

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, 25th November, 2014 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Chaudhry), in the chair; Councillors Abe, Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Chahal, Cheema, Chohan, Coad, Dar, Davis, Dhaliwal, Dhillon, M Holledge, Hussain, Malik, Mann, Mansoor, Matloob, Mellor, Munawar, Nazir, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Rana, Rasib, Sandhu, Shah, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani, Wright and Zarait

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors N Holledge, Sharif and Sidhu

23. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bal and Chaudhry declared that members of their families are employed by Slough BC.

24. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 25th September, 2014

Resolved - That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th September, 2014 be approved as a correct record.

25. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor thanked those Members who attended the events arranged throughout the Borough for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice day.

Members were advised that the Christmas Lights switch on took place on 20th November which attracted an enthusiastic crowd who enjoyed the entertainment and firework display.

The Mayor extended his best wishes to all Members of the Council for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful 2015.

26. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

The Mayor advised that two questions had been received from Electors, a copy of which had been tabled. Both Electors were in attendance and received a verbal response to their questions and asked a supplementary question respectively. A copy of the replies would be forwarded to the questioners.

27. Appointments to Committee Vacancies

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

- (a) That Mr Waqar Bhatti be appointed to fill a vacancy on the SACRE as a Committee 1- Islamic Representative for a term of 3 years.
- (b) That Councillor Ajaib be appointed to the vacancy on Slough SACRE as a Committee 4 Representative for the term of 3 years.
- (c) That an 'Acute Sector representative' and 'Two Business representatives' be appointed to the Slough Wellbeing Board.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved -

- (a) That Mr Waqar Bhatti be appointed to SACRE as a Committee 1- Islamic Representative for a term of 3 years.
- (b) That Councillor Ajaib be appointed to SACRE as a Committee 4 Representative for a term of 3 years.
- (c) That an 'Acute Sector representative' and 'Two Business representatives' be appointed to the Slough Wellbeing Board.

28. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

Motion A - Recruitment Policies and Employment Contracts

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

"This Council resolves:

To review Slough Borough Council's current recruitment policies and employment contracts. Thereby, we call for new rules to be implemented:

- i) To return powers to councillors and have councillors on the interviewing panels for appointing people to the 3rd tier and above
- ii) That all payments to staff in excess of their basic salaries must be fully revealed to the public in the current end of year accounts, should these individual payments be worth £50,000 or combination in excess of £75, 000 (annual award or part of a termination package)
- iii) All investigations against suspended officers must be transparent to elected members and a deadline for the conclusion of the investigation must be given
- iv) The recruitment of interim staff should be undertaken as a last resort with an allocated term of office of no more than 6 months"

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It was moved by the Leader, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“This Council resolves to:

~~To review Slough Borough Council's current recruitment policies and employment contracts. Thereby, we call for new rules to be implemented:~~

~~i) To return powers to councillors and have councillors on the interviewing panels for appointing people to the 3rd tier and above. To continue to operate in line with HR best practice guidance in the make up of its interview panels across all tiers of appointment.~~

~~ii) That all payments to staff in excess of their basic salaries must be fully revealed to the public in the current end of year accounts, should these individual payments be worth £50,000 or combination in excess of £75,000 (annual award or part of a termination package)- To continue to comply with the CIPFA accounting code and to continue to publish the required remuneration details of staff on a yearly basis in line with those requirements.~~

~~iii) All investigations against suspended officers must be transparent to elected members and a deadline for the conclusion of the investigation must be given.~~

~~iv) The recruitment of interim staff should be undertaken as a last resort with an allocated term of office of no more than 6 months~~

~~v) That all further concerns regarding the Councils recruitment and employment policies to be referred, in the first instance, to the Employment and Appeals Committee~~

The amendment was put to the vote and a prior request having been made for the record of the voting:-

There voted for the amendment:

Councillors Ajaib, Anderson, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Cheema, Chohan, Dar, Davis, Dhaliwal, Dhillon, M Holledge, Hussain, Malik, Mann, Mansoor, Matloob, Munawar, Nazir, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Rana, Rasib, Shah, Sohal, Swindlehurst, Usmani and Zarait 29

There voted against the amendment:

Councillors Abe, Bains, Chahal, Coad, Mellor, Sandhu, Smith, Strutton and Wright 9

There abstained from voting:

The Worshipful The Mayor 1

The amended motion became the substantive motion.

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The substantive motion was put to the vote and was carried by 28 votes for, 9 against and 1 abstention.

Resolved -

This Council resolves to:

- i) To continue to operate in line with HR best practice guidance in the make up of its interview panels across all tiers of appointment.
- ii) To continue to comply with the CIPFA accounting code and to continue to publish the required remuneration details of staff on a yearly basis in line with those requirements.
- iii) The recruitment of interim staff should be undertaken as a last resort.
- iv) That all further concerns regarding the Councils recruitment and employment policies to be referred, in the first instance, to the Employment and Appeals Committee

Motion B - Anniversary of the Magna Carta

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

“This Council resolves to:

Promote local events to compliment the national and international commemorations to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta. On June 15th 2015 we have a unique opportunity to celebrate an event which has resonated down the ages due to its pre-eminent role in establishing the foundations of a legal system by which we and a huge number of the worlds population benefit from today. We will therefore endeavour to encourage as many public and private institutions to take this opportunity to educate inform and celebrate this momentous occasion”

It was moved by Councillor Coad, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Abe,

“This Council resolves to:

~~Promote local events to compliment the national and international commemorations~~ a local engagement programme of activities to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta. On June 15th 2015 we have a unique opportunity to celebrate an event which has resonated down the ages due to its pre-eminent role in establishing the foundations of a legal system by which we and a huge number of the worlds population benefit from today. We will therefore ~~endeavour to encourage as many public and private institutions to take this opportunity to educate inform and celebrate this momentous occasion~~ work in partnership with local schools, museums and libraries to help educate and celebrate this momentous occasion”

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The Leader and Seconder accepted the amendment and the amended motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Council promote a local engagement programme of activities and promote local events to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta. On June 15th 2015, we have a unique opportunity to celebrate an event which has resonated down the ages due to its pre-eminent role in establishing the foundations of a legal system by which we and a huge number of the worlds population benefit from today. We will therefore work in partnership with local schools, museums and libraries to help educate and celebrate this momentous occasion.

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

Questions from Councillors Mellor and Wright were tabled together with the responses received.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.20 pm)