

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday, 23rd September, 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Nazir), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali, Anderson (from 7.12pm), Bal, Bains, Basra, Bedi, Begum, Brooker, A Cheema, H Cheema, J Davis, R Davis, Dar, Dhaliwal, Gahir, Gill, Grewal, Hulme, Kaur, Kelly, Malik, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Muvvala, Pantelic, D Parmar, S Parmar, Qaseem, Sabah, Sandhu, Sharif, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Carter, Hussain and Minhas

27. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughter worked for the Council.

28. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 22nd July 2021

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

29. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor advised that past Mayoress, Adrienne Webb passed away peacefully on 26th August after a short illness. Adrienne was the Mayoress of Slough for 2000/2001 supporting her husband, Ron Webb and would be remembered as a great ambassador for the town; embracing her mayoral duties with a proud sense of duty and enjoyment.

In August the Mayor participated in the Slough Together Charity Walk 2021 and thanked all those who had supported him.

Members were informed that in August, the Mayor welcomed The First Lady of Kwara State - Nigeria, Her Excellency Ambassador Dr. Olufolake Abdulrazaq. Her Excellency visited Slough to discuss collaboration opportunities to benefit the citizens of Kwara and Slough.

30. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

Two elector questions had been received. Both were present and asked a supplementary question. A written copy of the replies would be sent to the electors.

Council - 23.09.21

31. Recommendation of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee from its meeting held on 14th September 2021

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

“That the Policy Statement on Corporate Governance, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the Policy Statement on Corporate Governance, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

32. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 20th September 2021

A) Recovery and Renewal Plan

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

- a) “Note the plans being developed for the recovery and renewal of Slough Borough Council as set out in Appendix 1.
- b) Note the timelines set out in this report to achieve the ambitious timescales set out in the Council’s recovery and renewal plan.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved –

- a) Note the plans being developed for the recovery and renewal of Slough Borough Council as set out in Appendix 1.
- b) Note the timelines set out in this report to achieve the ambitious timescales set out in the Council’s recovery and renewal plan.

B) Financial Management Update

The Mayor varied normal procedure rules to allow the Director of Finance/ Section 151 Officer to address the meeting; following which Members asked a number of questions.

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

“That the current position of the financial recovery work be noted.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the current position of the financial recovery work be noted.

Council - 23.09.21

33. Allocation of Seats, Committee Appointments and Constitutional Updates

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

- (a) "That the revised proportionality and entitlement to committee seats as set out in Appendix 1 be noted;
- (b) That Councillor Sharif be appointed to the additional seat allocated to the Labour Group on the Licensing Committee;
- (c) That Councillor Sharif be appointed to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Bal, who has resigned his seat on that committee.
- (d) That the update on the Constitutional position regarding the Trustee Committee to give effect to the Council motion of 22nd July 2021 be noted."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved -

- (a) That the revised proportionality and entitlement to committee seats as set out in Appendix 1 be noted;
- (b) That Councillor Sharif be appointed to the additional seat allocated to the Labour Group on the Licensing Committee;
- (c) That Councillor Sharif be appointed to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Bal, who has resigned his seat on that committee.
- (d) That the update on the Constitutional position regarding the Trustee Committee to give effect to the Council motion of 22nd July 2021 be noted.

34. Covid-19 Decisions Update

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

- (a) "That the report be noted; and
- (b) That the significant decisions taken by Silver as set out in the Appendix be ratified insofar as they relate to Council functions."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved –

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That the significant decisions taken by Silver as set out in the Appendix be ratified insofar as they relate to Council functions.

35. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

It was moved by Councillor Ajaib,
Seconded by Councillor Mohammad,

“This council opposes the use of Fire and Rehire tactics on workers. We resolve to support Unions lawfully engaged in protecting their members against Fire and Rehire tactics and call on businesses to instead enter meaningful negotiations with workers and their representatives.

To this end the council resolves to;

- Declare its opposition to Fire and Rehire practices;
- Write to its two MPs to ask that they lobby government to outlaw this practice
- Open a dialogue with our contractors to discover and discuss use of this practice in their operations.”

The motion was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved –

This council opposes the use of Fire and Rehire tactics on workers. We resolve to support Unions lawfully engaged in protecting their members against Fire and Rehire tactics and call on businesses to instead enter meaningful negotiations with workers and their representatives.

To this end the council resolves to;

- Declare its opposition to Fire and Rehire practices;
- Write to its two MPs to ask that they lobby government to outlaw this practice
- Open a dialogue with our contractors to discover and discuss use of this practice in their operations.

36. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10.

None received.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.36 pm)