

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at The Curve - William Street, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 1XY on Tuesday, 31st January, 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Arvind Dhaliwal), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Bal, Bedi, Brooker, Carter, Chahal, Chaudhry, Dar, Davis, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, M Holledge, N Holledge, Hussain, Mann, Matloob, Munawar, Nazir, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rana, Rasib, Sadiq, A Sandhu, R Sandhu, Sarfraz, Shah, Sharif, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Cheema, Chohan, Coad and Morris

48. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughter worked at Slough Borough Council

Agenda item 5: Petition Ten Pin Bowling - Councillor Brooker declared that his daughter was employed at Salt Hill Leisure Facility and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

49. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 29 November 2016 and 22 December 2016.

Resolved - That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th November 2016 and Part I minutes from 22nd December 2016 be approved as a correct record.

50. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor informed the meeting that Councillor Morris had recently been admitted to hospital and was waiting to be transferred to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford for surgery later that week. Members wished Councillor Morris best wishes for his surgery and return to better health.

51. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

The Mayor advised that two elector questions had been received within the relevant time period. It was noted that the questioners were not present and a written copy of the replies would be forwarded to them.

52. Petition: Salt Hill Leisure Facility - Ten Pin Bowling

(Councillor Brooker left the meeting during consideration of this item)

The Mayor invited Mr Whitehouse, Chief Executive of Slough Community Leisure (SCL) who had organised the 1518 signature petition, and Mr Ali, Trustee of SCL to address the meeting.

Following completion of the subsequent debate,

It was moved by Councillor Bal,
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

“That no further action be taken with regard to the petition.”

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

There voted for the proposal:

Councillors Ajaib, Anderson, Bal, Bedi, Carter, Chaudhry, Dar, Davis, M
Hollidge, N Hollidge, Hussain, Mann, Matloob, Munawar, Nazir, Pantelic,
Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rana, Rasib, Sadiq, A.Sandhu, Sarfraz, Shah, Sharif,
Sohal, Swindlehurst and Usmani 29

There voted against the proposal:

Councillors Bains, Chahal, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, R S Sandhu, Smith, Strutton and
Wright 7

There abstained from voting:

The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Arvind Dhaliwal 1

Resolved – That no further action be taken with regard to the petition.

(Councillor Brooker re-joined the meeting)

53. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meetings held on 19th December 2016 and 23rd January 2017

‘A’ - Proposal to Establish Housing Company Group Structure

It was proposed by Councillor Ajaib,
Seconded by Councillor Munawar,

- “(a) That the Cabinet decision taken on 19th December 2016 to establish two wholly owned subsidiary housing companies be noted, including the matters resolved as detailed in paragraph 6.1 of the report.

Council - 31.01.17

- (b) That up to £3.1m of additional capital expenditure be incurred for Slough Homes to acquire suitable properties, which will be secured on property, and that £28m be allocated to Herschel Homes and £23.4m allocated to Slough Homes in the period to 31 March 2019 to acquire properties as set out in the business plan.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried by 30 votes to 7 votes with 1 abstention.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Cabinet decision taken on 19th December 2016 to establish two wholly owned subsidiary housing companies be noted, including the matters resolved as detailed in paragraph 6.1 of the report.
- (b) That up to £3.1m of additional capital expenditure be incurred for Slough Homes to acquire suitable properties, which will be secured on property, and that £28m be allocated to Herschel Homes and £23.4m allocated to Slough Homes in the period to 31 March 2019 to acquire properties as set out in the business plan.

‘B’ - Five Year Plan 2017-2021

It was proposed by Councillor Munawar,
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

“That the refresh of the Five Year Plan, attached at Appendix A to the report, be agreed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the refresh of the Five Year Plan, attached at Appendix A to the report, be agreed.

‘C’ – Housing Revenue Account Rents & Service Charges 2017-18

It was proposed by Councillor Ajaib,
Seconded by Councillor Munawar,

- “(a) That Council house dwelling rents for 2017/18 to decrease by 1% over the 2016/17 rent with effect from Monday 3rd April 2017. This is in line with current government guidelines and legislation.
- (b) That Garage rents, heating, utility and ancillary charges to increase by 2.0% with effect from Monday 3rd April 2017. This is based upon the September RPI figure.
- (c) That Service charges to increase by 2.0% with effect from Monday 3rd April 2017. This is based upon the September RPI figure.

Council - 31.01.17

- (d) That 'other committee' property rents to increase by an average of 2.0% from Monday 3rd April 2017 in line with the September RPI figure."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved –

- (a) That Council house dwelling rents for 2017/18 to decrease by 1% over the 2016/17 rent with effect from Monday 3rd April 2017. This is in line with current government guidelines and legislation.
- (b) That Garage rents, heating, utility and ancillary charges to increase by 2.0% with effect from Monday 3rd April 2017. This is based upon the September RPI figure.
- (c) That Service charges to increase by 2.0% with effect from Monday 3rd April 2017. This is based upon the September RPI figure.
- (d) That 'other committee' property rents to increase by an average of 2.0% from Monday 3rd April 2017 in line with the September RPI figure.

54. Review of Constitution

It was proposed by Councillor Hussain,
Seconded by Councillor Munawar,

- “(a) That the Developer’s briefings to Planning Committee Protocol as set out at Appendix A be approved and incorporated into the Constitution.
- (b) That the amendments to Part 5.2 of the Constitution - Code of Conduct for Councillors and Officers in relation to Planning and Licensing matters as set out in Appendix B be approved.
- (c) That Part 3.6 of the Constitution – Scheme of Delegation to Officers – Proper Officer Functions – Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 be amended as set out in Appendix C.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Developer’s briefings to Planning Committee Protocol as set out at Appendix A be approved and incorporated into the Constitution.
- (b) That the amendments to Part 5.2 of the Constitution - Code of Conduct for Councillors and Officers in relation to Planning and Licensing matters as set out in Appendix B be approved.

Council - 31.01.17

- (c) That Part 3.6 of the Constitution – Scheme of Delegation to Officers – Proper Officer Functions – Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 be amended as set out in Appendix C.

55. Appointment of Interim Head of Paid Service

It was proposed by Councillor Munawar,
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

“That Roger Parkin, Interim Chief Executive, be appointed as the Council’s Interim Head of Paid Services with effect from 1st February, 2017.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That Roger Parkin, Interim Chief Executive, be appointed as the Council’s Interim Head of Paid Services with effect from 1st February, 2017.

56. Appointment Process for Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)

Councillor Munawar moved, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

- “(a) That the job description, person specification, terms and conditions and the advert for the post of Chief Executive as attached at Appendices A to D of the Council report) be approved;
- (b) That, in view of the nature of the post, an exception be made to the Council’s Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure and that the recruitment process be as follows:
- The post be advertised internally and externally simultaneously;
 - All internal applicants that meet the person specification for the post be guaranteed an interview.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried by 36 votes to 1 vote with 1 abstention.

Resolved -

- (a) That the job description, person specification, terms and conditions and the advert for the post of Chief Executive as attached at Appendices A to D of the Council report) be approved;
- (b) That, in view of the nature of the post, an exception be made to the Council’s Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure and that the recruitment process be as follows:
- The post be advertised internally and externally simultaneously;

Council - 31.01.17

- All internal applicants that meet the person specification for the post be guaranteed an interview.

57. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

A) Electoral Fraud

It was moved by Councillor Bains,
Seconded by Councillor Amarpreet Dhaliwal,

“This Council resolves to:

- Welcome the Government’s announcement in December 2016 that it will introduce a number of measures to combat electoral fraud, in response to Sir Eric Pickles’ independent report [‘Securing the Ballot’](#), and
- Encourage the Council’s Returning Officer to work with the Cabinet Office to ensure that Slough bids to be involved in a pilot scheme to trial recommendations such as piloting the use of ID in polling stations across Slough at the next Local Government elections in 2018.”

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved -

- That the Government’s announcement in December 2016 that it will introduce a number of measures to combat electoral fraud, in response to Sir Eric Pickles’ independent report [‘Securing the Ballot’](#), be welcomed and
- That the Council’s Returning Officer be encouraged to work with the Cabinet Office to ensure that Slough bids to be involved in a pilot scheme to trial recommendations such as piloting the use of ID in polling stations across Slough at the next Local Government elections in 2018.

(Councillor Sharif left the meeting)

B) Education Funding Reductions

It was moved by Councillor Hussain,
Seconded by Councillor Brooker,

“This Council opposes the governments planned £12.4 million cuts to Slough’s schools. Therefore the Council resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Education to oppose these cuts and seek assurances that they will not adversely affect our children’s attainment;
- Write to our local MP to ensure that the cuts facing our schools are raised in Parliament;
- Write to Slough’s schools to ensure they are prepared for the level of cuts they face and ascertain what support they require to continue to provide our children with an excellent education;

Council - 31.01.17

- Request the Education and Children's Service Scrutiny Panel look into the cuts planned for Slough's schools as a matter of urgency."

It was moved by Councillor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Bains,

"This Council opposes the governments planned £12.4 million any funding cuts to Slough's schools. Therefore the Council resolves to:

~~Write to the Secretary of State for Education to oppose these cuts and seek assurances that they will not adversely affect our children's attainment;~~
~~Write to our local MP to ensure that the cuts facing our schools are raised in Parliament;~~
~~Write to Slough's schools to ensure they are prepared for the level of cuts they face and ascertain what support they require to continue to provide our children with an excellent education;~~

- Engage the government through the Schools National Funding Formula Stage 2 consultation to articulate the issues faced by Slough and put forward its own recommendations towards the fairer funding formula.
- Request the Education and Children's Service Scrutiny Panel look into the any cuts planned for Slough's schools when the new fairer funding formula is released.
- Appoint a dedicated Education & Children's services cabinet commissioner to focus on resisting and mitigating against any detrimental funding outcomes.

The amendment was put to the vote with 7 votes for 29 against and 1 abstention. The amendment to the motion was lost.

It was moved by Councillor Hussain, as an amendment to the original motion,
Seconded by Councillor Brooker,

"This Council opposes the governments planned £12.4 million cuts and any funding cuts to Slough's schools. Therefore the Council resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Education to oppose these cuts and seek assurances that they will not adversely affect our children's attainment;
- Write to our local MPs to ensure that the cuts facing our schools are raised in Parliament;
- Write to Slough's schools to ensure they are prepared for the level of cuts they face and ascertain what support they require to continue to provide our children with an excellent education;
- Request the Education and Children's Service Scrutiny Panel look into the cuts planned for Slough's schools as a matter of urgency."

The amended motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the Council opposes the governments planned cuts and any funding cuts to Slough's schools and resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Education to oppose these cuts and seek assurances that they will not adversely affect our children's attainment;
- Write to our local MPs to ensure that the cuts facing our schools are raised in Parliament;
- Write to Slough's schools to ensure they are prepared for the level of cuts they face and ascertain what support they require to continue to provide our children with an excellent education;
- Request the Education and Children's Service Scrutiny Panel look into the cuts planned for Slough's schools as a matter of urgency.

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

A copy of the question, and reply to the question, submitted by Councillor Swindlehurst was tabled.

59. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved - That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item in Part 2 of the Agenda, as it involves information relating to an individual and the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information) as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (amended).

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.33 pm)