

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held as a Virtual Meeting on Thursday, 21st May, 2020 at 6.30 pm

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

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Sarfraz.

1. Minute Silence

Prior to proceeding with the agenda for the meeting, the Mayor announced that colleague and friend, Councillor Shabnum Sadiq, had tragically lost her life to coronavirus. The Council grieved her untimely death and sympathy and thoughts were with her family at this difficult time.

The Council's thoughts were also with the family and friends of former Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Derek Cryer, who died on 31st March.

The Mayor asked all Members and staff present to join her in a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Sadiq and Derek Cryer and all those who had tragically lost their lives due to Covid-19.

2. Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 6 – Recommendation of Cabinet: Stabmonk Park Millenium Green Trust Transfer. Councillors Strutton and Swindlehurst declared that they were Members of the Trustee Committee. Both Councillors remained in the meeting and participated in the vote.

3. To Elect the Mayor for the 2020/21 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 Swindlehurst seconded the nomination of Councillor Preston Brooker.

The nomination was put to the vote which was agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That Councillor Preston Brooker be elected as Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the Municipal Year 2020/2021, with effect from 15th June 2020.

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4. To Elect the Deputy Mayor for the 2020/21 Municipal Year

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the ensuing municipal year. Councillor Akram proposed and Councillor Hulme seconded the nomination of Councillor Haqeeq Dar.

The nomination was put to the vote which was agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That Councillor Haqeeq Dar be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the Municipal Year 2020/2021, with effect from 15th June 2020.

5. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 28th January 2020 and 20th February 2020

Resolved – That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 28th January 2020 and 20th February 2020 be approved as a correct record.

6. To receive the Mayor's Communications

The Mayor payed tribute to everyone involved in keeping the residents of Slough safe in the fight against COVID-19, including NHS staff and Slough Borough Council colleagues.

It was confirmed that Father Darcy had agreed to continue to undertake the duties of Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing municipal year. The Mayor thanked Father Darcy for his role and support during her term of office.

Members placed on record a Vote of Thanks to Suzanne Mason, Mayor's Executive Officer and Catherine Meek, Head of Democratic Services; both whom had recently left the authority after many years of service and wished them well for the future.

7. Recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 16th March 2020

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

“The Council is requested to resolve to accept, in principle and subject to completion of due diligence and any requirements of the Charity Commission, the offer of the transfer of the Stabmonk Park Chalvey Millennium Green by the Chalvey Millennium Green Trust to Slough Borough Council, in it's capacity as a corporate trustee of charitable land.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – To accept, in principle and subject to completion of due diligence and any requirements of the Charity Commission, the offer of the transfer of the Stabmonk Park Chalvey Millenium Green by the Chalvey Millenium Green Trust to Slough Borough Council, in it's capacity as a corporate trustee of charitable land.

8. Appointments to Committees, Quasi-Judicial and Other Bodies, Outside Bodies and Allocation of Political Officer Support

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

- a) "Note that Committees are appointed and seats thereon allocated to political groups in accordance with the rules of proportionality as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- b) Endorse the appointments made to Committees (including Chairs and Vice Chairs) at the AGM on 16th May 2019 (and any subsequent changes made by delegated authority) (as set out in Appendix 2 to the report) and approve the changes as set out below:
 - i) Employment and Appeals Committee – Councillor Ali (Chair) in place of Councillor Brooker
 - ii) Employment and Appeals Committee – Councillor Gahir (Vice-Chair) in place of Councillor Bedi
 - iii) Employment and Appeals Committee – Councillor Ajaib to fill the vacancy
 - iv) Berkshire Pension Fund Advisory Panel – Councillor Ali in place of Councillor Brooker
 - v) Appeals Committee – Councillor Chaudhry in place of Councillor Brooker
- c) Receive the report of the Leader on appointment of the Deputy Leader and Lead Members (the Cabinet) and their portfolios (Appendix 2 to the report).
- d) Endorse allocation of Political Officer support as Labour Group 1 FTE (37 hours) and Conservative Group 0.34 FTE (12 hours).
- e) Note that, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, the Leader holds office until 28th November 2021.
- f) Endorse the appointments made to quasi-judicial and other bodies at the AGM on 16th May 2019 (and any subsequent changes made by delegated authority) (as set out in Appendix 3 to the report) and approve the changes as set out below:
 - i) Joint Parenting Panel – Councillor A Cheema to replace Councillor Brooker
 - ii) Foster Panel – Councillor Begum to replace Councillor Brooker
 - iii) SACRE – Councillor H Cheema to replace Councillor Brooker
- g) Endorse appointments made to Outside Bodies at the AGM on 16th May 2019 (and any subsequent changes made by delegated authority) as set out in Appendix 4 to the report and approve the following appointments:
 - Royal Berkshire Fire Authority - Councillor Minhas in place of Councillor Plenty.

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- Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – Councillor A Cheema to replace Councillor Brooker
- South East Employers: Members – Councillors Bains and Swindlehurst, Deputies – Councillors Ali and Gahir.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved –

- a) Note that Committees are appointed and seats thereon allocated to political groups in accordance with the rules of proportionality as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- b) Endorse the appointments made to Committees (including Chairs and Vice Chairs) at the AGM on 16th May 2019 (and any subsequent changes made by delegated authority) (as set out in Appendix 2 to the report) and approve the changes as set out below:
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- Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – Councillor A Cheema to replace Councillor Brooker
- South East Employers: Members – Councillors Bains and Swindlehurst, Deputies – Councillors Ali and Gahir.

9. Localism Act 2011 - Dispensations

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

“The Council is requested to resolve 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.

10. Protocol for Remote Meetings

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

“That the Council resolve to adopt the protocol, as set out in the Appendix to this report, for the holding of meetings which may be attended by Members by remote attendance.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the protocol, as set out in the Appendix to the report, for the holding of meetings which may be attended by Members by remote attendance, be adopted.

11. Six Months Rule under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972

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

“That the Council resolves to note the contents of this report.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the contents of the report be noted.

12. COVID-19 Decisions

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

“The Council is requested to ratify the significant decisions taken by officers since the “lockdown” came into force, as set out in Appendix A.”

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The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the significant decisions taken by officers since the “lockdown” came into force, as set out in Appendix to the report, be ratified.

13. Vote of Thanks

Councillor Swindlehurst moved and Councillor Strutton seconded a vote of thanks to the Mayor for her services during the municipal year.

The Mayor thanked all who had provided her with help and support throughout the year, including the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Brooker. The Mayor also thanked all staff in the Mayoral Office, Facilities and other council departments who had supported her.

The retiring Deputy Mayor, Councillor Brooker, was also thanked for his service during the past municipal year. A number of other Members added their thanks to both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30pm and closed at 7.41pm)