

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at The Centre, Farnham Road, Slough, SL1 4UT on Thursday, 20th May, 2021 at 7.00 pm.

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Brooker), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Ali, Akram, Anderson, Bains, Bal, Basra, Bedi, Begum, Carter, A Cheema, H Cheema, J Davis, Dhaliwal, Gahir, Gill, Grewal, Hulme, Hussain, Kaur, Kelly, Malik, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Muvvala, Nazir, Pantelic, D Parmar, S Parmar, Qaseem, Sabah, Sandhu, Sharif, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Dar and R Davis

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughter worked for the Council.

2. To Elect the Mayor for the 2021/22 Municipal Year

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Matloob seconded the nomination of Councillor Mohammad Nazir.

Councillor Strutton proposed and Councillor Wright seconded the nomination of Councillor Preston Brooker.

The nominations were put to the vote with 34 votes for Councillor Nazir and 5 votes for Councillor Brooker.

The Chief Executive declared Councillor Mohammad Nazir elected Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the 2021/22 municipal year. Councillor Mohammad Nazir, having made and signed the requisite declaration of acceptance of office, was thereupon installed in the Chair.

(The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Nazir, in the Chair)

Resolved - That Councillor Mohammad Nazir be elected as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/2021.

3. To Elect the Deputy Mayor for the 2021/22 Municipal Year

The Mayor called for nominations to the office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the 2021/22 municipal year. Councillor Swindlehurst proposed and Councillor Satpal Parmar seconded the nomination of Councillor Dilbagh Parmar.

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The Mayor put the nomination to the vote and there were 34 votes for and 4 abstentions.

The Mayor declared Councillor Dilbagh Parmar elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the 2021/22 municipal year. Councillor Dilbagh Parmar made and signed the requisite declaration of acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor.

Resolved - That Councillor Dilbagh Parmar be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.

4. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 27th April 2021

Resolved - That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27th April, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

5. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor welcomed newly elected and re-elected Members to the meeting and wished them well in fulfilling their duties.

Members were informed that Father Darcy Chesterfield-Terry had agreed to continue to serve as the chaplain for the municipal year but in addition, the option of alternating prayers with other faith groups during the year would be explored. The Mayor thanked Democratic Services, Facilities and other staff for their efforts to facilitate the return to in-person meetings in unusual circumstances.

6. Report of the Returning Officer - Local Election 6th May 2021

Details of the Election held on 6th May 2021 were noted.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7. Appointment to Statutory Role of Director of Finance (S151 Officer)

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

“That the appointment of Steven Mair as the Council’s S151 Officer be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the appointment of Steven Mair as the Council’s S151 Officer be approved.

8. Review of the Council's Constitution

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

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1. “That the amendments as set out in the appendices to the report be adopted for
 - a. Councillors’ Code of Conduct
 - b. Article 12 Officer Roles & Statutory Officer Functions
 - c. Park 3.6 Scheme of Delegation to Officers
 - d. Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny
2. That the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make changes to the constitution to effect changes outlined in Sections 5c and 5d of the report.
3. That the amendments to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting be agreed.
4. That it be noted that the planned forward work programme of the member working party and that future phases of the review will be reported to Council over the next year.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with 34 votes for, 5 against and 1 abstention.

Resolved –

1. That the amendments as set out in the appendices to the report be adopted for
 - a. Councillors’ Code of Conduct
 - b. Article 12 Officer Roles & Statutory Officer Functions
 - c. Park 3.6 Scheme of Delegation to Officers
 - d. Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny
2. That the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make changes to the constitution to effect changes outlined in Sections 5c and 5d of the report.
3. That the amendments to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting be agreed.
4. That it be noted that the planned forward work programme of the member working party and that future phases of the review will be reported to Council over the next year.

9. Appointments of Committees, Sub-Committees and Allocation of Political Officer Support

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

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- (a) "That Committees be appointed and seats thereon allocated to political groups as set out in Appendix 1.
- (b) That appointments be made to Committees as attached at Appendix 2.
- (c) That the report of the Leader on appointment of the Cabinet be received as attached at Appendix 2.
- (d) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees be appointed as attached in Appendix 2.
- (e) That the Labour Group be allocated 1 FT (37 hours) Political Officer Support and the Conservative Group be allocated 0.34 FTE (12 hours) Political Officer Support.
- (f) To note that, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, the Leader holds office until 28th November 2021.
- (g) That appointments be made to quasi-judicial and other bodies as set out in attached Appendix 2."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved -

- (h) That Committees be appointed and seats thereon allocated to political groups as set out in Appendix 1.
- (i) That appointments be made to Committees as attached at Appendix 2.
- (j) That the report of the Leader on appointment of the Cabinet be received as attached at Appendix 2.
- (k) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees be appointed as attached in Appendix 2.
- (l) That the Labour Group be allocated 1 FT (37 hours) Political Officer Support and the Conservative Group be allocated 0.34 FTE (12 hours) Political Officer Support.
- (m) To note that, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, the Leader holds office until 28th November 2021.
- (n) That appointments be made to quasi-judicial and other bodies as set out in attached Appendix 2.

10. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2021/22

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

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“That appointments be made to Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2020/21 be as set out in attached appendix.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved- That appointments be made to Outside Bodies for the Municipal year 2020/21 be as set out in the appendix.

11. Localism Act 2011 - Dispensations

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

“That the grant of general dispensations, as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report, be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the grant of general dispensations, as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report, be approved.

12. 2018/19 Accounts - Section 24 Statutory Recommendations

The Mayor varied normal procedure rules to allow the Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and the Council’s external auditors, Grant Thornton, to address the meeting; following which they received a number of questions from Members.

(Councillor Jemma Davis left the meeting)

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

- a) “That the recommendations of the auditors as set out in pages 6 to 9 of the report be accepted.
- b) That the management actions as set out in pages 6 to 9 of the report be agreed.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved -

- a) That the recommendations of the auditors as set out in pages 6 to 9 of the report be accepted.
- b) That the management actions as set out in pages 6 to 9 of the report be agreed.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.24 pm)