

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at The Venue - The Curve, William Street, Slough, SL1 1XY on Tuesday, 23rd July, 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor A Cheema), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Bedi, Begum, Brooker, Carter, A Cheema, H Cheema, Dar, Davis, Dhaliwal, Gahir, Hulme, Hussain, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, 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 Chaudhry, M Holledge, N Holledge and Kelly

11. Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 10 (Minute 20) Member Questions (15-18): Councillor R Sandhu declared that he was a leaseholder for the property at 2 Rye Court, Slough.

Agenda Item 9 (Minute 19) Motion B Anti-Semitism: Councillors Anderson and Swindlehurst declared that they were Members of the Jewish Labour Movement.

12. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 16th May 2019

Resolved – That the minutes of the annual Council meeting held on 16th May 2019 be approved as a correct record.

13. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor announced that that her Chaplain for the year would be Reverend Darcy Chesterfield-Terry, who unfortunately due to a long standing holiday arrangement was unable to attend the meeting. Members were informed that Father Darcy had recently taken up the post as vicar of St Thomas's Church in Colnbrook as well as St Mary's Church in Datchet and was already a very welcome addition to both churches and the wider communities and would be an asset during the Mayor's civic year.

The Mayor conveyed her thanks to all Members and their guests who attended the Mayor's Reception on 4th July. It was a very successful evening and the Mayor placed on record her thanks to all the council staff whose contribution added to the great success of the evening.

Members were informed that on June 11th, the Safer Slough Partnership's 'Modern Slavery is Closer than you Think' campaign won a very special national media award at an awards ceremony hosted by Clear Channel. The partnership won the social impact category at the Outdoor Media Awards. This was a brand new category for 2019 and the team were up against other campaigns including those submitted by Justice4Grenfell and the National Aids Trust. As a result of the campaign, the Modern Slavery Helpline saw a 400 percent increase in calls

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during the quarter it was running. The Mayor acknowledged the contribution made by the hard working and inspirational Slough Borough Council staff whose input to the campaign was key to the successful winning of this award. The Mayor's Commendation Award was then awarded to Helen Buckland, Gemma Morgan, Corletta Rolle, Caroline Steele and Garry Tallett.

14. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

Four elector questions had been received which were tabled at the meeting. Two of the questioners were present who had the opportunity of submitting a supplementary question. A written copy of the replies would be sent to the questioners following the meeting.

15. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 15th July 2019

Statutory Service Plan - Food Safety

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

“That the Statutory Service Plan in relation to Food Safety be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the Statutory Service Plan in relation to Food Safety be endorsed.

SBC Annual Report 2018/19

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

“That the draft Council's Annual Report for 2018-19 be approved, subject to any minor textual amendments before publication.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the draft Council's Annual Report for 2018-19 be approved, subject to any minor textual amendments before publication.

16. Recommendation of the Slough Wellbeing Board from it's meeting held on 8th May 2019

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

“That the Slough Wellbeing Board Annual Report for 2018/19 be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the Slough Wellbeing Board Annual Report for 2018/19 be endorsed.

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17. Appointment to Director of Transformation - New Post

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

“The Council note that on 10th June 2019 the Council’s Senior Management Team was changed to include a new chief officer post of Director of Transformation.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - The Council note that on 10th June 2019 the Council’s Senior Management Team was changed to include a new chief officer post of Director of Transformation.

18. Appointments to Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies

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

“ a) That the following appointments be made:

- i. Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
Councillors Basra, H.Cheema, Dhaliwal (Deputies Minhas, Mohammad, Hulme)
 - ii. Investigating and Disciplinary Committee: Councillor Strutton
 - iii. Appeals Committee: Councillor Strutton
 - iv. Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education: Councillor Smith
 - v. Slough Urban Renewal Board: Councillor Hulme (Deputy)
 - vi. Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board: Councillor Brooker
- b) That Councillor Gahir be appointed as a deputy Member to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel
- c) That the appointments to casual vacancies on Committees as set out in Appendix A to the report be noted.
- d) That the appointments to Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix B to the report be noted.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved –

a) That the following appointments be made:

- i. Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
Councillors Basra, H.Cheema, Dhaliwal (Deputies Minhas, Mohammad, Hulme)
- ii. Investigating and Disciplinary Committee: Councillor Strutton
- iii. Appeals Committee: Councillor Strutton
- iv. Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education: Councillor Smith

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- v. Slough Urban Renewal Board: Councillor Hulme (Deputy)
- vi. Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board: Councillor Brooker

- b) That Councillor Gahir be appointed as a deputy Member to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

- c) That the appointments to casual vacancies on Committees as set out in Appendix A to the report be noted.

- d) That the appointments to Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix B to the report be noted.

19. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

A) Climate Change

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

“This Council notes the UK Government and Local Government Association’s declaration of a national ‘climate emergency’, recognises that there is a growing urgency for national and international action to combat climate change, and commits to developing a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that will address the causes and consequences of climate change in Slough by tackling 5 key objectives:

- Reducing emissions from our estate and operations
- Reducing energy consumption and emissions by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources, and behaviour change
- Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change
- Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste
- Supporting council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of climate change.”

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

“This Council notes the UK Government and Local Government Association’s declaration of a national ‘climate emergency’, recognises that there is a growing urgency for national, ~~and~~ international ~~and~~ local action to combat climate change, and commits to developing a Local Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that will address the causes and consequences of climate change in Slough by tackling 5 key objectives ~~within achievable interim targets for 3,5 and 10 years:~~

- Reducing emissions from our estate and operations

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- Reducing energy consumption and emissions by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources, and behaviour change
- Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change
- Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste
- Supporting council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of climate change.”

Therefore, this Council will establish a Cross-Party Working Group to undertake an in-depth review of the council's current carbon footprint and bring a climate action plan forward within six months that will enable the Council and its partners to better contribute towards addressing the emergency in Slough and commit to implement cleaner air zones within the next three years.”

The amendment was put to the vote and lost with 3 votes For, 33 Against and 2 Abstentions.

The original motion was put to the vote and carried with 37 votes For and 1 Abstention.

Resolved – This Council notes the UK Government and Local Government Association's declaration of a national 'climate emergency', recognises that there is a growing urgency for national and international action to combat climate change, and commits to developing a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that will address the causes and consequences of climate change in Slough by tackling 5 key objectives:

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- Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change
- Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste
- Supporting council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

B) Anti-Semitism

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

“This Council expresses alarm at the rise in anti-Semitism in Britain, and resolves to:

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- a) Endorse Labour Leader, Cllr. Swindlehurst's, statement in relation to the Slough Labour Party dated May 2019, as follows:

'I always have and will continue to condemn anti-Semitism and discrimination in any form. It is a scourge and should be called out and rooted out wherever it is found in our society.'

'There is no space for anti-Semitism to exist or be perpetuated within Slough Labour Party.'

- b) Acknowledge anti-Semitism as a fundamental issue and hereby adopt the International Holocaust Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism;

'Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'

- c) Write to Slough MP Tan Dhesi, requesting him to lobby Jeremy Corbyn to follow Slough Labour Party's lead in taking action against anti-Semitism.

- d) Welcome cross-party support within the Council to challenge anti-Semitism in all its manifestations. Furthermore, as a consequence of rising anti-Semitism, commit to promoting religious harmony and tolerance through Slough's Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) to combat anti-Semitism.

- e) Withdraw Slough Borough Council funding from any organisation that practices or tolerates Anti-Semitism.

It was moved by Councillor Carter, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Ajaib,

"This Council expresses alarm at the rise in ~~anti-S~~Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Britain, and resolves to:

- a) Endorse Labour Leader, Cllr. Swindlehurst's, statement in relation to the Slough Labour Party dated May 2019, as follows:

"Over 20 years ago I signed up to the values of the Labour Party, on our membership card it states we are working to build a 'community where we live together freely in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and respect.'

I always have, and will continue to condemn ~~anti-S~~Antisemitism and discrimination in any form. It is a scourge and should be called out and rooted out wherever it is found in our society.'

We are fortunate in Slough to have a large and active Labour Party of over 1,700 members. Despite our size we have only had a couple of discriminatory comments on social media over the past few years and local party officers acted decisively and immediately to report the perpetrators, resulting in the

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immediately suspension of the authors from the Labour Party. There is no space for anti-~~S~~Antisemitism to exist or be perpetuated within Slough Labour Party.

Given there is now a live investigation by the EHRC into the national Labour Party organisation's response and handling of complaints, that should be enabled to run its course and I look forward reading its findings and conclusions and will make a further comment when the investigation is complete and its findings are available."

b) Acknowledge ~~anti-~~S~~~~Antisemitism as a fundamental issue and hereby adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of ~~anti-~~S~~~~Antisemitism, with its working examples;

'Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of ~~anti-~~S~~~~Antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

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- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

and the MEND definition of Islamophobia;

'Islamophobia is a prejudice, aversion, hostility, or hatred towards Muslims and encompasses any distinction, exclusion, restriction, discrimination, or preference against Muslims that has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.'

c) ~~Write to Slough MP Tan Dhesi, requesting him to lobby Jeremy Corbyn to follow Slough Labour Party's lead in taking action against anti-Semitism.~~
Welcome the educational initiatives taken by the Labour Party Leadership and the launch of the new Antisemitism educational material.

d) Welcome cross-party support within the Council to challenge **all forms of racism and religious discrimination** ~~anti-Semitism~~ in all its manifestations. Furthermore, as a consequence of rising ~~anti-Semitism~~, commit to promoting religious harmony and tolerance through Slough's Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) to combat ~~anti-Semitism~~.

e) Withdraw Slough Borough Council funding from any organisation that practices or tolerates ~~anti-Semitism~~."

The amendment was put to the vote and carried with 37 votes For and 1 Abstention.

The amendment became the substantive motion and put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved -

This Council expresses alarm at the rise in Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Britain, and resolves to:

a) Endorse Labour Leader, Cllr. Swindlehurst's, statement in relation to the Slough Labour Party dated May 2019, as follows:

"Over 20 years ago I signed up to the values of the Labour Party, on our membership card it states we are working to build a 'community where we live together freely in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and respect.'

I always have, and will continue to condemn Antisemitism and discrimination in any form. It is a scourge and should be called out and rooted out wherever it is found in our society.

We are fortunate in Slough to have a large and active Labour Party of over 1,700 members. Despite our size we have only had a couple of discriminatory

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comments on social media over the past few years and local party officers acted decisively and immediately to report the perpetrators, resulting in the immediately suspension of the authors from the Labour Party. There is no space for Antisemitism to exist or be perpetuated within Slough Labour Party.

Given there is now a live investigation by the EHRC into the national Labour Party organisation's response and handling of complaints, that should be enabled to run its course and I look forward reading its findings and conclusions and will make a further comment when the investigation is complete and its findings are available."

b) Acknowledge Antisemitism as a fundamental issue and hereby adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of Antisemitism, with its working examples;

'Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of Antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

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- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

and the MEND definition of Islamophobia;

‘Islamophobia is a prejudice, aversion, hostility, or hatred towards Muslims and encompasses any distinction, exclusion, restriction, discrimination, or preference against Muslims that has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.’

c) Welcome the educational initiatives taken by the Labour Party Leadership and the launch of the new Antisemitism educational material.

d) Welcome cross-party support within the Council to challenge all forms of racism and religious discrimination in all its manifestations. Furthermore, as a consequence of rising Antisemitism, commit to promoting religious harmony and tolerance through Slough’s Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) to combat Antisemitism.

e) Withdraw Slough Borough Council funding from any organisation that practices or tolerates Antisemitism.

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

Three Member questions and replies had been received which were tabled.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.05 pm and closed at 8.50 pm)