

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, 19th April, 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Rasib) in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Chahal, Chaudhry, Chohan, Coad (from 7.26pm), Dar, Davis, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Arvind Dhaliwal, M Holledge, N Holledge, Hussain (from 7.11pm), Mann, Mansoor, Matloob, Morris, Munawar, Nazir, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Sandhu, Shah, Sharif, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani, Wright and Zarait

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Abe, Cheema, Dhillon, Malik and Rana

57. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughter was employed by Slough Borough Council.

Councillors Morris and Shah declared that they were Slough Borough Council Tenants.

58. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 26 January 2016 and 25th February 2016

Resolved - That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 26th January and 25th February 2016 be approved as a correct record.

59. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

This was the last full Council Meeting at which the Mayor would preside and he conveyed his thanks to his Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier who had attended Council meetings during the year. It was confirmed that this was Reverend Hillier's seventh year as Mayor's Chaplain and the Mayor expressed his thanks for her help and support, particularly when she was so busy helping the community.

Referring to the forthcoming local elections, the Mayor conveyed his best wishes to those Members seeking re-election and expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to those Members who were standing down.

The Mayor gave tribute to the former Mayor and Councillor Rob Webb, who had recently died. Mr Webb had served as a Member of the Council from 1997-2004, as Ward Member for Langley St Mary's Ward followed by Kedermister Ward. Mr Webb was Deputy Mayor in 1999/2000 prior to being elected Mayor the following year, and was also a member of Berkshire County Council before it was dissolved in 1998.

Council - 19.04.16

The Mayor confirmed that his funeral service had taken place that morning, which had been well attended by former colleagues and friends who were able to pay tribute to his contribution to Slough, and friends and colleagues would further pay their respects that evening. The Mayor asked all Members and staff present to join him in one minute's silence in memory of Mr Webb.

60. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

The Mayor advised that four questions had been received from residents, copies of which had been tabled. Three of the electors were in attendance, of which one of whom asked a supplementary question following the response to their original question. Copies of the questions and replies would be forwarded to the questioners.

61. Recommendations of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee from its meeting held on 10th March 2016

Localism Act 2011 - Dispensations

It was moved by Councillor Chohan,
Seconded by Councillor Matloob,

- (a) "That a general dispensation be granted to all members and co-opted members of the Council as set out in paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7 of the report;
- (b) That the general dispensation be effective up until the next Council elections (May 2016);
- (c) That the grant of general dispensations be considered annually at the annual council meeting;
- (d) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any consequent changes to the Code of Conduct to reflect the Council's decision."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved -

- (a) That a general dispensation be granted to all members and co-opted members of the Council as set out in paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7 of the report;
- (b) That the general dispensation be effective up until the next Council elections (May 2016);
- (c) That the grant of general dispensations be considered annually at the annual council meeting;
- (d) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any consequent changes to the Code of Conduct to reflect the Council's decision.

Council - 19.04.16

62. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meetings held on 14th March and 11th April 2016

'A' - Five Year Plan Annual Report

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

“That the Council resolve that the Annual Report of progress during the first year of the Five Year Plan be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Annual Report of progress during the first year of the Five Year Plan be approved.

'B' - Pledge to Slough's Looked After Children

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

“That the Council endorse the revised Pledge to our Looked After Children”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Council endorse the revised Pledge to Slough's Looked After Children.

63. Recommendations of the Licensing Committee from its meeting held on 23 March 2016

'A' – Street Collections and House to House Collections

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

“Council is requested to resolve that the draft polices for Street Collections and House to House Collections as set out in the report be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the draft polices for Street Collections and House to House Collections as set out in the report be approved.

'B' – Review of Standard Terms and Conditions for Street Trading Consents.

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

“Council is requested to resolve that the revised Standard terms and Conditions for Street Trading Consents be approved.”

Council - 19.04.16

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the revised Standard Terms and Conditions for Street Trading Consents be approved.

64. Recommendation of the Slough Wellbeing Board from its meeting held on 23 March 2016

Slough Wellbeing Board's Annual Report 2015/16

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

“The Council is requested to resolve that the Slough Wellbeing Board's Annual Report for 2015/16 be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Slough Wellbeing Board's Annual Report for 2015/16 be endorsed.

65. Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting held on 7 April 2016

Annual Scrutiny Report 2015/16

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

“That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2015/16 be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2015/16 be endorsed.

66. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

A) Housing Strategy

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

“The Council resolves to work with tenants and all Members to shape Slough Borough Council's 5 year housing strategy; including greater transparency in its performance management; and ensuring it delivers value for money services and empowers tenants to make better-informed choices on management options of their housing service.”

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Council resolves to work with tenants and all Members to shape Slough Borough Council's 5 year housing strategy; including

Council - 19.04.16

greater transparency in its performance management; and ensuring it delivers value for money services and empowers tenants to make better-informed choices on management options of their housing service.

B) Conduct of Elections

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

“This Council resolves that all political parties represented on Slough Borough Council to:

- Show the upmost respect toward electoral law and behave with the highest levels of probity in all their electoral practices and related activity to ensure residents have full confidence in Slough’s electoral process and the integrity of each individual ward election during the upcoming Local Government Election, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and the European Union Referendum.
- Work with the Councils Returning Officer to ensure that the safeguards introduced by the Electoral Administration Act are adhered to at all times
- Follow and adhere to the guidance set out by The Electoral Commission in ‘Local Elections in England and Wales Guidance for Candidates and Agents.’
- Follow and adhere to the Postal Vote Code of Conduct as set out by the Electoral Commission in ‘Code of conduct for political parties, candidates, canvassers and campaigners on the handling of postal vote applications and postal ballot papers in England and Wales.’”

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Amarpreet Dhaliwal,
Seconded by Councillor Bains,

That the resolution be amended as follows:

“This Council resolves that all political parties represented on Slough Borough Council to:

- Show the upmost respect toward electoral law **by not tampering with opposition literature** and **behaving** with the highest levels of probity in all their electoral practices and related activity to ensure residents have full confidence in Slough’s electoral process and the integrity of each individual ward election during the upcoming Local Government Election, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and the European Union Referendum.
- Work with the Councils Returning Officer to ensure that the safeguards introduced by the Electoral Administration Act are adhered to at all times

Council - 19.04.16

- Follow and adhere to the guidance set out by The Electoral Commission in 'Local Elections in England and Wales Guidance for Candidates and Agents.'
- Follow and adhere to the Postal Vote Code of Conduct as set out by the Electoral Commission in 'Code of conduct for political parties, candidates, canvassers and campaigners on the handling of postal vote applications and postal ballot papers in England and Wales.'

The amendment became the substantive motion, and a prior request having been made for a record of the voting:

There voted for the recommendations:

Councillors Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Chahal, Chaudhry, Chohan, Coad, Dar, Davis, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Arvind Dhaliwal, M Holledge, N Holledge, Hussain, Mann, Mansoor, Matloob, Morris, Munawar, Nazir, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Sandhu, Shah, Sharif, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani, Wright and Zarait 36

There abstained from voting:-

Councillor Rasib 1

Resolved - That the Council resolves that all political parties represented on Slough Borough Council:

- Show the upmost respect toward electoral law by not tampering with opposition literature and behaving with the highest levels of probity in all their electoral practices and related activity to ensure residents have full confidence in Slough's electoral process and the integrity of each individual ward election during the upcoming Local Government Election, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and the European Union Referendum.
- Work with the Councils Returning Officer to ensure that the safeguards introduced by the Electoral Administration Act are adhered to at all times
- Follow and adhere to the guidance set out by The Electoral Commission in 'Local Elections in England and Wales Guidance for Candidates and Agents.'
- Follow and adhere to the Postal Vote Code of Conduct as set out by the Electoral Commission in 'Code of conduct for political parties, candidates, canvassers and campaigners on the handling of postal vote applications and postal ballot papers in England and Wales.'

C) Slough – Name of Town

It was moved by Councillor Bains,
Seconded by Councillor Amarpreet Dhaliwal

“This Council resolves that it is proud of its people, heritage and name. This Council thereby has no plans or aspirations to change the name of this great town, or hold any consultation on whether to change the name of Slough.”

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

“This Council resolves that it is proud of its people, heritage and name. This Council thereby has no plans or aspirations to change the name of this great town.”

The amendment became the substantive motion and was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Council resolves that it is proud of its people, heritage and name. This Council thereby has no plans or aspirations to change the name of this great town.

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

A copy of the question from Councillor Plenty and the reply received was tabled.

68. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Councillor Swindlehurst moved and Councillor Shah 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, thanking Councillor Swindlehurst and Shah for their kind words and their proposal for his election as Mayor at the Annual meeting in May 2015. The Mayor confirmed that he had enjoyed his term of office as Mayor, and that it was a great honour to be chosen as First Citizen.

The Mayor went on to thank all who had provided him with help and support throughout the year, including the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dhaliwal, the Mayor’s Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier, and his wife and family for their encouragement and support throughout the year.

The Mayor also thanked all staff in the Mayoral Office, Democratic Services, Facilities and other council departments who had supported him, before extending his best wishes to his successor for the municipal year ahead.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.34 pm)