

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Town Hall, Slough on Tuesday, 24th November, 2009 at 7.00 pm.

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bal) in the Chair; Councillors Anderson, Basharat, Buchanan, S Chaudhry, Chohan, P Choudhry, Cryer, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, S K Dhaliwal, Dhillon, Dodds, Finn, Grewal, Haines, Hewitt, Jenkins, Latif Khan, Long, Maclsaac, Mann, Matloob, O'Connor, Pabbi, Pantelic, Parmar, Plimmer, Qureshi, Rasib, Shine, Small, Stokes, Swindlehurst (from 7.15 p.m.), Walsh, Wright and Zarait.

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors Bains, Coad, Dale-Gough and Munkley.

### PRAYERS

At the request of the Mayor, his Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Hillier, said prayers.

#### 47. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Basharat declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 (Recommendations of the Licensing Committee) as he was employed as a taxi driver in Slough.

Councillor Davis declared a personal interest in that members of his family were employed by Burnham Cabs.

The Worshipful the Mayor declared a personal interest in that members of his family worked for the Borough Council.

#### 48. Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meetings held on 24th September and 19th October, 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

#### 49. Mayor's Communications

##### Mr Mike Norman

The Council stood for a Minute's silence as a mark of respect to former Councillor Mike Norman, who had recently passed away. The Mayor placed on record the Council's condolences to his family.

##### Annual Remembrance Sunday Services

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The Mayor thanked those members who had attended the events arranged throughout the Borough for Remembrance Sunday and the Armistice Day two minutes silence in the Town Square.

### Christmas Lights

The Mayor advised that the Christmas lights had been switched on in town on the previous Thursday to mark the launch of the Christmas season in Slough.

### Refreshments

The Mayor invited Members to join him in the Mayor's Parlour at the end of the meeting for refreshments to celebrate the forthcoming festive season.

## **50. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9**

The Mayor advised that ten questions had been received from residents and electors, copies of which had been tabled. The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council responded to questions and supplementary questions from those questioners present. In respect of questions where the questioners were not in attendance, a reply would be forwarded to them within five working days. Copies of all replies would be forwarded to all Members as well as to the press.

## **51. Questions from Members re the Thames Valley Police Authority under Procedure Rule 10**

None received.

## **52. Recommendations of the Licensing Committee of 29th September and 4th November, 2009**

### **(A) Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles 2009**

It was moved by Councillor Davis,  
Seconded by Councillor Chohan,

“That the recommendation as set out in the report be approved and adopted”.

The recommendation was put and carried.

**Resolved –** That the Council adopt the Gambling Act 2009 - Statement of Principles (as amended 2009) as the Council's Gambling Policy.

### **(B) Policy of Not Licensing Private Hire Operators based outside the Borough**

It was moved by Councillor Davis,  
Seconded by Councillor Chohan,

“That the recommendations as set out in the report be approved and adopted”.

The recommendations were put and carried.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That a policy not to licence any new private hire operator based outside the borough be adopted.
- (b) That any private hire operator currently licensed by Slough Borough Council based outside the Borough boundary will be given written notice that their operator's licence will only continue for maximum period of 12 months from the date of the Council decision.
- (c) That any private hire operator currently licensed by Slough Borough Council based outside the Borough boundary may renew their operator's licence but only for the maximum period of 12 months from the date of the Council decision.

**(C) Adoption of the Department for Transport Taxi & Private Hire Licensing: Best Practice Guidance in relation to Stretch Limousines & Introduction of a Vehicle Age Policy for such vehicles**

It was moved by Councillor Davis,  
Seconded by Councillor Chohan,

“That the recommendations as set out in the report be approved and adopted”.

The recommendations were put and carried.

**Resolved –** That there will be no limit on the age of stretch limousines to be licensed. However all vehicles must be presented for inspection by Licensing Officers prior to licensing and the following criteria are to be met by stretch limousines to be licensed by the Council:

- (a) All vehicles must be constructed to carry no more than eight passengers.
- (b) A valid Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) certificate must accompany a licence application, without which, no licence shall be issued.
- (c) All vehicles must obtain a Slough Borough Council issued Certificate of Compliance from a designated garage every six months so long as the vehicle is licensed.
- (d) Appropriate seat belts must be provided for all passengers in the forward and rearward facing seats.
- (e) All tyres and rims must comply with or exceed the vehicle manufacturer's requirements or specifications.

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- (f) All windows in the drivers cab area shall conform to current legislation with regards to tints.
- (g) All glassware provided by the proprietor for use in the vehicle shall be in polycarbonate or shatter-proof glass.

**(D) Minimum size of vehicles to be licensed as Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles**

It was moved by Councillor Davis,  
Seconded by Councillor Chohan,

“That the recommendations as set out in the report be approved and adopted”.

The recommendations were put and carried.

**Resolved –** That a new policy in respect of the minimum sizes to be met by hackney carriage and private hire saloon vehicles be approved as follows:-

- (a) Any vehicle that is to be licensed by Slough Borough Council must be in the Euro NCAP or European Classification groups and that:
  - (i) (Only those vehicles that fall into the following Euro NCAP categories; Large family, Executive, Small MPV\*, Large MPV, Large Off-Road 4x4 (European Commission classification D, E, F M\* and J\*\*))
  - (ii) \* Only the compact MPV categories shall be licensed in the M segment and these vehicles shall only be licensed to carry 4 passengers.
  - (iii) \*\* Only the large off road 4x4 vehicles shall be licensed in the J segment.
- (b) Any vehicle that is presented for licensing by Slough Borough Council that does not meet these minimum standards, will not be licensed.

**53. Recommendations of the Planning Committee - Delegation of Functions to Officers**

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

“That the recommendations of the Planning Committee as set out in the report circulated on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009, be approved and adopted”.

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Hewitt,  
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan,

“That in accordance with Procedure Rule 27, Procedure Rule 13.1 be suspended to allow for an amendment to the recommendations of the Planning Committee to be considered”.

The Council indicated its agreement.

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Hewitt,  
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan,

“That the recommendations in respect of Paragraph 5.6, Extension of Time Limits be amended to read:”

“Applications to extend time limits on planning permissions made in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment No 3) (England) Order 2009 subject to,

- (i) each period of extension being for a standard fixed period of six months.
- (ii) no applicant be allowed more than a maximum of two periods of extension”.

The amendment was put and lost by 16 votes to 20 votes with 1 abstention.

The recommendations were then put to the vote and carried by 21 votes to 8 votes with 7 abstentions.

**Resolved** - (a) That the proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers be approved with immediate effect as follows:-

- (i) That the Scheme of Delegation, Development Control Functions, Appendix 2, be amended to include:

‘Applications to extend the time limits on planning permissions made in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure (Amendment No 3) (England) Order 2009’.

- (ii) That the Scheme of Delegation, Development Control Functions, Appendix 2, be amended to include:

‘Applications made pursuant to Section 96A of the Town and Country Planning Act for non material changes to planning permission in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure (Amendment No 3) (England) Order 2009 and any other regulations and guidance relating to this provision’.

- (iii) That item 5, Development Control Functions, Appendix 2 be updated to refer to Article 3(2) of the Town and

Country Planning General Development Procedure Order 1995.

- (iv) That Development Control Functions, Scheme of Delegation, Appendix 2, be amended to include:

‘Applications for the prior notification of the demolition of buildings pursuant to Part 31 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1995’.

- (v) That item 42 in the Scheme of Delegation be replaced with:

‘Determination of applications for advertisement consent made in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 and in consultation with the Borough Secretary and Solicitor the powers in these regulations relating to the discontinuance of deemed consent’.

- (b) That the Constitution be amended accordingly.

**54. Members' Performance Monitoring - Attendance Record 2008/09**

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

“That the report be noted”.

**Resolved** - That the Member’s Performance Monitoring Report- Attendance Record 2008/2009 be noted.

**55. Appointment of Additional Member to the School Admission/ Exclusion Independent Appeals Panel**

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

“That the recommendation as set out in the report be approved and adopted”.

The recommendation was put and carried.

**Resolved** - That Jacqui Morgan be appointed with immediate effect to the Independent Appeals Panel to hear appeals from parents in respect of school exclusions and admissions.

**56. Motions**

**Motion (A) – Public confidence in Governmental Bodies and Democratic Institutions**

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It was moved by Councillor Cryer,  
Seconded by Councillor Stokes,

“This Council,

- Notes with concern that every reputable opinion poll organisation has confirmed that politicians constitute the most mistrusted and disliked occupation in the U.K.
- Regrets that this public suspicion and hostility extends to both MPs at national government level and to Councillors at local government level.
- Recognises the need to restore public confidence in our governmental bodies and democratic institutions.
- Accordingly asks our MPs (whose record on the expenses scandal has been commendable) to use their best endeavours to persuade the Government to take more positive action against those MPs who have been guilty of misdemeanours.
- Accepts that people are entitled to change their political opinions and allegiance in a democracy but should do so on the basis of honesty and conviction rather than political opportunism and financial gain,
- At local level calls on all Slough Borough Councillors to refrain from behind the scenes machinations whereby Councillors are invited to change political allegiance on the promise of financial reward and appointment to the Mayoralty, Deputy Mayoralty, a Cabinet Commissioner post, or other position of Office.”

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

“That the motion be amended to read as follows:

‘This Council,

- Notes with concern that every reputable opinion poll organisation has confirmed that politicians constitute the most mistrusted and disliked occupation in the U.K.
- Regrets that this public suspicion and hostility extends to both MPs at national government level and to Councillors at local government level.
- Recognises the need to restore public confidence in our governmental bodies and democratic institutions.
- Accordingly asks our MPs (whose record on the expenses scandal has been commendable) to use their best endeavours to persuade the Government to take more positive action against those MPs who have been guilty of misdemeanours.
- Accepts that people are entitled to change their political opinions and allegiance in a democracy but should do so on the basis of honesty and conviction rather than political opportunism and financial gain,
- At local level calls on all Slough Borough Councillors to refrain from behind the scenes machinations whereby Councillors are invited to change political allegiance on the promise of financial reward and appointment to the Mayoralty, Deputy Mayoralty, a Cabinet Commissioner post, or other position of Office.”

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- Calls on the Government to introduce legislation to require any elected representative who defects from one political group to any other with more than 6 months left of her or his term of office, to stand down and seek re-election under their new colours”.

Councillors Cryer and Stokes, as mover and seconder of the original motion, indicated their consent to the amendment if the word ‘introduce’ in the first line of the amendment was replaced with ‘consider introducing’.

Councillor Anderson indicated his agreement and the Council agreed to the amendment being incorporated into the motion.

The amended motion was put and carried by 23 votes to 0 votes with 13 abstentions and, following a prior request for a record of the voting:-

There voted for the motion -

Councillors Anderson, S Chaudhry, Cryer, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, S K Dhaliwal, Dodds, Grewal, Long, Mann, Matloob, O’Connor, Pabbi, Pantelic, Parmar, Qureshi, Rasib, Shine, Small, Stokes, Swindlehurst, Walsh and Zarait ..... 23

There voted against the motion:-

None ..... 0

There abstained from the voting:-

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillors Basharat, Buchanan, P Choudhry, Dhillon, Finn, Haines, Hewitt, Jenkins, L Khan, Maclsaac, Plimmer and Wright .....13

Not present during the voting:-

Councillor Chohan ..... 1

**Resolved** – That this Council:

- Notes with concern that every reputable opinion poll organisation has confirmed that politicians constitute the most mistrusted and disliked occupation in the U.K.
- Regrets that this public suspicion and hostility extends to both MPs at national government level and to Councillors at local government level.
- Recognises the need to restore public confidence in our governmental bodies and democratic institutions.
- Accordingly asks our MPs (whose record on the expenses scandal has been commendable) to use their best endeavours to persuade the Government to take more positive action against those MPs who have been guilty of misdemeanours.
- Accepts that people are entitled to change their political opinions and allegiance in a democracy but should do so on the



basis of honesty and conviction rather than political opportunism and financial gain,

- At local level calls on all Slough Borough Councillors to refrain from behind the scenes machinations whereby Councillors are invited to change political allegiance on the promise of financial reward and appointment to the Mayoralty, Deputy Mayoralty, a Cabinet Commissioner post, or other position of Office.
- Calls on the Government to consider introducing legislation to require any elected representative who defects from one political group to any other with more than six months left of her/his term of office, to stand down and seek re-election under their new colours.

**Motion (B) – Key Stage 2 SATs results**

It was moved by Councillor Choudhry,  
Seconded by Councillor Hewitt,

“The Council:-

1. Is seriously concerned that Slough Borough Council has been placed in 141<sup>st</sup> position out of 152 local authorities in relation to the Key Stage 2 results of SATs (Standard Attainment Tests), despite the hard work and efforts of head teachers and their staff in primary schools.
2. Calls upon Councillor Pantelic, Commissioner for Education & Children’s Services, to tell us of the measures that she had recommended that schools implement to remedy the situation.
3. The same Councillor to report back to full Council in five months’ time to report upon the results of implementing these recommended measures.”

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Stokes,  
Seconded by Councillor Haines,

“That the motion be amended to read as follows:-

“The Council:-

1. Is seriously concerned that Slough Borough Council has been placed in 141<sup>st</sup> position out of 152 local authorities in relation to the Key Stage 2 results of SATs (Standard Attainment Tests), despite the hard work and efforts of head teachers and their staff in primary schools.
2. Calls upon Councillor Pantelic, Commissioner for Education & Children’s Services, to tell us of the measures that she had recommended that schools implement to remedy the situation.
3. Also calls upon Councillor Pantelic, Commissioner for Education and Children’s Services, to report on any meetings she may have had with the N.U.T and other Teachers Unions on SATS issues and, if she has had no

meetings with union representatives, to explain why the unions have not been consulted.

4. The same CommissionerCouncillor to report back to full Council in five months' time to report upon the results of implementing these recommended measures."

The amendment was put and lost by 16 votes to 20 votes with 1 abstention.

The motion was then put and lost by 16 votes to 20 votes with 1 abstention.

**Resolved-** That Motion (B) - Key Stage 2 SATs results be rejected.

**Motion (C) – Child Poverty in Slough**

It was moved by Councillor Stokes,  
Seconded by Councillor Maclsaac,

"This Council:-

- Notes that under Labour, child poverty in Slough has continued to deepen. The town's 2009 Health Profile reveals a number of indices that demonstrate the deprivation that continues to blight far too many of our young people's lives. Children in poverty; children's tooth decay; a lower proportion of children leading active lifestyles; and drug abuse – the rates of which all remain worse in slough than the UK average.
- Notes with concern that according to government statistics collected by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation: 24% of children in the borough live in families who are in receipt of key out-of-work benefits; 25% of the Borough's pupils fail to achieve level 4 in key stage 2 Maths & English; 21% of working age households are in receipt of tax credits; while 21% of employees in the Borough are paid less than £7 an hour.
- Condemns the Labour administration, both nationally and locally, for a failure to tackle child poverty effectively.
- Calls on the Council to urgently formulate a strategy for tackling child poverty in the borough and to mitigate against the effects of 12 years of failed Labour governance nationally."

The motion was put and lost by 16 votes to 20 votes with 1 abstention.

**Resolved-** That Motion (C) – Child Poverty in Slough, be rejected.

**57. Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10**

Questions from Members together with responses received from relevant Chairs and Commissioners were tabled.

**58. Minutes of the Cabinet and Committees**

The minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet and Committees held since the last ordinary meeting of the Council were received as follows:-

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Planning Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 .  
Audit Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.  
Cabinet – 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2009.  
Employment and Appeals Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2009.  
Licensing Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.  
Standards Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.  
Planning Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.  
Overview and Scrutiny – 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.55 pm)

Chair