

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held as a Virtual Meeting on Tuesday, 24th November, 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Brooker), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Bedi, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, A Cheema, H Cheema, Dar, Dhaliwal, Gahir, M Holledge (until 7.35pm), N Holledge (until 7.35pm), Hulme, Kelly, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D Parmar, S Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rasib, Sabah, A Sandhu, R Sandhu, Sarfraz, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Davis.

42. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

43. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 24th September 2020

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

44. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

Members were informed that Remembrance Services were held, albeit in a reduced capacity and the Mayor thanked the Royal British Legion and Reverend Linda Hillier for their efforts, in ensuring events took place smoothly.

The Mayor placed on record his appreciation to the Slough Community in the manner in which it had come together during a difficult year. #OneSlough had been recognised as exemplary and services continued to be provided even before the 2nd lockdown so that they were fully prepared to assist as demand increased again.

The Prime Minister had announced in his Covid-19 winter statement that from 3rd December there would be tougher measures at each tier. It was anticipated that Slough would be placed in Tier 3 as numbers were still rising dramatically. Members were reminded of the importance of ensuring residents were aware of the message about “Hands, Face, Space” and how important this was for numbers to reduce.

45. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

One question had been received and the Elector who was present, asked a supplementary question. A written copy of the reply would be sent to the Elector following the meeting.

46. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meetings held on 12th October 2020 and 16th November 2022

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

“That the Carbon Management Plan 2020-2030 be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the Carbon Management Plan 2020-2030 be approved.

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

“That the Council’s plans be noted for medium term recovery and long term renewal as an organisation, for Slough the place and our communities and in particular the initiatives around skills.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the Council’s plans be noted for medium term recovery and long term renewal as an organisation, for Slough the place and our communities and in particular the initiatives around skills.

47. Review of Members Allowance Scheme - Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel

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

“(a) consider the Independent Remuneration Panel’s report and recommendations (attached at Appendix A), a summary of which are set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report, and to resolve what action should be taken in respect of these recommendations; and

(b) resolve that the agreed recommendations be implemented from April 2021, following consideration as part of the Council’s forward budget-setting process for 2021-2022 municipal year.”

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting:

There voted for the recommendations:

Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Bedi, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, A.Cheema, H.Cheema, Dar, Dhaliwal, Gahir, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D.Parmar, S.Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Sabah, A.Sandhu, Sarfraz and Swindlehurst..... 29

There voted against the recommendations:

Councillors Kelly, Smith, Strutton and Wright..... 4

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There abstained from voting on the recommendations:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Brooker.....1

Resolved –

- (a) That the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations (attached at Appendix A to the report), as summarised in paragraph 5.1 of the report be agreed.
- (b) That the recommendations be implemented from April 2021, following consideration as part of the Council's forward budget-setting process for 2021-2022 municipal year.

48. COVID-19 Decisions Update

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

“The Council is asked to note this Report, and to ratify the significant decisions taken by officers since the last report on this subject to Council on 24th September 2020, as set out in the Appendices to this Report.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the report be noted and the significant decisions taken by officers since 24th September 2020, as set out in the appendices to the report, be ratified.

49. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

A) COVID-19 Regulations – Crematorium

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

“Council notes that the Covid-19 regulations in place limit the number of people allowed to attend crematorium services and funerals are an especially difficult time for residents and their families. Allowing families to carry coffins aids in the grieving process and makes the ordeal easier, rather than the funeral directors carrying out the task; and

Council therefore resolves to -

- Provide clear and up to date information around the rules regarding what is permissible for the ceremony. The current regulations allow the congregation to bear their deceased relative from the hearse into the chapel and placed on the Catafalque, providing those bearing the coffin live in the same household.

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- Allow family members to carry the coffin from the car to the trolley with gloves on, and wheel it into the service; as long as family members from the same bubble are wearing the appropriate PPE, and the numbers of people are limited to comply with the current regulations.
- Immediately address the lack of recording facilities in crematoriums and ensure all services are recorded by the Council, so that family and friends can join the funeral virtually.”

It was moved by Councillor Mann, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“Council notes that the Covid-19 pandemic has been an extremely difficult time for residents and families who have suffered bereavements and that government regulations in place for crematorium services and funerals have the potential to add to this difficult time for residents and their families.

Council therefore resolves to –

- Continue to provide clear and up to date information around the Governments rules regarding what is permissible for the ceremony on the Council’s website at <http://www.slough.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/coronavirus-and-births-marriages-and-deaths.aspx>
- Continue to advise funeral directors (while noting that they are private business making their own health and safety decisions) that family members are currently permitted by government guidance to carry the coffin from the car to the trolley with gloves on, and wheel it into the service; as long as family members from the same bubble are wearing the appropriate PPE, and the numbers of people are limited to comply with the current regulations.
- Immediately install live streaming facilities in Slough crematorium with a planned start date of December 7, so that family and friends can join the funeral virtually.”

The amendment to the motion was put to the vote and agreed unanimously and became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved -

Council notes that the Covid-19 pandemic has been an extremely difficult time for residents and families who have suffered bereavements and that government regulations in place for crematorium services and funerals have the potential to add to this difficult time for residents and their families.

Council therefore resolves to –

- Continue to provide clear and up to date information around the Governments rules regarding what is permissible for the ceremony on the Council’s website at <http://www.slough.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/coronavirus-and-births-marriages-and-deaths.aspx>

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- Continue to advise funeral directors (while noting that they are private business making their own health and safety decisions) that family members are currently permitted by government guidance to carry the coffin from the car to the trolley with gloves on, and wheel it into the service; as long as family members from the same bubble are wearing the appropriate PPE, and the numbers of people are limited to comply with the current regulations.
- Immediately install live streaming facilities in Slough crematorium with a planned start date of December 7, so that family and friends can join the funeral virtually.

B) Commonwealth Veterans

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

“This Council recognises the tremendous role Slough residents, including those from Commonwealth countries, have played in our armed forces and the great sacrifices made by all our armed service personnel.

Council therefore calls upon the government to immediately grant the right for commonwealth veterans, who have served a minimum of 4 years, the legal right to remain in the UK and British citizenship for any veteran who completes 12 years service and waive any fees.”

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting:
There voted for the motion:

Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Bedi, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, A.Cheema, H.Cheema, Dar, Dhaliwal, Gahir, Hulme, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D.Parmar, S.Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Sabah, A.Sandhu, R.Sandhu, Sarfraz and Swindlehurst.....31

There voted against the motion:

Councillor Smith..... 1

There abstained from voting on the motion:

Councillors Kelly, Strutton, Wright and The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Brooker.....4

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

None received.

51. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Members agreed that the item in Part II of the agenda – the Part II minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th September 2020, could be considered without disclosing any of the exempt information. It was therefore agreed that it was not necessary to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting.

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Resolved – That agenda item 11 – ‘Part II Minutes – 24th September 2020’ be considered during Part I of the meeting.

52. Part II Minutes - Council, 24th September 2020

Resolved – That the Part II minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th September 2020 be approved as a correct record subject to Councillor Akram being removed from the list of attendees.

Chair

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