter, S Chaudhry, Chohan, Dar, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, Grewal, M S Mann, P K Mann, Matloob, Minhas, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Rasib, Sharif, Small, Sohal, Walsh ..... 22

There abstained from voting:

The Worshipful the Mayor and Councillor Swindlehurst ..... 2

**Resolved** - That the motion be rejected.

**31. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 (as tabled)**

Questions submitted from Members during the relevant period together with responses received from Chairs and Commissioners were tabled.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.40 pm)