

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held as a Virtual Meeting on Tuesday, 21st July, 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Brooker), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali (until 8.48pm), Anderson, Bains, Basra, Bedi, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, A Cheema, H Cheema, Dar, Davis, Dhaliwal, Gahir, M Holledge, Hulme, Kelly, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D Parmar, S Parmar, Plenty, Sabah, A Sandhu, R Sandhu, Sharif, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors N Holledge, Rasib and Sarfraz

14. Declarations of Interest

Agenda item 4 – Elector Questions. The Mayor declared that he was a Governor at Ryvers Primary School. The Mayor remained and participated in the meeting.

15. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 21 May 2020

Resolved – That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 21 May 2020 be approved as a correct record.

16. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor informed the meeting that it was the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide and a minute's silence was held in memory of those who had lost their lives.

The Council's thoughts were also with former Councillor and Parish Councillor, Ken Wright, who had passed away in April.

NHS staff, key workers, Slough Foodbank, Slough CVS and all voluntary and community groups were thanked for their tremendous efforts in relation to COVID-19. All Members were encouraged to use the facilities at the hybrid walk in and drive in COVID-19 testing centre, which was based at the car park of the former Montem Leisure Centre.

Following the tragic events that had taken place in June 2020 in Reading, the Mayor had sent a letter, conveying the Council's sympathies, to the Mayor of Reading.

17. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

Three questions had been received and published in the supplementary agenda. One questioner was present and asked a supplementary question. A written copy of the replies would be sent to the electors.

Council - 21.07.20

18. Recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 13th July 2020

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

“The Council is requested to resolve that that Corporate Annual Report 2019/20 be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That that Corporate Annual Report 2019/20 be endorsed.

19. Recommendations of the Slough Wellbeing Board from its meeting held on 15th July 2020

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

“That the Slough Wellbeing Board Annual Report for 2019/20 be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the Slough Wellbeing Board Annual Report for 2019/20 be endorsed.

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

“That the Slough Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025 be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the Slough Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025 be endorsed.

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

“That the Slough Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference 2020 be endorsed subject to membership of the Board to include a Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust representative.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the Slough Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference 2020 be endorsed subject to membership of the Board to include a Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust representative.

20. Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting held on 11th June 2020

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

Council - 21.07.20

“That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2019/20 be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried with 30 votes for and 5 abstentions. Councillor Bedi was recorded as not voting due to technical difficulties.

Resolved - That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2019/20 be endorsed.

21. Recommendation of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee from its meeting held on 5th March 2020

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

“That the revisions to the Council’s Constitution, as set out in the report, be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the revisions to the Council’s Constitution, as set out in the report, be approved.

22. Dispensation Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972

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

“That failure by Councillor Sarfaz to attend any meetings of the Council before 12 November 2020, as a result of her exercising her rights under the Council’s Parental Leave Policy adopted by the Council on 16 May 2019, be an approved reason for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That failure by Councillor Sarfaz to attend any meetings of the Council before 12 November 2020, as a result of her exercising her rights under the Council’s Parental Leave Policy adopted by the Council on 16 May 2019, be an approved reason for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

23. COVID-19 Decisions Update

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

“That the report be noted and that the significant decisions taken by officers since 29th April 2020, as set out in the Schedule at Appendix A to the report, be ratified.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the report be noted and that the significant decisions taken by officers since 29th April 2020, as set out in the Schedule at Appendix A to the report, be ratified.

24. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

A) Slough's Recovery and Renewal from COVID-19

It was moved by Councillor Bains,
Seconded by Councillor Hulme,

“Slough Borough Council recognises the important role the Council will have to play in Slough’s recovery and renewal from COVID 19 and therefore agrees to a develop a recovery and renewal plan which will;

- Support and contribute to the renewal of Slough as a place through the £3 billion regeneration of the town centre and the introduction of low carbon zones
- Help shape a seamless pathway from skills to employment, matching the potential of our residents with the needs of businesses to facilitate the creation of 5,000 new jobs
- Ensure the strength of our community and voluntary sector is further developed to embed and sustain a collaborative approach that meets the needs of our most vulnerable resident, including the specific needs of our BAME residents who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19
- Create a strong, robust and engaged community through new models of service delivery and locality- based work.”

The motion was put to the vote and carried with 33 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved - Slough Borough Council recognises the important role the Council will have to play in Slough’s recovery and renewal from COVID 19 and therefore agrees to a develop a recovery and renewal plan which will;

- Support and contribute to the renewal of Slough as a place through the £3 billion regeneration of the town centre and the introduction of low carbon zones
- Help shape a seamless pathway from skills to employment, matching the potential of our residents with the needs of businesses to facilitate the creation of 5,000 new jobs
- Ensure the strength of our community and voluntary sector is further developed to embed and sustain a collaborative approach that meets the needs of our most vulnerable resident, including the specific needs of our BAME residents who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19
- Create a strong, robust and engaged community through new models of service delivery and locality- based work.

Council - 21.07.20

B) COVID-19

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

“The whole Council resolves to

a) Acknowledge:

- The hard work Slough’s key workers, voluntary and community groups have played during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; from helping with shopping, delivering the Government’s essentials parcels and the much needed general support to help all those shielding, the elderly and the most vulnerable.

b) Agree to:

- Officially recognise and commemorate the outstanding work carried out by key workers, voluntary and community groups supporting the work of Slough CVS’s OneSlough initiative through the Mayor’s Office, supported by the political Group Leaders Cllr Swindlehurst (Labour) and Cllr Strutton (Conservative) and the Council’s Chief Executive, Josie Wragg.”

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved –

a) The Council acknowledges the hard work Slough’s key workers, voluntary and community groups have played during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; from helping with shopping, delivering the Government’s essentials parcels and the much needed general support to help all those shielding, the elderly and the most vulnerable.

b) The Council agrees to officially recognise and commemorate the outstanding work carried out by key workers, voluntary and community groups supporting the work of Slough CVS’s OneSlough initiative through the Mayor’s Office, supported by the political Group Leaders Cllr Swindlehurst (Labour) and Cllr Strutton (Conservative) and the Council’s Chief Executive, Josie Wragg.

C) Green Highways

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

“This Council resolves to

a) Acknowledge:

- That Slough has one of the highest levels of air pollution deaths in the South East, and that further actions are needed to improve air quality to combat the ‘Climate Emergency’.

Council - 21.07.20

- That encouraging the use of zero emission vehicles and the reduction in traffic congestion will improve overall air quality, alongside investment into zero emission vehicle infrastructures. This is necessary if Slough is to achieve its long term objectives of becoming a green town.

b) Agrees to:

- Let fully zero emission private vehicles and private hire cars use Slough’s bus lanes, to incentivise the take up of zero emission vehicles and to reduce traffic congestion.
- Enforce the above policy through the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras in all bus lanes.”

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

“This Council resolves to ~~a)~~ acknowledge;

- That Slough has one of the highest levels of air pollution deaths in the South East, and that further actions are needed to improve air quality to combat the ‘Climate Emergency’
- That encouraging the use of zero emission vehicles and the reduction in traffic congestion will improve overall air quality, alongside investment into zero emission vehicle infrastructures. This is necessary if Slough is to achieve its long term objectives of becoming a green town.

And therefore agrees to;

- ~~Let fully zero emission private vehicles and private hire cars use Slough’s bus lanes,~~
Continue to incentivise the take up of zero emission vehicles ~~and~~ to reduce traffic congestion.

~~Enforce the above policy through the~~ **Instruct Officers to recommence the work on making** use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras in all bus lanes, **once the government makes Green Number Plates for alternatively fuelled vehicles available in October.”**

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

There voted for the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, A.Cheema, H.Cheema, Dar, Davis, Dhaliwal, Gahir, M.Holledge, Hulme, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D.Parmar, S.Parmar, Plenty, Sabah, A.Sandhu, R.Sandhu and Swindlehurst..... 29

There voted against the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Kelly, Smith, Strutton and Wright..... 4

Council - 21.07.20

There abstained from voting on the amendment to the motion:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Brooker..... 1

The amendment to the motion was agreed and became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and carried by 29 votes for and 5 abstentions.

Resolved - This Council resolves to acknowledge;

- That Slough has one of the highest levels of air pollution deaths in the South East, and that further actions are needed to improve air quality to combat the 'Climate Emergency.'
- That encouraging the use of zero emission vehicles and the reduction in traffic congestion will improve overall air quality, alongside investment into zero emission vehicle infrastructures. This is necessary if Slough is to achieve its long term objectives of becoming a green town.

And therefore agrees to;

- Continue to incentivise the take up of zero emission vehicles to reduce traffic congestion.
- Instruct Officers to recommence the work on making use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras in all bus lanes, once the government makes Green Number Plates for alternatively fuelled vehicles available in October.

D) Water Safety

It was moved by Councillor R.Sandhu,
Seconded by Councillor Pantelic,

"This Council commends the Slough Safer Partnership 'Stay Out' Campaign which warns children and adults about the dangers of swimming in the Jubilee River and resolves to;

- Work with local partners and families who have lost loved ones to promote water safety for the Jubilee River
- Support the production of a video that educates young people on water safety and to share this with local schools
- Write to Slough's MP, Tan Dhesi, asking that he continue to raise the issue of water safety in Parliament and lobby the government to expand their water safety education programme."

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolved – This Council commends the Slough Safer Partnership 'Stay Out' Campaign which warns children and adults about the dangers of swimming in the Jubilee River and resolves to;

Council - 21.07.20

- Work with local partners and families who have lost loved ones to promote water safety for the Jubilee River
- Support the production of a video that educates young people on water safety and to share this with local schools

- Write to Slough's MP, Tan Dhesi, asking that he continue to raise the issue of water safety in Parliament and lobby the government to expand their water safety education programme.

25. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

Details of Members questions received and replies were noted.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.50 pm)