

## 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, 22nd April, 2014 at 7.00 pm

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bains), in the chair; Councillors Abe, Anderson, Aujla, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Chaudhry, Chohan, Coad, Dar, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, S K Dhaliwal, Dhillon, Grewal, Hussain, Malik, M S Mann, P K Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mittal, Munawar, Nazir, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Plimmer, Rasib, Sandhu, Shah, Sharif, Small, Smith, Sohal, Strutton (arrived 7.15pm), Swindlehurst and Wright

### 63. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bal and Munawar declared a personal interest in that members of their family were employed by Slough Borough Council. Councillor Chaudhary declared a personal interest in that a member of his family was employed by Arvato.

### 64. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 18th February and 25th March 2014

**Resolved –** (i) That the minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February be approved as a correct record subject to minute 57 (d) being amended to read as follows:

(d) That the Discretionary and Hardship Relief Policy for 2014/15 be approved (as detailed in Appendix J) and to note the policy will be amended for 2015/16 to reflect that no charity or non profit making body receives more than 80% of their Business Rates as relief.

(ii) That the minutes of the proceedings of the extraordinary Council at its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 be approved as a correct record.

### 65. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

This was the last full Council Meeting at which the Mayor would preside and he conveyed his thanks to his Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier who had attended Council meetings during the year. This was Linda's fifth consecutive year as Mayor's Chaplain and her support and advice had been invaluable.

Referring to the forthcoming local elections, the Mayor conveyed his best wishes to those Members seeking re-election and expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to those Members who were standing down.

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**66. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.**

None received.

**67. Recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 14th April 2014 - Corporate Plan 2014/15**

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

“That the Corporate Plan 2014/15 be approved.”

The recommendation was put and carried unanimously.

**Resolved** - That the Corporate Plan 2014/15 be approved.

**68. Recommendation of the Standards Advisory Committee from its meeting held on 18 March & Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8th April 2014**

It was moved by Councillor O'Connor,  
Seconded by Councillor Nazir,

“That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2013/14 be received”.

The recommendation was put and carried unanimously.

**Resolved** - That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2013/14 be received.

It was moved by Councillor Grewal,  
Seconded by Councillor M Mann,

“That the Annual Standards Review 2013/14 be received”.

The recommendation was put and carried unanimously.

**Resolved** - That the Annual Standards Review 2013/14 be received.

**69. Review of Constitution and Related Matters**

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

“ (a) That progress on the Review of the Constitution be noted.

(b) That the proposed changes to the following Sections of the Constitution be approved as set out in the attached Appendices and incorporated in the Constitution to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014:

- Part 4.3 – Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules
- Part 4.6 - Financial Procedure Rules
- Audit and Risk Committee - Terms of Reference

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- Employment and Appeals Committee - Terms of Reference
  - Council procedure rules
  - Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules
  - Overarching Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Parts 1, 2 and 3).
- (c) That it be noted that work on the Employee Code of Conduct and Contracts and Procurement element of the Financial Procedure Rules is ongoing and will be reported to the Council in due course.
- (d) That the actions being taken to revise the Scheme of Delegation to Officers be endorsed.
- (e) That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to amend the current published Constitution to reflect Council Structures, legislative requirements and other administrative amendments as necessary.
- (f) That the Member Panel on the Constitution be reappointed at the annual meeting in June 2014 to monitor the effectiveness of the Constitution and consider further amendments to it.

### **Public Questions at Budget meetings**

- (g) That no further action be taken on Councillor Smith's recommendation on Public Questions at Budget Council meetings - paragraphs 5.41 – 5.43 refer.

### **Webcasting/Filming meetings**

- (h) That the draft protocol for filming meetings attached at Appendix 8 to the report be approved subject to any amendments required following the publication of the expected Regulations and any consequential changes be made to the Council Procedure Rules.
- (i) That the Curve is enabled to support webcasting meetings in the future and any budget implications of this proposal be considered in 2014/15.
- (j) That the Council does not commence webcasting of meetings before the completion of The Curve.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried by 31 votes to 2 votes with 6 abstentions.

### **Resolved -**

- (a) That progress on the Review of the Constitution be noted.
- (b) That the proposed changes to the following Sections of the Constitution be approved as set out in the attached Appendices and incorporated in the Constitution to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014:
- Part 4.3 – Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules
  - Part 4.6 - Financial Procedure Rules

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- Audit and Risk Committee - Terms of Reference
  - Employment and Appeals Committee - Terms of Reference
  - Council procedure rules
  - Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules
  - Overarching Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Parts 1, 2 and 3).
- (c) That it be noted that work on the Employee Code of Conduct and Contracts and Procurement element of the Financial Procedure Rules is ongoing and will be reported to the Council in due course.
- (d) That the actions being taken to revise the Scheme of Delegation to Officers be endorsed.
- (e) That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to amend the current published Constitution to reflect Council Structures, legislative requirements and other administrative amendments as necessary.
- (f) That the Member Panel on the Constitution be reappointed at the annual meeting in June 2014 to monitor the effectiveness of the Constitution and consider further amendments to it.
- (g) That no further action be taken on Councillor Smith's recommendation on Public Questions at Budget Council meetings.
- (h) That the draft protocol for filming meetings attached at Appendix 8 of the report be approved subject to any amendments required following the publication of the expected Regulations and any consequential changes be made to the Council Procedure Rules.
- (i) That the Curve is enabled to support webcasting meetings in the future and any budget implications of this proposal be considered in 2014/15.
- (j) That the Council does not commence webcasting of meetings before the completion of The Curve.

## **70. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.**

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

"This Council resolves:-

Immediately stop all current/ongoing projects undertaken by the Highways Department to introduce traffic calming, reduce the number of carriageways, narrow carriageway widths, block-off roads to through-traffic, and fill-in bus stop lay-bys; it should thereby present a report open to scrutiny by Members on the effectiveness of such measures already implemented against the criteria of whether they have added to congestion or reduced journey times; any measures that have added to congestion and journey times are inherently unsafe and against the interests of Slough residents going about their daily business and should consequently be removed."

The motion was put to the vote and lost by 30 votes to 6 with 4 abstentions.

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**Resolved** – That the Motion be rejected.

### **71. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 (as tabled).**

None had been submitted.

### **72. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor**

Councillor S Dhaliwal moved and Councillor Mittal seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor for his service during the past municipal year. A number of other Members added their thanks to the Mayor. The Mayor replied to the vote of thanks, thanking his family and BAA for allowing him to fulfil his Mayoral duties during the year, and to those Members and Officers who had supported him.

### **73. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Munawar moved and Councillor Pantelic seconded a vote of thanks to the Deputy Mayor and wished him well for the future.

### **74. Forthcoming Local Elections**

The Leader and a number of other Councillors thanked those Members who were not seeking re-election in the forthcoming local elections for their services to the Borough and wished them well for the future.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.42 pm)