

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Flexi Hall, The Centre, Farnham Road, Slough, SL1 4UT on Tuesday, 23rd July, 2013 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bains), in the chair; Councillors Abe, Anderson, Aujla, Bains, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Chaudhry, Chohan, Coad, Dar, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, S K Dhaliwal, Dhillon, Hussain, Malik, M S Mann, Minhas, Mittal, Munawar, Nazir, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Plimmer, Rasib, Sandhu, Shah, Sharif, Small, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Grewal, P K Mann, Matloob and Walsh

12. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bal, Chaudhry and Munawar declared a personal interest in that members of their families were employed by Slough Borough Council.

Councillors Sohal and Malik declared a personal interest in relation to item 6, 'Community Governance Review of Parish Council Arrangements within the Borough of Slough', in that they were members of Wexham Court Parish Council. They both stated that they would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Smith also declared a personal interest in relation to item 6 in that he was a member of Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council. However, he stated that he did not believe this was a prejudicial interest and he would speak and vote on the item.

13. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 16th May, 2013

The minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meeting held on 16th May 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

14. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor announced that the date for his Civic Service had been confirmed as Sunday, 15th September at Kingsway United Reformed Church commencing at 10.30am. The Mayor's chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier would be conducting the service which would also include a celebration of the Harvest Festival. Invitations to Members would be sent out in due course.

The Mayor conveyed his congratulations the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their first child on 22nd July, 2013.

15. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

The Mayor advised that one question had been received from an elector, a copy of which had been tabled. The resident who was in attendance received a response to his question and asked a supplementary question. A copy of the written response would be forwarded to the questioner.

16. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 15th July, 2013

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

“That the Statutory Service Plans in relation to the Food Safety, Health & Safety and Trading Standards work undertaken by the Council be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put and carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the Statutory Service Plans in relation to the Food Safety, Health & Safety and Trading Standards work undertaken by the Council be endorsed.

17. Community Governance Review of Parish Council Arrangements within the Borough of Slough

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

- (a) “That feedback be given to Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council as set out in paragraphs 7.5 to 7.11 of the report for their consideration and that the Council reserves the right to test public opinion at/after the parish council elections if it is not satisfied that the Parish Council is engaging more widely with local people.
- (b) That in the light of the response to the first stage of the consultation a further consultation be undertaken, in accordance with the guidance on Community Governance Reviews, with the electors and other interested parties to gauge views on the future of Britwell and Wexham Court Parishes and their Councils.
- (c) That electors and other interested parties be consulted on proposed changes to the area of Britwell Parish and its Council and its electoral arrangements as set out in paragraph 7.20 – 7.27 and map attached at Appendix 2.
- (d) That Langley Neighbourhood Forum be informed that the case for a new parish council has not been made and that the Forum be advised to consider returning to this matter at some future date and in the meantime to raise its concerns directly with ward councillors.
- (e) That the 2nd stage of the consultation process be comprised of the measures set out in section 4 (a) - Financial Implications, of the report,

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with the formal advisory poll taking the form of all postal poll; and that the costs be met from the Contingency Fund.

- (f) That the Returning Officer be authorised to determine all matters in relation to undertaking the consultation following consultation with the Chair of the Review Group and Commissioner for Performance and Accountability and other members of the Review Group if time permits.
- (g) That the Community Governance Review timetable be amended to extend the 2nd stage consultation period to 14th October 2013.”

The recommendations were put and carried by 29 votes to 0 votes with 7 abstentions.

Resolved –

- (a) That feedback be given to Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council as set out in paragraphs 7.5 to 7.11 of the report for their consideration and that the Council reserves the right to test public opinion at/after the parish council elections if it is not satisfied that the Parish Council is engaging more widely with local people.
- (b) That in the light of the response to the first stage of the consultation a further consultation be undertaken, in accordance with the guidance on Community Governance Reviews, with the electors and other interested parties to gauge views on the future of Britwell and Wexham Court Parishes and their Councils.
- (c) That electors and other interested parties be consulted on proposed changes to the area of Britwell Parish and its Council and its electoral arrangements as set out in paragraph 7.20 – 7.27 and map attached at Appendix 2.
- (d) That Langley Neighbourhood Forum be informed that the case for a new parish council has not been made and that the Forum be advised to consider returning to this matter at some future date and in the meantime to raise its concerns directly with ward councillors.
- (e) That the 2nd stage of the consultation process be comprised of the measures set out in section 4 (a) - Financial Implications, of the report, with the formal advisory poll taking the form of all postal poll; and that the costs be met from the Contingency Fund.
- (f) That the Returning Officer be authorised to determine all matters in relation to undertaking the consultation following consultation with the Chair of the Review Group and Commissioner for Performance and Accountability and other members of the Review Group if time permits.
- (g) That the Community Governance Review timetable be amended to extend the 2nd stage consultation period to 14th October 2013.

18. Appointment of Member to the Slough Independent School Admission Appeals and Exclusion Panel

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

“That Mrs Collyer Green be appointed to the Independent Appeals and Exclusions Panel.”

Resolved – That Mrs Collyer Green be appointed to the Independent Appeals and Exclusions Panel.

19. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

1. Council Tax Arrears

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Wright,

“This Council resolves to:-

Produce a report for Cabinet on the exact position regarding uncollected Council Tax arrears for the last three municipal years, following the Local Government Minister’s ranking of Slough’s level of arrears per Council Taxpayer as the second worst in the country; the report shall include an action plan outlining how the Council intends to improve its performance in collecting Council Tax arrears, thereby reducing the financial pressures on those who do not fully pay their Council Tax and that are subsidising those who don’t.”

The motion was put and lost by 6 votes to 30 votes with 1 abstention.

Resolved – That the motion be rejected.

2. Illegal Sub-Letting of Council Property

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

“This Council resolves to:-

Following the June conviction at Reading Crown Court of a former Slough Borough Council Housing Officer for fraud, request the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewal to review the current procedures that are used for stopping the illegal subletting of Council property and to produce a detailed report for Cabinet on the legal requirements between letting agents and private landlords outlining current regulations and protection practices for all parties concerned.”

The motion was put and lost by 6 votes to 30 votes with 1 abstention.

Resolved – That the motion be rejected.

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

A Member question was tabled for information.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.01 pm and closed at 8.14 pm)