

## **Council Meeting held on Thursday, 25th July, 2024.**

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

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors Bedi, Gahir, Mann and Zarait

### **PART 1**

#### **12. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

#### **13. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 16th May 2024**

In respect of minute 3 - To Elect the Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year –

An amendment was moved by Councillor Anderson.  
Seconded by Councillor Hulme,

“That it recorded in the minutes that the Mayor intervened to stop Members debating the merits of the two nominees that had been proposed as Mayor for 2024/25.”

The proposed amendment was put to the vote with 16 votes in favour, 19 votes against and 1 abstention. The proposed amendment was therefore lost.

**Resolved –** That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be approved as a correct record.

#### **14. To receive the Mayor's Communications.**

The Mayor invited the Chamber to join him in a minute's silence to remember Karandeep Singh, who had been missing for three years and whose remains had been found recently in Herschel Park. The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, passed on his deepest condolences to the family and friends of Karandeep Singh. He requested that a letter of condolence to the family of Karandeep Singh be sent from the Mayor.

*(A minute silence was observed by the Council)*

The Mayor then shared with the Council the engagements he had attended in the last few weeks since being appointed the Mayor.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Acting Returning Officer, the elections team and all the staff who worked in polling stations and at the count at the recent Parliamentary Election. He commended all of the candidates who put themselves forward for election and congratulated Tan Dhesi and Jack Rankin who were elected to serve the residents of Slough.

**15. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.**

Two elector questions had been received. Both electors were present and asked supplementary questions.

**16. Recommendations of the Employment Committee from its meeting held on 27th June 2024**

It was moved by Councillor Escott,  
Seconded by Councillor Smith

- (a) That the new chief officer structure and the updated management structure at Appendix 1 to the report to become a new Part 7 of the Constitution be approved.
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to amend Article 12 and Part 3.6 of the Constitution to reflect the new functions and new chief officer structure.
- (c) That the Updated Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 at Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with 29 votes in favour, 0 against and 8 abstentions.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the new chief officer structure and the updated management structure at Appendix 1 to the report to become a new Part 7 of the Constitution be approved.
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to amend Article 12 and Part 3.6 of the Constitution to reflect the new functions and new chief officer structure.
- (c) That the Updated Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 at Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

**17. Recommendations of the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee from its meeting held on 10th July 2024**

It was moved by Councillor O'Kelly,  
seconded by Councillor Smith,

“That the details of the 2023/24 annual report of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee be noted.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed with 27 votes in favour, 0 against and 10 abstentions.

**Resolved** - That the details of the 2023/24 annual report of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee be noted.

## **18. Allocation of Seats and Committee Appointments**

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

- (a) That the revised proportionality and entitlement to committee seats as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.
- (b) That the appointments to committees and outside bodies as set out Appendix 2 to the report be approved.
- (c) That the appointment of Councillor Satti to fill the vacant role of chair of the Employment Committee be approved.
- (d) That the appointment of Councillor Rana to fill the vacant role of chair of the Investigating & Disciplinary Committee be approved.
- (e) That the appointment of Councillor Akram to fill the vacant role of vice-chair of the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee be approved.
- (f) That the appointment of Councillor Instone to fill the vacant role of vice-chair of the Standards Committee be approved.

It was moved by Councillor Hulme, as an amendment,  
Seconded by Councillor Escott,

- (e) “That Councillor Anderson be elected to fill the vacant role of vice-chair of the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee.”

The amendment was put to the vote and lost with 9 in favour, 27 against and 1 abstention.

The original recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with 27 votes in favour, 0 against and 10 abstentions.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the revised proportionality and entitlement to committee seats as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

- (b) That the appointments to committees and outside bodies as set out Appendix 2 to the report be approved.
- (c) That the appointment of Councillor Satti to fill the vacant role of chair of the Employment Committee be approved.
- (d) That the appointment of Councillor Rana to fill the vacant role of chair of the Investigating & Disciplinary Committee be approved.
- (e) That the appointment of Councillor Akram to fill the vacant role of vice-chair of the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee be approved.
- (f) That the appointment of Councillor Instone to fill the vacant role of vice-chair of the Standards Committee be approved.

**19. Quarterly Update on Urgent Key Decisions**

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

“That the use of special urgency provisions used for key decisions as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed with 35 votes for and 1 abstention.

**Resolved** - That the use of special urgency provisions used for key decisions as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

**20. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.**

Motion A – 1984 Sikh Genocide

It was moved by Councillor Akram,  
Seconded by Councillor W Sabah,

"Slough Borough Council resolves:

- The Council agrees to be supportive of local campaigns in raising awareness of anti-Sikh discrimination. Recognising that Slough is home to a large Sikh community.
- The Council recognise and commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1984 Sikh genocide in India and condemns the recent killings of Sikh activists in foreign countries;

That the Leader of the Council write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary and our Member of Parliament outlining the following:

- This council supports efforts to seek justice for the victims of the 1984 Sikh genocide and urges the government to hold accountable those responsible for these atrocities;
- Strongly convey the very deep concerns felt by Slough residents by UK intelligence reports of Indian Government agencies targeting Sikh activists in Slough;
- The UK Government unequivocally condemn all human rights violations and abuses against Sikhs and minorities in India and Indian Administered Jammu & Kashmir;
- The Member of Parliament for Slough to convey the demand of Slough Sikh's to support a referendum on Independence in Punjab, India;
- Call upon the Foreign Secretary to investigate and advocate for the release and safe return of Jagtar Singh Johal, also known as Juggy Johal, a British Sikh, imprisoned in India under controversial circumstances, raising serious concerns about his human rights and treatment whilst in incarceration."

Under Procedure Rule 14.4, Councillor Smith submitted a Challenge to Inclusion to the motion. As per the procedure rule, Councillor Smith spoke to his challenge. As the mover of the motion Councillor Akram replied to the challenge. No other Members were entitled to speak on the challenge.

The Challenge to Inclusion was put to the vote and a prior request having been made for the record of voting –

There voted for the Challenge to Inclusion:

Councillors Abbasi, Ejaz Ahmed, Chahal, Dauti, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O'Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar and Wright .....19

There voted against the Challenge to Inclusion:

Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Dar, Iftakhar, Nazir, Qaseem, Jamila Sabah and Waqas Sabah .....8

There abstained from voting:

Councillors Dhillon and Matloob.....2

Those not voting were:

Councillors Anderson, Carter, Escott, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mohammad and Parmar.....8

The Challenge to Inclusion was upheld and the motion was therefore considered to be withdrawn and was not debated.

Motion B – Slough High Street

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

"The Council notes that it has been over 8 months since an update was provided to council regarding ADIA/British Land's approved planning permission. In that time, more shops are closing, crime and anti-social behaviour is rampant, and no further investment seems has been secured for our town centre, that is making a positive material impact to the lives of residents that live, work and visit in the town centre.

The Council therefore resolves to;

- (a) Instruct the council to get a formal response for councillors from ADIA/British Land over the current status of their plans.
- (b) Instruct the administration to develop a 'meanwhile use' policy within 6 months and present to councillors for scrutiny.
- (c) Facilitate the setting up of a Town Centre residents' group that can be properly consulted on issues affecting their neighbourhood.
- (d) Initiate a 3 monthly deep clean of the town centre and surrounding streets.
- (e) Report back to councillors on 'Plan B' should the British Land proposals not be implemented."

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

"The Council notes that it has been over 8 months since an update was provided to council regarding ADIA/British Land's approved planning permission. In that time, more shops are closing, crime and anti-social behaviour is rampant, and no further investment seems has been secured for our town centre, that is making a positive material impact to the lives of residents that live, work and visit in the town centre.

The Council therefore resolves to;

- (a) Instruct the council to get a formal response for councillors **and Slough residents** from ADIA/British Land over the current status of their plans.
- (b) Instruct the administration to develop a 'meanwhile use' policy within 6 months and present to councillors for scrutiny.
- (c) Facilitate the setting up of a Town Centre residents' group that can be properly consulted on issues affecting their neighbourhood.

- (d) Initiate a 3 monthly deep clean of the town centre and surrounding streets.
- (e) Report back to councillors on 'Plan B' should the British Land proposals not be implemented.
- (f) Instruct the Council to undertake a review and contact landowners of all vacant and abandoned sites in the town centre.
- (g) Instruct the Council to take serious steps in enforcement against landowners of all vacant sites, failing to maintain and secure sites from ASB, nuisance and fly-tipping.
- (f) Instruct the council's housing enforcement to investigate and assess the poor quality private sector housing offer in town centre area, to raise the standard and quality of living for tenants.
- (g) Instruct the Council's planning department and committee to review and where applicable place conditions to prevent short term rental such as Air BnB accommodation. "

The amendment was put to the vote and lost with 16 votes for, 20 against and 1 abstention.

The original motion was put to the vote and lost with 16 votes for, 20 against and 1 abstention.

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

Details of Member questions and replies received, as set out in the supplementary agenda, were noted.

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