

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 Thursday, 26th September, 2013 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bains), in the chair; Councillors Abe, Anderson, Aujla, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Chaudhry, Chohan, Dar (left at 7.22 pm), Davis, A S Dhaliwal, Grewal, Hussain, Malik (left at 7.22 pm), M S Mann, P K Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mittal, Nazir, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar (arrived at 7.07 pm) , Plenty, Plimmer, Rasib, Shah, Sharif (arrived at 7.07 pm), Small, Sohal (left at 7.22 pm), Strutton, Swindlehurst, Walsh and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Coad, S K Dhaliwal, Munawar and Smith

21. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Chaudhry and Rasib declared a personal interest as members of their families were employed by Slough Borough Council.

Councillor Strutton declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 6 as he held a licensed driver and operators licence.

22. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 23rd July, 2013

The minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meeting held on 23rd July, 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

23. To receive the Mayor's Communications

The Mayor placed on record his thanks to those Councillors who attended his Civic Service on Sunday, 15th September. The Service which included Harvest Festival, attracted generous donations of food and other items in aid of Slough Homeless our Concern (SHOC) and Slough Foodbank. The Mayor expressed his sincere thanks to his Chaplain Linda Hillier, for all her enthusiasm and help in arranging this very important Civic occasion.

Members were reminded that the forthcoming Annual Remembrance Sunday Services would be held on Sunday, 10th November and details would be distributed in the near future. The Armistice Day two-minute silence would be held in the Town Square on Monday 11th November and details would be circulated in due course.

The Mayor was shocked and deeply saddened by the news in August that former Councillor Peter Dale-Gough has passed away. Peter was a dedicated Member of the Council and carried out his duties as a Councillor and as Leader of the

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Conservative Group in an exemplary way. Peter gave selflessly of his time and energy and showed commitment and belief to supporting issues in his own Langley St Mary's Ward and the town as a whole.

The attendance at his funeral was testament to the high regard and affection in which he was held. Sympathy was conveyed to his wife Councillor Coad and the family.

The Council stood for one minute's silence in memory of Peter Dale-Gough.

24. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9 (if any)

None received.

25. Recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 16th September 2013: Treasury Management Strategy

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

"That the Treasury Management Strategy be amended as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report."

The recommendation was put and carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the Treasury Management Strategy be amended as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report.

26. Recommendations of the Licensing Committee from its meeting on 18th July, 2013: New Policy for Disclosing and Barring Service

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

" (a) That the draft Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Policy set out in the report be approved.

(b) That due to the need for urgent action to be taken as required, to approve a delegation to the Council's Head of Consumer Protection and Business Compliance the right to suspend a driver's licence on the basis of a failure to comply with the requirements of the DBS Policy, requiring the production of the original DBS Certificate."

The recommendations were put and carried unanimously.

Resolved-

(a) That the draft Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Policy set out in the report be approved.

(b) That due to the need for urgent action to be taken as required, a delegation to the Council's Head of Consumer Protection and Business Compliance the right to suspend a driver's licence be approved, on the

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basis of a failure to comply with the requirements of the DBS Policy, requiring the production of the original DBS Certificate.

27. Recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee from its meeting held on 25th June 2013: Annual Governance Statement 2012-13

Following the introduction of the report by Joseph Holmes, Assistant Director, Finance and Audit, the Mayor invited Mr Robert Grant, External Auditor, BDO to address the Council in respect of his interim report. Members asked a number of questions of detail about the Annual Governance Statement 2012/13. Following the completion of the questioning:

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

“That the Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 be approved.”

The recommendation was put and carried by 29 votes to 0 votes with 3 abstentions.

Resolved - That the Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 be approved.

28. Audit of the 2012-2013 Financial Statements

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

- “(a) That the External Auditors update report set out at appendix A of the report be noted and that the Council’s external auditors are unlikely to complete their audit work in line with the 30th September 2013 timescales be noted.
- (b) That the final Governance letter from BDO be noted and that a set of revised financial statements will be submitted to a special meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee be noted.
- (c) That the Council’s draft financial statements for 2012 – 13 be approved subject to:
 - (i) the Council making the required adjustments detailed in the external auditor’s final Governance letter.
 - (ii) the External auditors issuing an unqualified opinion on the 2012-13 financial statements.
 - (iii) the Audit and Risk Committee being satisfied that (i) and (ii) above have been complied with.”

The recommendations were put and carried by 29 votes to 0 votes with 3 abstentions.

Resolved -

- (a) That the External Auditors update report set out at appendix A of the report be noted and that the Council's external auditors are unlikely to complete their audit work in line with the 30th September 2013 timescales be noted.
- (b) That the final Governance letter from BDO be noted and that a set of revised financial statements will be submitted to a special meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee be noted.
- (c) That the Council's draft financial statements for 2012 – 13 be approved subject to:
 - (i) the Council making the required adjustments detailed in the external auditor's final Governance letter.
 - (ii) the External auditors issuing an unqualified opinion on the 2012-13 financial statements.
 - (iii) the Audit and Risk Committee being satisfied that (i) and (ii) above have been complied with.

29. Management of Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy

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

“That the Management of Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy (attached at Appendix A of the report) be agreed and be publicised to customers and staff with immediate effect”.

The recommendation was put and carried by 28 votes to 3 votes with 0 abstentions.

Resolved - That subject to the addition of guidance on the role of Heads of Service, the Management of Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy, (attached at Appendix A of the report), be agreed and publicised to customers and staff with immediate effect.

30. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14

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

That the Motion be withdrawn.

Resolved - That the Motion be withdrawn.

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

A Member question and response was tabled for information.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 7.37 pm)