

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday, 16th May, 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Abbasi), in the chair; Councillors E. Ahmed, I. Ahmed, Ajaib, Akram, Anderson, Bedi, Carter, Chahal, Dar, Dauti, Dhillon, Escott (until 8.10pm), Hulme, Iftakhar, Instone, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Mohindra, Muvvala, Nazir, Naveed, O'Kelly (from 7.05pm), Parmar, Qaseem, Rana, J. Sabah, W. Sabah, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Gahir and Gill

1. **Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor**

Councillor Smith moved and Councillor O'Kelly seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor for his service during the past municipal year. A number of other Members also added their thanks to the Mayor.

2. **Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Manku moved and Councillor Chahal seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Deputy Mayor for his service during the past municipal year. A number of other Members also added their thanks to the Deputy Mayor.

3. **To Elect the Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year**

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Mayor for the Borough of Slough for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor Chahal seconded the nomination of Councillor Balwinder Dhillon.

Councillor Hulme proposed and Councillor Mann seconded the nomination of Councillor Haqeeq Dar.

The nominations were put to the vote with 23 votes for Councillor Dhillon, 16 votes for Councillor Dar and 1 abstention.

The Chief Executive declared Councillor Balwinder Dhillon elected Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the 2024/25 municipal year. Councillor Dhillon, having made and signed the requisite declaration of acceptance of office, was thereupon installed in the Chair.

(The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Dhillon, in the Chair)

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Resolved - That Councillor Balwinder Dhillon be elected as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

(Councillor Escott left the meeting)

4. To Elect the Deputy Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Borough of Slough for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor O'Kelly proposed and Councillor Smith seconded the nomination of Councillor Asim Naveed.

Councillor Mann proposed and Councillor Hulme seconded the nomination of Councillor Maroof Mohammad.

The nominations were put to the vote with 24 votes for Councillor Naveed and 15 votes for Councillor Mohammad.

The Chief Executive declared Councillor Asim Naveed elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the 2024/25 municipal year. Councillor Naveed, made and signed the requisite declaration of acceptance of office.

Resolved - That Councillor Asim Naveed be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

5. Declarations of Interest

None received.

6. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 25th April 2024

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2024 be approved as a correct record.

7. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Abbasi for being the First Citizen of Slough for the municipal year 2023-24.

It was confirmed that Reverend Scott Lamb would remain as the Mayor's chaplain for 2024-2025.

Details of which organisations had been selected for the Mayor's Charity would be provided in due course.

8. Recommendations of the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee from its meeting held on 23rd April 2024

It was moved by Councillor Khawar,
Seconded by Councillor Stedmond,

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- a. "That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 be noted and the progress made by the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee be commended; and
- b. That the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee's response to the CfGS recommendations (Appendix A) be endorsed."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved -

- a. That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 be noted and the progress made by the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee be commended; and
- b. That the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee's response to the CfGS recommendations (Appendix A) be endorsed.

9. Changes to the Council Constitution - Code of Conduct for Officers and Code of Corporate Governance as well as Annual Review of Constitution

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

1. "That the new Part 5.3 – Code of Conduct for Officers as set out in Appendix A be approved for inclusion in the constitution to take effect from the day after the council meeting.
2. That the amendments to Part 5.9 – Code of Corporate Governance as set out in Appendix B be approved to take effect from the day after the council meeting.
3. That the remainder of the Constitution be endorsed, with agreement to minor amendments to those parts of the Constitution as highlighted in Appendix C, including removal of Part 5.10 – Guidance on Housing and Council Tax Benefits Work."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved -

1. That the new Part 5.3 – Code of Conduct for Officers as set out in Appendix A be approved for inclusion in the constitution to take effect from the day after the council meeting.
2. That the amendments to Part 5.9 – Code of Corporate Governance as set out in Appendix B be approved to take effect from the day after the council meeting.
3. That the remainder of the Constitution be endorsed, with agreement to minor amendments to those parts of the Constitution as highlighted in Appendix C, including removal of Part 5.10 – Guidance on Housing and Council Tax Benefits Work.

10. Appointment of Cabinet, Committees, Other Bodies and their Chairs and allocation of Political Group Officer Support

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

- (a) "That Committees and other bodies be appointed, that their sizes be adjusted as necessary to facilitate proportionality, and seats thereon allocated to political groups in accordance with the rules of proportionality where applicable, all as per Appendix 1.
- (b) That appointments be made to Committees and other bodies in accordance with the nominations received from political groups as set out in Appendix 2.
- (c) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the above bodies be appointed as set out in Appendix 2.
- (d) That the report of the Leader on appointment of the Deputy Leader and Lead Members (the Cabinet) and their portfolios be received as set out in Appendix 2.
- (e) That Political Group Officer support to Political Groups remain unchanged for the 2024/25 municipal year – namely a full time Political Group Officer be allocated to the Conservative Group and Labour Group respectively.
- (f) To approve the timetable of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2024/2025 as set out in the report."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved -

- (a) That Committees and other bodies be appointed, that their sizes be adjusted as necessary to facilitate proportionality, and seats thereon allocated to political groups in accordance with the rules of proportionality where applicable, all as per Appendix 1.
- (b) That appointments be made to Committees and other bodies in accordance with the nominations received from political groups as set out in Appendix 2.
- (c) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the above bodies be appointed as set out in Appendix 2.
- (d) That the report of the Leader on appointment of the Deputy Leader and Lead Members (the Cabinet) and their portfolios be received as set out in Appendix 2.
- (e) That Political Group Officer support to Political Groups remain unchanged for the 2024/25 municipal year – namely a full time Political Group Officer be allocated to the Conservative Group and Labour Group respectively.

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- (f) To approve the timetable of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2024/2025 as set out in the report.

11. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2024/25

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

“That appointments be made to Outside Bodies for the Municipal year 2024/25 as set out in the appendix to the report.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved- That appointments be made to Outside Bodies for the Municipal year 2024/25 as set out in the appendix to the report.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.08 pm)