

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Virtual Meeting on Thursday, 24th September, 2020 at 7.00 pm

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

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Basra, N Holledge and Sarfraz

26. Declarations of Interest

Agenda item 12 (Minute 38 refers) - Motion on Extension of Moratorium on Evictions beyond September:- Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Bains, A.Cheema, Gahir, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, D.Parmar, A.Sandhu, R.Sandhu, Sharif and Strutton declared that they were landlords and would not participate or vote on this agenda item.

Agenda item 12 (Minute 38 refers) Motion on Extension of Moratorium on Evictions beyond September - Councillor Sabah declared that due to his employment he would not participate or vote on this item.

27. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 21st July 2020

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on 21st July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

28. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

Members were informed that over the last couple of months certificates commending the work carried out by community groups who had been volunteering during lockdown as part of #OneSlough had been presented and that these presentations would be continuing throughout September and early October keeping to the new Government guidance.

It was noted that the Covid-19 testing centre located at the car park of the former Montem Leisure Centre was not currently accepting drop in's by car and tests would only be carried out by appointments only.

29. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

Six elector questions had been received. Three questioners were present and asked a supplementary question. A copy of the replies would be sent to all electors.

30. Petition - Abolish the Bath Road Bus Lane

The Mayor invited Mr Graham Berridge, the petition organiser to address the meeting, following which

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

“That in accordance with procedure rule 27.1, Rule 11.1 on rules of debate regarding petitions be suspended insofar as is necessary to enable the Lead Member for Sustainable Transport and Environmental Services to deliver a presentation and 30 minutes allocated for the subsequent debate.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Following completion of the presentation and subsequent debate,

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

“That to a jointly chaired meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Neighbourhood and Community Services Panel be convened to allow the Lead Member for Sustainable Transport and Environmental Services and Officers to deliver a further presentation and allow Members the opportunity to debate the issue further before making recommendations.”

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

There voted for the recommendation:

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

There voted against the recommendation:

Councillors Smith, Strutton and Wright..... 3

There abstained from voting on the recommendation:

Councillors Dar, Gahir, Kelly and The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Brooker..... 4

Resolved - That a jointly chaired meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Neighbourhood and Community Services Panel be convened to allow the Lead Member for Transport and Environmental Services and Officers to deliver a further presentation and allow Members the opportunity to debate the issue further before making recommendations.

31. Working Group Establishment and Update

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

- (a) "That an Electoral Cycle and Parliamentary Boundary Working Group be established as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.8 of the report.
- (b) That the Working Group be composed of nine Members in line with political proportionality - Councillors Akram, Dar, Carter, Hulme, Minhas, Mohammad, D.Parmar, Smith and Swindlehurst.
- (c) That the work of the Joint Cabinet-Scrutiny COVID Working Group and the Member Development Task & Finish Group be noted."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved -

- (a) That an Electoral Cycle and Parliamentary Boundary Working Group be established as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.8 of the report.
- (b) That the Working Group be composed of nine Members in line with political proportionality - Councillors Akram, Dar, Carter, Hulme, Minhas, Mohammad, D.Parmar, Smith and Swindlehurst
- (c) That the work of the Joint Cabinet-Scrutiny Covid Working Group and the Member Development Task & Finish Group be noted.

32. Change of Terms of Reference of The Trustee Committee to include Stabmonk Park Chalvey Millenium Green

It was moved by Councillor S Parmar,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

"That the amendments to the terms of reference of the Trustee Committee, as appended to the report, be agreed."

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the amendments to the terms of reference of the Trustee Committee, as appended to the report, be agreed.

33. Appointments to Committees, Panels, Outside Bodies and the Independent School Admission Appeals Panel

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

"(a) That the following be appointed to the Independent School Admissions Panel

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- Mr Kaye-Taylor as an Education Member.
- Mr Krishnamurthy as an Education Member.
- Mr Sheik as a Lay Member.

(b) That Members be appointed to Committees/Panels/Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix A to the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved –

(a) That the following be appointed to the Independent School Admissions Panel

- Mr Kaye-Taylor as an Education Member.
- Mr Krishnamurthy as an Education Member.
- Mr Sheik as a Lay Member.

(b) That Members be appointed to Committees/Panels/Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix A to the report.

34. Dispensation Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972

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

“That failure by Councillor Sunyia Sarfraz to attend any meetings of the Council during the period that she is exercising her rights under the Council’s Parental Leave Policy adopted by the Council on 16 May 2019 be approved as a reason for such failure for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That failure by Councillor Sunyia Sarfraz to attend any meetings of the Council during the period that she is exercising her rights under the Council’s Parental Leave Policy adopted by the Council on 16 May 2019 be approved as a reason for such failure for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

35. COVID-19 Decisions Update

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

“That the report be noted and the significant decisions taken by officers since the previous meeting, as set out in the Appendices 1 and 2, be ratified.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

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Resolved - That the report be noted and the significant decisions taken by officers since the previous meeting, as set out in the Appendices 1 and 2, be ratified.

36. Recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 14th September 2020

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

“That the Statutory Service Plan in relation to the Food Safety, as at Appendix A to the report, be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the Statutory Service Plan in relation to the Food Safety, as at Appendix A to the report, be endorsed.

37. Recommendation of the Member Panel on the Constitution from its meeting held on 15th September 2020

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

- (a) “That the proposed revisions to the SACRE Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix A of this report be approved.
- (b) That the SACRE membership 2020/21, as set out in Appendix D of this report be approved.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved –

- (a) That the proposed revisions to the SACRE Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.
- (b) That the SACRE membership 2020/21, as set out in Appendix D of the report be approved.

(Prior to consideration of the next agenda item, Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Bains, A.Cheema, Gahir, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, D.Parmar, A.Sandhu, R.Sandhu, Sabah, Sharif and Strutton left the meeting)

38. To consider Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 14.

The meeting signified its consent, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15 to allow the motion to be proposed and seconded by Members other than those who had submitted the motion.

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

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“Council notes evidence from Shelter that lifting the moratorium on evictions is likely to unleash an avalanche of homelessness setting back recent progress toward the Council’s goal of ending rough sleeping in Slough.

Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government requesting

- the moratorium on evictions be extended beyond September, allowing for consideration of additional reforms to prevent people losing their homes
- the benefit cap be lifted by the same amount that Local Housing Allowances have increased
- the government delivers on its commitment made some time ago to abolish section 21.”

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

There voted for the motion:

Councillors Ali, Anderson, Bedi, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, H.Cheema, Dar, Davis, Dhaliwal, Hulme, Mann, Minhas, Pantelic, S.Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem and Swindlehurst..... 18

There voted against the motion:

Councillors Kelly, Smith and Wright..... 3

There abstained from voting on the motion:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Brooker 1

Resolved -

Council notes evidence from Shelter that lifting the moratorium on evictions is likely to unleash an avalanche of homelessness setting back recent progress toward the Council’s goal of ending rough sleeping in Slough.

Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government requesting:

- the moratorium on evictions be extended beyond September, allowing for consideration of additional reforms to prevent people losing their homes
- the benefit cap be lifted by the same amount that Local Housing Allowances have increased
- the government delivers on its commitment made some time ago to abolish section 21.

39. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

Two member questions and replies were noted for information.

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40. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved - That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the item to be considered contains exempt information relating to individuals as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

41. Our Futures Programme - Approval of Recruitment and Severance Packages

Below is a summary of the matter considered in Part II of the meeting.

The recruitment and severance packages for the Our Futures Programme, as set out in the appendices to the report, were approved.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.50 pm)