

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Town Hall, Slough on Tuesday, 26th July, 2011 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor S K Dhaliwal), in the chair;
Councillors Anderson, Bains, Basharat, Buchanan, Carter, S Chaudhry, Chohan, Coad, Dale-Gough, Dar, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, Dodds, Grewal, Haines, Long, M S Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Munawar, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Plimmer, Qureshi, Rasib, Sharif, Small, Smith, Sohal, Stokes, Strutton, Walsh and A S Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Abe, P Choudhry, P K Mann, O'Connor, Swindlehurst and S P Wright

12. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Basharat declared a personal interest in that a member of his family was employed by the Council.

13. Minutes - 19th May, 2011 and 23rd June 2011

It was moved by Councillor Stokes,
Seconded by Councillor Haines,

“That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd June, 2011 do not comprise an accurate record of proceedings.”

The Mayor put the Minutes to the Council and following a vote the Minutes were declared as an accurate record by 24 votes, to 10 votes, with 1 abstention.

There voted for the Minutes being a correct record:

Councillors Anderson, Bains, Carter, S Chaudhry, Chohan, Dar, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, S K Dhaliwal, Dodds, Grewal, M S Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Munawar, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Qureshi, Rasib, Sharif, Small, Sohal, Walsh 24

There voted against the Minutes being a correct record:

Councillors Basharat, Buchanan, Coad, Dale-Gough, Haines, Plimmer, Smith, Stokes, Strutton and A S Wright 10

There abstained from voting:

Councillor Long 1

Council - 26.07.11

Resolved - That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meetings held on 19th May, 2011 and 23rd June, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

14. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

Norway

The Mayor offered her sincere condolences to the people of Norway, following the recent tragic events when a bomb had killed seven people in Oslo and many youths and other individuals had been killed by a gunman on Utoya Island.

The Council stood for one minute's silence as a mark of respect to those who had lost their lives in the tragedy.

Chattri Memorial Service in Brighton

The Mayor announced that she had received an invitation from the Undivided Indian Army Ex-Servicemen's Association Slough, to the Chattri Memorial Service in Brighton. The Chattri bore the following inscription in Hindi and English:

"To the memory of all the Indian soldiers who gave their lives for their King-Emperor in the Great War, this monument, erected on the site of the funeral pyre where the Hindus and Sikhs who died in hospital at Brighton, passed through the fire, is in grateful admiration and brotherly affection dedicated.

The Mayor had laid a wreath at the memorial on behalf of the people of Slough.

Fly the Flag for Our Armed Forces on 20th June.

The Mayor thanked Councillors who together with Veterans and Air Cadets had attended the 'Fly the Flag for Our Armed Forces' event on 20th June.

The Mayor paid tribute particular tribute to two individual Veterans; Les Allan, aged 90 and James Hamilton-Smith, aged 90.

Aik Saath Presentation Evening on 14th July.

The Mayor had attended a presentation evening held on 14th July by the Aik Saath and the Mayor commended the charity for the great work it carried out in empowering young people to help shape society and promote peace and racial harmony through the teaching of resolution conflict skills in the local community.

The Deputy Mayor

The Mayor gave special thanks to Cllr Small, Deputy Mayor, for covering Mayoral duties on her behalf, whilst she had recently travelled to India.

The Mayor's Civic Service

The Mayor's Civic Service would be held on Sunday, 18th September at Kingsway United Reformed Church, commencing at 10.30 am. The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier will be conducting the Service and it would

Council - 26.07.11

be a very special occasion when the church would celebrate the Harvest Festival. The Service would also support East Berkshire Women's Aid. Invitations would be issued in the near future and it was hoped that Members would join the Mayor for this important civic occasion.

15. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

None received.

16. Questions from Members re the Thames Valley Police Authority under Procedure Rule 10 (if any).

The Mayor advised that Councillor Bains, the nominated representative, had received 7 questions from Members regarding the Thames Valley Police Authority and these had been tabled along with the answers.

17. Recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting on 13th June 2011 - Statutory Service Delivery Plans

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

"That the recommendation as set out in the report be approved and adopted".

The recommendation was put and carried.

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

18. Publication of Freedom of Information Requests

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

"That the recommendation as set out in the report be approved and adopted".

It was moved as and amendment by Councillor Dale-Gough,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

'That from 1st August 2011 requests and responses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be published on the Council's website, with the exception of vexatious and offensive requests. That Group Leaders be provided with a summary of the FOI requests that have been rejected under Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act for being vexatious and/or offensive on a quarterly basis.'

Councillor Anderson indicated his agreement to the inclusion of this amendment and it was:

Resolved- That from 1st August, 2011 requests and responses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be published on the Council's website, with the exception of vexatious and offensive requests, and

Council - 26.07.11

that Group Leaders be provided with a summary of the FOI requests that have been rejected under Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act for being vexatious and/or offensive on a quarterly basis.'

19. Streamlining Planning - amendments to the Constitution - recommendation of Member Panel on Constitution

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

“That the recommendations as set out in the report be approved and adopted”.

Councillor Smith sought to move an amendment which was ruled out of order as it introduced a new proposal. The Council agreed that the proposal be considered by the Member Panel on the Constitution for report back to a future meeting of the Council.

Resolved-

- (a) That the proposed changes to officer delegations (Development Control) as set out at Appendix 2 of the report with regard to minor changes to major applications be endorsed.
- (b) That a deadline for members to call in applications for consideration by the Planning Committee be introduced at 7 days from expiry of the residents consultation.
- (c) That the following proposal submitted by Councillor Smith be referred to the Member Panel on the Constitution for consideration and report back.

“Objectors should be enabled to address the Planning Committee if officers are recommending "refusal", where the proposed development is in a Conservation Area, or in the Greenbelt, or where the objectors are statutory consultees, including Parish Councils”.

20. Electoral Review - Local Government Boundary Commission for England and Polling District and Polling Place Review

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

“That the recommendations as set out in the report be approved and adopted”.

The recommendations were put and carried.

Resolved-

- (a) That the Council size of 42 elected members as recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be noted.
- (b) That the Polling District and Place Review currently underway be noted.

Council - 26.07.11

- (c) That the establishment of a cross party working group comprising the Leader and a nominee of each Group with relevant officers to consider and make recommendations to the Council meeting on 29th September on a warding pattern for the Borough and consider the outcome of the review of Polling District and Places be endorsed.

21. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

Motion 1- Cuts to Social Care Provision for the disabled

It was moved by Councillor Stokes,
Seconded by Councillor Haines,

“This Council resolves to:

Prepare a report within 4 weeks outlining the implications for Slough, of Mr Justice Walker’s High Court ruling of 19 May 2011 that the cuts Birmingham City Council was implementing to social care provision for disabled people were illegal”.

The motion was put and lost by 11 votes, to 23 votes, with 1 abstention, and on a show of hands, a prior request having been made, for a record of the voting:

There voted for the motion:

Councillors Basharat, Buchanan, Coad, Dale-Gough, Haines, Long, Plimmer, Smith, Stokes, Strutton and A S Wright 11

There voted against the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Bains, Carter, S Chaudhry, Chohan, Dar, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, Dodds, Grewal, M S Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Munawar, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Qureshi, Rasib, Sharif, Small, Sohal, Walsh 23

There abstained from voting:

The Worshipful the Mayor 1

Resolved- That the motion be rejected.

Motion 2- Fly the St George’s Flag

It was moved by Councillor A S Wright,
Seconded by Councillor Coad,

“This Council resolves to:

Reaffirm its commitment to the motion passed by full Council on the 27th July 2010 requiring the Council to: **“fly the St George’s Flag at the Town Hall on St George’s Day and other significant English occasions”**, which should include weekends and public holidays, and . fly the flag wherever the main Town Hall is to be re-sited after the conversion of the old Town Hall into a school annexe”.

Council - 26.07.11

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

That the motion be amended as follows:-

“This Council resolves to:

Reaffirm its commitment to the motion passed by full Council on the 27th July 2010 requiring the Council to: “fly the St George’s Flag at the Town Hall on St George’s Day and other significant English occasions”, which should include weekends and public holidays, and fly the flag wherever the main Town Hall is to be re-sited after the conversion of the old Town Hall into a school annexe, and also calls on the Member Panel on the Constitution to conduct a full review the Council’s flag regulations to take account of the three flag poles present at St Martin’s Place, and to bring recommendations back to the 29th November Council Meeting”.

Councillor A S Wright as mover of the original motion, with the agreement of her seconder, Councillor Coad, indicated that she was prepared to accept the proposed amendment which was agreed by the Council as the substantive motion.

Resolved - This Council resolves to:

Reaffirm its commitment to the motion passed by full Council on the 27th July 2010 requiring the Council to: “fly the St George’s Flag at the Town Hall on St George’s Day and other significant English occasions”, which should include weekends and public holidays, and fly the flag wherever the main Town Hall is to be re-sited after the conversion of the old Town Hall into a school annexe, and also calls on the Member Panel on the Constitution to conduct a full review the Council’s flag regulations to take account of the three flag poles present at St Martin’s Place, and to bring recommendations back to the 29th November Council Meeting.

Motion 3- Local retention of business rates

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

“This Council resolves to:

Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills, and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to express this Council’s support for the proposals made by Government to allow local authorities to retain business rates collected locally as an incentive to support business development in their local area, and request the implementation of the proposals at the earliest opportunity”.

Following debate the Motion was put to the Council and it was

Council - 26.07.11

Resolved- This Council resolves to:

Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills, and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to express this Council's support for the proposals made by Government to allow local authorities to retain business rates collected locally as an incentive to support business development in their local area, and request the implementation of the proposals at the earliest opportunity.

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

No questions had been responded to in the relevant period.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.05 pm)