

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the The Curve - William Street, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 1XY on Tuesday, 25th July, 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Shah), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Bal, Bedi, Brooker, Carter, Chaudhry, Cheema, Chohan (until 7.58pm), Coad, Dar, Davis, M Holledge, N Holledge, Hussain, Kelly, Matloob, Munawar, Nazir, Pantelic (from 7.11pm), Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rana, Rasib, Sadiq, A Sandhu, Sarfraz, Sharif, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst (from 7.08pm), Usmani and Wright.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Chahal, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Arvind Dhaliwal, Mann, R Sandhu and Smith.

11. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughter worked for Slough Borough Council.

Councillor Munawar declared that his son worked for arvato.

12. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 18th May 2017

Resolved – That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 18th May 2017 be approved as a correct record.

13. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Mayor's Reception, held on 29th June, had been a very successful evening and thanked all those Members and Guests who had attended.

Members were informed that the Civic Service was scheduled to take place on Sunday, 8th October 2017 at St Mary's Church, Slough commencing at 11.00am and invitation details would be sent out in due course.

14. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

The Mayor advised that two questions had been received from residents, copies of which had been tabled. Both electors were in attendance and asked supplementary questions following the response to their original question. Copies of the questions and replies would be forwarded to the questioners.

15. Recommendation of the Slough Wellbeing Board from it's meeting held on 10 May 2017

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

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“That the Slough Wellbeing Board’s Annual Report for 2016/17 be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Slough Wellbeing Board’s Annual Report for 2016/17 be endorsed.

16. Recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 17th July 2017

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

“That the Statutory Service Plans in relation to the Food Safety, Health & Safety and Trading Standards Services be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Statutory Service Plans in relation to the Food Safety, Health & Safety and Trading Standards Services be endorsed.

17. Salt Hill Park - Proposed Improvement Works

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

“That Members of Slough Borough Council in their capacity as Trustees of the Salt Hill Playing Fields approve the improvement works to the land of the Trust comprising the access to the playing fields off the main Bath Road entrance (Appendix 1 to the report) and authorise any applications for the consent of the Charity Commission which may be required in connection with such works.”

The meeting was adjourned at 7.58pm to allow Members an opportunity to inspect the 1907 Souvenir Booklet relating to the Salt Hill Playing Fields, which incorporated the conveyance (indenture) of 13 August 1906 which constitutes the Trust Deed relating to the Salt Hill Playing fields.

(Councillor Chohan left the meeting)

The meeting re-convened at 8.06pm.

It was moved by Councillor Pantelic, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Strutton,

“That a decision on the proposed works be deferred to a future meeting.”

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

There voted for the deferment:

Councillors Anderson, Bains, Carter, Davis, Kelly, Pantelic, Plenty, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright..... 10

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There voted against the deferment:

Councillors Ajaib, Bal, Bedi, Brooker, Chaudhry, Cheema, Dar, M.Holledge, N.Holledge, Hussain, Matloob, Munawar, Nazir, Qaseem, Rana, Rasib, Sadiq, A.Sandhu, Sarfraz, Sharif, Sohal and Usmani 22

There abstained from voting:

The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Shah, Councillors Coad and Parmar... 3

The proposal to defer consideration of the agenda item was lost.

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

There voted for the Officer's recommendation:

Councillors Ajaib, Bains, Bal, Bedi, Brooker, Carter, Chaudhry, Cheema, Dar, Davis, M.Holledge, N.Holledge, Hussain, Matloob, Munawar, Nazir, Qaseem, Rana, Rasib, Sadiq, A.Sandhu, Sarfraz, Sharif, Sohal and Usmani 25

There voted against Officer's recommendation:

Councillors Kelly, Strutton and Wright..... 3

There abstained from voting:

Councillors Anderson, Coad, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Swindlehurst and The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Shah 7

Resolved - That Members of Slough Borough Council in their capacity as Trustees of the Salt Hill Playing Fields approve the improvement works to the land of the Trust comprising the access to the playing fields off the main Bath Road entrance (Appendix 1 to the report) and authorise any applications for the consent of the Charity Commission which may be required in connection with such works.

18. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

(Prior to consideration of this item, the Legal Officer left the meeting)

A) Provision of Legal Services

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

“This Council resolves to fully evaluate options to enter into a merger or formalised agreement for the delivery of shared legal services with neighbouring boroughs and to include the provision of a shared Monitoring Officer to save taxpayer money in Slough.”

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

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~~“This Council resolves to fully evaluate options to enter into a merger or formalised agreement for~~ **including, but not limited to**, the delivery of shared legal services with neighbouring boroughs ~~and to include the provision of a shared Monitoring Officer to save taxpayer money in Slough~~ **across all services delivered by the Council.”**

The amendment was put to the vote with 29 votes for, 5 against and 1 abstention.

(Councillor Plenty left the meeting)

The amended motion became the substantive motion and was put to the vote with 28 votes for, 5 against and 1 abstention.

Resolved - That the Council fully evaluates options including, but not limited to, the delivery of shared services with neighbouring boroughs, to save taxpayer money in Slough across all services delivered by the Council.

(Councillor Plenty and the Legal Officer returned to the meeting)

B) Spare Room Subsidy

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

“This Council calls on the new government to repeal the ‘spare room subsidy’, known as the bedroom tax.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the government and opposition parties calling for the immediate repeal of this element of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and in the meantime we will continue to lobby our MPs for their support.”

It was moved by Councillor Wright, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Bains,

“This Council **supports** ~~calls on the new government’s to repeal the~~ ‘spare room subsidy’, known as the bedroom tax.

This Council ~~however therefore~~ resolves to **ensure that council tenants are suffered suitable downsized properties that are fit for purpose.** ~~write to the government and opposition parties calling for the immediate repeal of this element of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and in the meantime we will continue to lobby our MPs for their support.”~~

The amendment was put to the vote with 4 votes for, 29 against and 2 abstentions. The amendment to the motion was lost.

The original motion was put to the vote with 30 votes for, 4 against and 1 abstention.

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Resolved – That the Council calls on the new government to repeal the ‘spare room subsidy’, known as the bedroom tax. The Council therefore resolves to write to the government and opposition parties calling for the immediate repeal of this element of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and in the meantime we will continue to lobby our MPs for their support.

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

None received during the relevant time period.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.36 pm)