

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Tuesday, 26th November, 2019 at 7.00 pm

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor (A.Cheema), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Begum, Brooker, H Cheema, Davis, Dhaliwal, Gahir, M Holledge (left at 9.08pm), N Holledge (left at 9.08pm), Hulme, Kelly, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D Parmar, S Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rasib, Sabah, Sadiq, A Sandhu, R Sandhu, Sarfraz, Sharif, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright.

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors Bedi, Chaudhry, Dar and Minhas.

### 29. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

### 30. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 26th September 2019

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be approved as a correct record.

### 31. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor thanked Members who attended the events arranged throughout the Borough for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. The efforts made to mark these important occasions were very well received by both the organisations involved and the public.

Members were informed that the Mayor's Christmas Celebration Evening would be held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December.

The Mayor reminded those Members who had not confirmed whether they were attending the 550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the birth of Guru Nanak Dev to do so as soon as possible as this would assist in finalising arrangements for the evening.

### 32. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

Six elector questions had been received and tabled. Four of the questioners were present and had the opportunity to ask a supplementary question. A written copy of the replies would be sent to the electors.

### 33. Town Centre Development Update - Presentation from the Leader of the Council and Lead Members.

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

## **Council - 26.11.19**

“That in accordance with procedure rule 27.1, Rule 16.5 on rules of debate be suspended insofar as is necessary to enable the Leader and Lead Members to deliver a thirty five minute presentation on the Town Centre Development Update.”

The procedural motion was put and carried.

**Resolved** – That the rules of debate be suspended to enable the Leader and Lead Members to deliver a thirty five minute presentation on the Town Centre Development.

Leader of the Council and Lead Members delivered a short presentation on the proposed plans for the development of the town centre. A number of questions were asked in the ensuing debate.

**Resolved** – That details of the Town Centre Development Update be noted.

### **34. Scale of Charges relating to Local Government Elections**

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

- (a) “That the scale of fees attached at Appendix A to the report be fixed for Borough and Parish Council elections.
- (b) That the fee scale be updated annually in line with paragraph 4.4 of the report.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

**Resolved** –

- (a) That the scale of fees attached at Appendix A to the report be fixed for Borough and Parish Council elections.
- (b) That the fee scale be updated annually in line with paragraph 4.4 of the report.

### **35. Flag Regulations**

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

- (a) “That the Council’s Flag Regulations be approved as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.
- (b) That a third flagpole be provided at the entrance to Observatory House.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the Council's Flag Regulations be approved as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.
- (b) That a third flagpole be provided at the entrance to Observatory House.

**36. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.**

A) Government Funding Cuts to Thames Valley Police

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

“Council agrees with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) that £100 million of government cuts to Thames Valley Police (TVP) has created budget pressures that risks leading to ‘unacceptable reductions in resources which would impact frontline policing and result in a service less able to respond to demand.’ Therefore Council resolves that the Leader of the Council write to the PCC to establish;

- What further ‘unacceptable reductions in resources’ will result from the next round of funding reductions, totalling £15 million, announced for TVP funding over the next 4 years;
- How this will affect crime levels which have already risen 8.7% over the past year and increased 999 calls by 11.1%
- What plans are in place to increase 101 call centre staff given that staffing reductions have led to an increase in average pick up times of 6 minutes
- Given that the 12% rise in the police element of council tax, combined with £100 million government cuts have led to 50% of police funding now falling directly on local taxpayers what plans does the PCC have to secure more real terms funding from Government.”

The motion was put to the vote and carried with 28 votes For, 4 Against and 2 Abstentions.

**Resolved –**

Council agrees with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) that £100 million of government cuts to Thames Valley Police (TVP) has created budget pressures that risks leading to ‘unacceptable reductions in resources which would impact frontline policing and result in a service less able to respond to demand.’ Therefore Council resolves that the Leader of the Council write to the PCC to establish;

- What further ‘unacceptable reductions in resources’ will result from the next round of funding reductions, totalling £15 million, announced for TVP funding over the next 4 years;
- How this will affect crime levels which have already risen 8.7% over the past year and increased 999 calls by 11.1%

## Council - 26.11.19

- What plans are in place to increase 101 call centre staff given that staffing reductions have led to an increase in average pick up times of 6 minutes
- Given that the 12% rise in the police element of council tax, combined with £100 million government cuts have led to 50% of police funding now falling directly on local taxpayers what plans does the PCC have to secure more real terms funding from Government.

*(Councillors M.Holledge and N.Holledge left the meeting)*

### B) Town Centre Parking

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

“This Council resolves to

- a) Acknowledge:
- That with Slough being ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority within the South East, it is crucial we reduce access barriers such as expensive town centre parking which presents a key challenge for residents.
  - The results of the Council town centre survey support this, with 53% of residents naming free parking as one of the top priorities.
  - Two thirds of respondents (64%) do not visit the Town Centre in the evening at all.
  - Slough’s significant decline in retail ranking [to] 190<sup>th</sup> in 2019, according to latest research conducted by Javelin Venue Score.
- b) Trial free parking and suspend parking fees for the first three hours of parking, in the town centre and in all Council owned off-street car parks, between the period 12<sup>th</sup> December-10<sup>th</sup> January.
- c) Conduct a financial impact assessment during this period, so as to inform the Council of the financial implications and benefits of continuing to offer free parking throughout the year for three hours, in order to improve accessibility and footfall.
- d) Report back the results to Full Council in February 2020, including an analysis of the Council parking account and cost up options of free parking as part of this assessment, to boost trade for local businesses and reduce access barriers for local residents.”

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

“This Council ~~resolves~~ recognises Christmas can be a time when finances are under pressure and

~~a) Acknowledge:~~

## Council - 26.11.19

- ~~• That with Slough being ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority within the South East, it is crucial we reduce access barriers such as expensive town centre parking which presents a key challenge for residents.~~
  - ~~• The results of the Council town centre survey support this, with 53% of residents naming free parking as one of the top priorities.~~
  - ~~• Two thirds of respondents (64%) do not visit the Town Centre in the evening at all.~~
  - ~~• Slough's significant decline in retail ranking [to] 190<sup>th</sup> in 2019, according to latest research conducted by Javelin Venue Score.~~
- b) ~~Trial~~ therefore resolves to offer free weekend parking at Herschel Car Park and suspend parking fees for the first three hours of parking, in the town centre and in all Council owned off street car parks, between over the Christmas period 12<sup>th</sup> December 10<sup>th</sup> January. (28/11/19-5/1/2020)
- c) ~~Conduct a financial impact assessment during this period, so as to inform the Council of the financial implications and benefits of continuing to offer free parking throughout the year for three hours, in order to improve accessibility and footfall.~~
- d) ~~Report back the results to Full Council in February 2020, including an analysis of the Council parking account and cost up options of free parking as part of this assessment, to boost trade for local businesses and reduce access barriers for local residents.~~

The amendment was put to the vote and carried with 26 votes For, 4 Against and 2 Abstentions.

The amendment became the substantive motion and was agreed unanimously.

**Resolved** – This Council recognises Christmas can be a time when finances are under pressure and therefore resolves to offer free weekend parking at Herschel Car Park in the town centre over the Christmas period (29/11/19 – 5/1/2020)

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

A Member question and reply had been received which were tabled.

### 38. Exclusion of the Press and Public

**Resolved** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items in Part II of the agenda as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 the Schedule 12A the Local Government Act 1972.

## **Council - 26.11.19**

Below is a summary of the matters considered during Part II of the agenda.

### **39. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 14th October 2019**

It was agreed that the revisions set out in the report be made to the capital programme in relation to the Heart of Slough- Old Library Site.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.05 pm and closed at 9.48 pm)