

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday, 26th January, 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor D.Parmar), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Akbar, Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, M. Bedi, P. Bedi, Begum, Brooker, Carter, Cheema, Dar, Gahir, Gill, Grewal, Kaur, Kelly, M. Malik, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Muvvala, Nazir, Pantelic, S. Parmar, Sabah, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Bal, R. Davis, Hulme, S. Malik, Minhas, Qaseem and Sandhu

43. Declarations of Interest

None received.

44. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 22nd November 2022

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2022 be approved as a correct record.

45. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor extended his best wishes to all members and officers for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2023.

Members were informed that Slough was currently hosting the Knife Angel - a 9 metre tall monument made out of 100,000 knives. A number of knife crime intervention sessions for year 6 and 7 students, talking about the choices and consequences of carrying a weapon, had been delivered. The Knife Angel would remain in Slough until 31st January and Members were encouraged to visit it if they hadn't already done so.

The Mayor informed the meeting that Slough had a Royal Visit on 17th January from His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness visited Aik Saaath - Together as One - to recognise their accomplishments working with all young people in the town, regardless of their faith or background.

46. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

One elector question had been received. The elector was present and asked a supplementary question. A written reply would be sent to the elector after the meeting.

47. Review of Polling Districts, Places & Stations 2022/23

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

“That the new polling districts and places as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved and as set out below -

- Chalvey Green Ward – That the PWA building be designated as the polling station for this area due to its more central location and better access for the majority of voters in this polling district
- Cippenham Green Ward - That St. Andrew’s Shared Church be designated as the polling station for this area as the current polling station Cippenham Baptist Church sits just outside the polling district
- Langley Marish Ward
PD LAA – That Kedermister Hall be designated as the polling station for this area as this existing station is well known by voters in the area
PD LAB - That Langley Free Church be designated as the polling station for this area as this avoids disruption to pupils attending the school
- Upton Lea Ward – to relocate identified voters to PD UBB (as set out in Appendix C of the report) and create a third polling district east of the A412 and north of the canal with a mobile polling station as previously sited in Rochford Gardens.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 31 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved - That the new polling districts and places as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved and as set out below -

- Chalvey Green Ward – That the PWA building be designated as the polling station for this area due to its more central location and better access for the majority of voters in this polling district
- Cippenham Green Ward - That St. Andrew’s Shared Church be designated as the polling station for this area as the current polling station Cippenham Baptist Church sits just outside the polling district
- Langley Marish Ward
PD LAA – That Kedermister Hall be designated as the polling station for this area as this existing station is well known by voters in the area
PD LAB - That Langley Free Church be designated as the polling station for this area as this avoids disruption to pupils attending the school
- Upton Lea Ward – to relocate identified voters to PD UBB (as set out in Appendix C of the report) and create a third polling district east of the A412 and north of the canal with a mobile polling station as previously sited in Rochford Gardens.

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48. Changes to Terms of Reference of Cabinet Committee for Asset Disposals

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

- a) "That the Terms of Reference of the Asset Disposal Cabinet Committee, as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report be extended;
- b) That the consequential amendment to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting;
- c) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 30 votes for and 3 abstentions.

Resolved -

- a) That the Terms of Reference of the Asset Disposal Cabinet Committee, as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report be extended;
- b) That the consequential amendment to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting;
- c) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

49. Appointment of Executive Director Finance and Commercial

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

"That Council welcomes the appointment by the Commissioners of Adele Taylor as Executive Director of Finance and Commercial (S151 Officer)"

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried with 31 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Members placed on record a vote of thanks to the current Director of Finance, Steve Mair, for his expertise in assisting the Council on its recovery to a financially sustainable position.

Resolved – That Council welcomes the appointment by the Commissioners of Adele Taylor as Executive Director of Finance and Commercial (S151 Officer)

50. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

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

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“This Council notes:

Recently published data from the 2021 census reveals that 51% of Slough’s population is female, yet following the 2022 round of elections in England, only 41% of local Councillors across the country are women and women’s representation in local government lags behind that of men, despite several initiatives that have narrowed this gap. Unless further steps are taken to achieve change, 50:50 representation is not expected until 2065.

This Council believes that the 2023 all-out Borough elections in Slough present a distinct opportunity for all local political parties/groups to broaden representation in their pools of candidates and to take further steps to help the Council achieve gender parity among its cohort of Councillors elected at this May’s poll.

Slough Borough Council therefore agrees that the Chief Executive:

1. Will organise a meeting of the Leaders of the Political Groups on Slough Borough Council to discuss the LGA’s ‘21st Century Councils’ toolkit (aimed at improving representation from under-represented groups) with the aim of identifying whether any particular barriers exist in the Council’s practices and policies that could be removed or reduced to encourage under-represented sections of our community to consider becoming Councillors, and focusing primarily on practical steps the council could take to attain gender equality among its elected representatives – reporting back to a meeting of full Council in advance of the May 2023 elections (there is a full Council meeting on 28th March 2023).

2. Will undertake a review of what steps other councils who have widened representation have taken to achieve that, with findings reported back to members as above and recommendations implemented where possible - to ensure that going forward we have a Council that truly represents the community of Slough.

3. Will write to the recognised political parties within Slough Borough who fielded candidates at the last round of local elections in the Borough, advising them of the support that is available to them from the LGA and its political groups and sending the parties information about the LGA’s ‘be a Councillor campaign.’”

The motion was put to the vote and unanimously agreed.

Resolved – This Council notes:

Recently published data from the 2021 census reveals that 51% of Slough’s population is female, yet following the 2022 round of elections in England, only 41% of local Councillors across the country are women and women’s representation in local government lags behind that of men, despite several initiatives that have narrowed this gap. Unless further steps are taken to achieve change, 50:50 representation is not expected until 2065.

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51. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10.

None received within the relevant timeframe.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.15 pm)