

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, 26th November, 2013 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bains), in the chair; Councillors Abe (from 7.10pm), Anderson, Aujla, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Chaudhry, Chohan, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, Grewal, Hussain, M S Mann, P K Mann, Matloob, Mittal, Munawar, Nazir, O'Connor, Parmar, Plenty, Plimmer, Rasib, Shah, Sharif, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Walsh and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Coad, Dar, S K Dhaliwal, Dhillon, Minhas, Pantelic, Sandhu, Small and Sohal

34. Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 5 as he was member of Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council.

35. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 26th September 2013 and the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 7th November 2013

The minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meeting held on 26th September, 2013 and the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 7th November, 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

36. To receive the Mayor's Communications

The Mayor placed on record his thanks to those Members who had attended the events arranged throughout the Borough for Remembrance Sunday. The efforts made to mark these important occasions had been very well received by both the organisations involved and by the public. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Reverend Linda Hillier for her help and assistance before and on the day.

The Mayor informed Members that the Christmas Lights Switch-On on 21st November, 2013 in Town Square had taken place and had attracted a large crowd who enjoyed the entertainment and firework display. The Mayor congratulated the events team for organising another successful event.

37. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9

None received.

38. Community Governance Review of Parish Council Arrangements with the Borough of Slough

It was proposed by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor PK Mann,

“Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

- (a) That the written responses received in relation to Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council be noted and that, as part of its final recommendations, the Council reserves the right to test public opinion in an advisory postal poll at or after the next parish council elections in 2015 if it is not satisfied that the Parish Council is engaging more widely with local people.

Britwell Parish Council

Support for abolition/retention

- (a) That the results of the advisory postal poll and the representations made by Britwell Parish Council in their meeting with the Review Group on 9th October 2013 be noted and the written responses received during the consultation both in support of the Parish Council and making representations on its future boundaries also be noted.
- (b) That the Council notes that the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of abolition of the Parish Council and that public opinion be tested again in a further four years' time.

Proposed Changes

Alteration of Parish Area

- (c) That the boundary of Britwell Parish Council be altered as shown on map attached at Appendix A.

Electoral Arrangements

- (d) That the number of Parish Councillors be reduced to seven.

Elections

- (e) That the term of office of the existing thirteen Parish Councillors be reduced by one year from 2015 to 2014 in order to bring these changes into effect from May 2014 and that the newly elected seven Parish Councillors serve a five year term of office initially and then revert to the traditional four year term.
- (f) That subject to the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to the proposed changes to the boundaries and electoral arrangements for Britwell Parish a

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Reorganisation Order will be laid before Council for approval giving effect to the Council's final recommendations of the Community Governance Review

Wexham Court Parish Council

Support for abolition/retention

- (a) That the written responses received in support of Wexham Court Parish Council be noted.
- (b) That the Council note that the results of the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of retaining the Parish Council and reserves the right to test public opinion again in the future if it still has concerns about the Parish Council's governance arrangements."

The recommendations were put and carried by 28 votes to 2 votes with 1 abstention.

Resolved –

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

- (a) That the written responses received in relation to Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council be noted and that, as part of its final recommendations, the Council reserves the right to test public opinion in an advisory postal poll at or after the next parish council elections in 2015 if it is not satisfied that the Parish Council is engaging more widely with local people.

Britwell Parish Council

Support for abolition/retention

- (a) That the results of the advisory postal poll and the representations made by Britwell Parish Council in their meeting with the Review Group on 9th October 2013 be noted and the written responses received during the consultation both in support of the Parish Council and making representations on its future boundaries also be noted.
- (b) That the Council notes that the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of abolition of the Parish Council and that public opinion be tested again in a further four years' time.

Proposed Changes

Alteration of Parish Area

- (c) That the boundary of Britwell Parish Council be altered as shown on map attached at Appendix A.

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Electoral Arrangements

(d) That the number of Parish Councillors be reduced to seven.

Elections

(e) That the term of office of the existing thirteen Parish Councillors be reduced by one year from 2015 to 2014 in order to bring these changes into effect from May 2014 and that the newly elected seven Parish Councillors serve a five year term of office initially and then revert to the traditional four year term.

(f) That subject to the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to the proposed changes to the boundaries and electoral arrangements for Britwell Parish a Reorganisation Order will be laid before Council for approval giving effect to the Council's final recommendations of the Community Governance Review

Wexham Court Parish Council

Support for abolition/retention

(a) That the written responses received in support of Wexham Court Parish Council be noted.

(b) That the Council note that the results of the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of retaining the Parish Council and reserves the right to test public opinion again in the future if it still has concerns about the Parish Council's governance arrangements.

39. Review of Polling Districts and Places

It was proposed by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor PK Mann,

“That the revised polling district boundaries be approved and that polling places be designated for each of the Borough Wards as set out at Appendix A and B respectively for implementation with effect from the May 2014 Borough Elections.”

Members were informed that the Electorate figures for Elliman Ward on page 46 had been amended as follows:

- ELA – 2488
- ELB – 1850
- ELC – 2020

The recommendation was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the revised polling district boundaries be approved and that polling places be designated for each of the Borough Wards as set

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out at Appendix A and B respectively for implementation with effect from the May 2014 Borough Elections.

40. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14

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

“This Council resolves: -

That the constitutional panel and Council considers allowing public meetings to be recorded, filmed and photographed for greater transparency and public scrutiny. Thereby, revising Part 4.1 Section 25.1 and Section 25.2 of the Council’s Constitution to allow for the photographing, recording or oral reporting of any proceedings of the Council. Slough Borough Council should also endeavour to record meetings for greater accuracy, record keeping and quality assurance purposes.”

It was moved by the Leader that the following amendment be made to the motion,

“This Council resolves: -

That the constitutional panel and Council considers allowing public meetings to be recorded, filmed and photographed for greater transparency and public scrutiny. Thereby, revising Part 4.1 Section 25.1 and Section 25.2 of the Council’s Constitution to allow for the photographing, recording or oral reporting of any proceedings of the Council. ~~Slough Borough Council should also endeavour to record meetings for greater accuracy, record keeping and quality assurance purposes.”~~

The amendment was agreed by the proposer and seconder and this became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put and carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the constitutional panel and Council considers allowing public meetings to be recorded, filmed and photographed for greater transparency and public scrutiny. Thereby, revising Part 4.1 Section 25.1 and Section 25.2 of the Council’s Constitution to allow for the photographing, recording or oral reporting of any proceedings of the Council.

41. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

None had been submitted.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 7.50 pm)