

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Herschel Grammar School, Northampton Avenue, Slough on Thursday, 27th January, 2022 at 7.00 pm

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

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Brooker, Hussain, Malik, Minhas, Pantelic and Qaseem

53. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughters worked for the Council.

54. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 23rd November 2021 and 18th January 2022

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021 and extraordinary meetings held on 18th January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

55. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

Members were informed that Maureen Atkinson, former councillor and Mayor of Slough passed away in December. Maureen was a councillor in Kedermister Ward and held the role as the Mayor and first citizen of Slough in 1996/1997.

The Mayor stated that it was Holocaust Memorial Day - which marked 77 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Council observed a minute silence in memory of former Mayor, Maureen Atkinson and in commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Following the Council's decision at its extraordinary meeting of 18th January to postpone the May 2022 local elections, the Mayor updated the meeting with the response received from the Minister of State for Equalities and Levelling Up Communities. The Council's request was not supported and consequently the local elections would go ahead as planned.

56. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

None received.

57. Recovery Plan Update

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

“That the current position on the Finance Recovery Plan be noted.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and unanimously agreed.

Resolved - That the current position on the Finance Recovery Plan be noted.”

58. Review of the Council's Constitution

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

- (a) “To adopt a new Article 9 in the form attached at Appendix A
- (b) To adopt Article 9A in the form attached at Appendix B
- (c) To establish a Standards Committee with immediate effect.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and unanimously agreed.

Resolved -

- (a) To adopt a new Article 9 in the form attached at Appendix A
- (b) To adopt Article 9A in the form attached at Appendix B
- (c) To establish a Standards Committee with immediate effect.

59. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

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

“This council believes that more needs to be done to improve the safety of women and girls on our streets. We therefore agree to the following;

- Recommend that the SSP (Safer Slough Partnership) expand their work programme to include community engagement, to pro-actively communicate with women and girls to better understand their needs, challenges and fears within their neighbourhoods and create safe spaces where crime is designed out;
- Engage with our partners, council companies and contractors to establish what more can be done to improve the safety of women and girls in Slough;
- Write to TVP to ask that they review their community engagement/development policies to ensure that they are responsive and incorporate/reflect “real time” community sentiments and feelings, e.g. resistance to a Slough Women’s Vigil following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard;

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- Write to Tan Dhesi MP to request that he speaks on behalf of Slough residents in support of on the 2nd reading of the Hate Crime Misogyny Bill, which seeks to make the motivation by misogyny as an aggravating factor in criminal sentencing. The bill also seeks to require police forces to record hate crimes motivated by misogyny, and for connected purposes;
- Write to the Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, requesting that the government acknowledges Misogyny as a specific hate crime.
- That Slough Borough Council works toward becoming a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation.”

The motion was put to the vote and unanimously agreed.

Resolved –

This council believes that more needs to be done to improve the safety of women and girls on our streets. We therefore agree to the following;

- Recommend that the SSP (Safer Slough Partnership) expand their work programme to include community engagement, to pro-actively communicate with women and girls to better understand their needs, challenges and fears within their neighbourhoods and create safe spaces where crime is designed out;
- Engage with our partners, council companies and contractors to establish what more can be done to improve the safety of women and girls in Slough;
- Write to TVP to ask that they review their community engagement/development policies to ensure that they are responsive and incorporate/reflect “real time” community sentiments and feelings, e.g. resistance to a Slough Women’s Vigil following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard;
- Write to Tan Dhesi MP to request that he speaks on behalf of Slough residents in support of on the 2nd reading of the Hate Crime Misogyny Bill, which seeks to make the motivation by misogyny as an aggravating factor in criminal sentencing. The bill also seeks to require police forces to record hate crimes motivated by misogyny, and for connected purposes;
- Write to the Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, requesting that the government acknowledges Misogyny as a specific hate crime.
- That Slough Borough Council works toward becoming a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation.

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60. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

None received.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7pm and closed at 7.56pm)