

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, 21st April, 2015 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Rasib), in the chair; Councillors Abe, Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Bal (until 8.45pm), Brooker (until 8.40pm), Chahal, Cheema, Chohan, Coad, Dar, Davis, Dhaliwal, Dhillon, M Holledge, N Holledge, Hussain, Malik, Mann, Mansoor, Matloob, Mellor, Munawar, Nazir, Parmar, Plenty, Rana, Sandhu, Shah, Sharif, Sidhu, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani, Wright and Zarait.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Carter, Chaudhry and Pantelic.

48. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared a personal interest in that a member of his family was employed by Slough Borough Council.

49. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 27th January 2015 and 19th February 2015

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meetings held on 27th January and 19th February 2015 be approved as a correct record.

50. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor announced that sadly, Sheila Thorpe, former Councillor and Mayoress of Slough had passed away on 10th April.

Sheila was a County Councillor from 1981 to 1989 and served as a Member of the Council from 1987 to 1999. She was Deputy Mayor in 1992/1993 and was elected Mayor for 1993/1994.

Condolences had been sent to Sheila's family on behalf of Members and Officers.

The Mayor asked all Members to join him in observing one minute's silence in memory of Sheila.

51. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

The Mayor advised that two questions had been received from residents and electors, copies of which had been tabled. A resident in attendance received a response to his question and submitted a supplementary question. Copies of the questions and replies would be forwarded to the questioners.

52. Recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee from its meeting held on 12th March 2015 and the Standards Advisory Committee from its meeting held on 17th March 2015

It was moved by Councillor Chohan,
Seconded by Councillor M Holledge,

- (a) "That the Standards Advisory Committee be disbanded and its terms of reference subsumed into the terms of reference of the Audit and Risk Committee with effect from the Annual Council meeting in May 2015.
- (b) That the Audit and Risk Committee be renamed the "Audit and Corporate Governance Committee".
- (c) That Article 9 of the Constitution (Standards Advisory Committee be deleted and subsequent Articles re-numbered).
- (d) That existing Article 10 (Audit and Risk Committee) be amended as shown in Appendix A and the terms of reference and working arrangements of the Committee therein be approved.
- (e) That the membership of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee comprise*:
Seven councillors (politically balanced) (not the Leader, Mayor or Deputy Mayor, Chairs and Vice Chairs of Planning and Licensing Committee and Group Leaders*)
Up to four co-opted (non-voting) independent members
The Council's Independent Person (as an observer).

* executive members limited to one
*one Member from each of the three Parish Councils in the Borough to be invited to attend and speak at the Committee if it is considering a report relating to changes to the Code of Conduct
- (f) That the existing independent members on the Audit and Risk and Standards Advisory Committees be appointed to the ACGC for the 2015/16 municipal year as follows:
Mr G Davies
Mr R Roberts
Mr A Sunderland
Mr A Kwatra
- (g) That a Standards and Determination Sub Committee be appointed by the Committee with membership, terms of reference and operating procedures as set out in Appendix A.
- (h) That an allowance of £2,858 be paid to the Chair of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.
- (i) That the Head of Democratic Services make any consequential administrative amendments to the Constitution."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Standards Advisory Committee be disbanded and its terms of reference subsumed into the terms of reference of the Audit and Risk Committee with effect from the Annual Council meeting in May 2015.
 - (b) That the Audit and Risk Committee be renamed the “Audit and Corporate Governance Committee”.
 - (c) That Article 9 of the Constitution (Standards Advisory Committee be deleted and subsequent Articles re-numbered).
 - (d) That existing Article 10 (Audit and Risk Committee) be amended as shown in Appendix A and the terms of reference and working arrangements of the Committee therein be approved.
 - (e) That the membership of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee comprise*:
 - Seven councillors (politically balanced) (not the Leader, Mayor or Deputy Mayor, Chairs and Vice Chairs of Planning and Licensing Committee and Group Leaders*)
 - Up to four co-opted (non-voting) independent members
 - The Council’s Independent Person (as an observer).
- * executive members limited to one
*one Member from each of the three Parish Councils in the Borough to be invited to attend and speak at the Committee if it is considering a report relating to changes to the Code of Conduct
- (f) That the existing independent members on the Audit and Risk and Standards Advisory Committees be appointed to the ACGC for the 2015/16 municipal year as follows
 - Mr G Davies
 - Mr R Roberts
 - Mr A Sunderland
 - Mr A Kwatra
 - (g) That a Standards and Determination Sub Committee be appointed by the Committee with membership, terms of reference and operating procedures as set out in Appendix A.
 - (h) That an allowance of £2,858 be paid to the Chair of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.
 - (i) That the Head of Democratic Services make any consequential administrative amendments to the Constitution.

53. Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from it's meeting held on 9th April 2015 and Standards Advisory Committee

It was moved by Councillor Nazir,
Seconded by Councillor M Holledge,

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“That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15 be received.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15 be received.

It was moved by Councillor M Holledge,
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

“That the Annual Standards Review 2014/15 be received.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the Annual Standards Review 2014/15 be received.

54. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

Motion (A)- Reduction in Voting Age

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

“This Council resolves to:

1. Support the recent proposals to extend the franchise in all elections to 16 and 17 year olds as they are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system.
2. Ask our local MP and the current coalition government, and any government formed after May’s election, to back the policy announced by the Labour Party, and extend the franchise in all elections to 16 and 17 year olds alongside strong citizenship education.
3. Recognise the important steps taken this year to establish a Youth Parliament and commit to working with them alongside Sloughs’ schools and colleges to enhance citizenship education for all young people in Slough.
4. Continue working with community groups, faith organisations, residential associations, and other groups and people to make the electoral register as complete as possible.”

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Wright,
Seconded by Councillor Strutton,

“That the resolution be amended as follows:

“This Council resolves to:

1. Support ~~the recent proposals to extend the franchise in all elections to 16 and 17 year olds as they are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of~~ in engaging in the democratic system by co-opting Slough Youth Parliament Members into our strategic panels for the next 2 years.

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- ~~2. Ask our local MP and the current coalition government, and any government formed after May's election, to back the policy announced by the Labour Party, and extend the franchise in all elections to 16 and 17 year olds alongside strong citizenship education call for a referendum to lower the voting age to include 16 and 17 year olds.~~
- ~~3. Recognise the important steps taken this year to establish a Youth Parliament and commit to working with them alongside Sloughs' schools and colleges to enhance citizenship education for all young people in Slough.~~
- ~~4. Continue working with community groups, faith organisations, residential associations, and other groups and people to make the electoral register as complete as possible."~~

The amendment was put to the vote and lost by 8 votes to 29 votes with 2 abstentions.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and carried by 31 votes to 6 votes with 2 abstentions.

Resolved - This Council resolves to:-

1. Support the recent proposals to extend the franchise in all elections to 16 and 17 year olds as they are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system.
2. Ask our local MP and the current coalition government, and any government formed after May's election, to back the policy announced by the Labour Party, and extend the franchise in all elections to 16 and 17 year olds alongside strong citizenship education.
3. Recognise the important steps taken this year to establish a Youth Parliament and commit to working with them alongside Sloughs' schools and colleges to enhance citizenship education for all young people in Slough.
4. Continue working with community groups, faith organisations, residential associations, and other groups and people to make the electoral register as complete as possible.

Motion (B) Unlicensed House of Multiple Occupation Register

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

"This Council resolves to:

Respond to the acute shortage of housing in Slough by publishing a register of unlicensed House Multiple Occupation to safeguard the health and welfare of sitting, and future, occupants whilst regulating good quality self-contained units which will be self-financing by the extra council tax generated."

The motion was put and lost by 9 votes to 29 votes with 1 abstention.

Resolved - That the motion be rejected.

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(Councillor Brooker left the meeting)

Motion (C) - Funding Allocation Review - Bus Passes

It was moved by Councillor Coad,
Seconded by Councillor Mellor,

“This Council resolves that:

In the light of the impact that changes to bus passes and the removal of companion carers bus passes has had on working pensioners, volunteers and disabled people we call upon SBC to review funding allocation in order to address the hardship this has already caused.”

(Councillor Bal left the meeting)

The motion was put to the vote and a prior request having been made for the record of the voting:-

There voted for the motion:

Councillors Abe, Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Chahal, Cheema, Chohan, Coad, Dar, Davis, Dhaliwal, Dhillon, M Holledge, N Holledge, Hussain, Malik, Mann, Mansoor, Matloob, Mellor, Munawar, Nazir, Parmar, Plenty, Rana, Sandhu, Shah, Sharif, Sidhu, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani Wright and Zarait.

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There abstained from voting:

The Worshipful The Deputy Mayor1

Resolved - This Council resolves that:-

In the light of the impact that changes to bus passes and the removal of companion carers bus passes has had on working pensioners, volunteers and disabled people we call upon SBC to review funding allocation in order to address the hardship this has already caused.

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

No questions had been submitted.

56. Vote of Thanks

The Leader thanked the Deputy Mayor, Leaders of the Conservative and UKIP Groups and his Cabinet colleagues for all their efforts and contributions during the municipal year. Best wishes were also conveyed to all those Members seeking re-election in the forthcoming local election. A number of other Councillors also thanked their fellow Members.

The Deputy Mayor placed on record his appreciation to his Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier who had officiated at meetings during the municipal year.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.04 pm)