

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 Tuesday, 28th January, 2020 at 7.00 pm

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

40. Declarations of Interest

Agenda item 5: Housing Rents and Service Charges 202/21 – Councillor R Sandhu declared that he was a leaseholder for the property at 2 Rye Court, Slough. Councillor R Sandhu remained in the meeting and voted on this item.

41. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 26th November 2019

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26th November 2019 be approved as a correct record.

42. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor informed Members that former councillor and Mayor of Slough, Mervyn Jones passed away on 13th January. Mr Jones was first elected as a conservative councillor in May 1971 for the Stoke North Ward and re-elected the following year for the Upton Ward where he served as a councillor until 1983. During his time on the Council he served on most of the committees and was the founder Mayor of the Annual Sports Awards which ran from 1980 until 2010. Details of the funeral were yet to be confirmed.

It was noted that Holocaust Memorial Day - which marked 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz – had taken place on 27th January 2020. Council Members observed a minute's silence in memory of former Mayor, Mervyn Jones and in commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day.

43. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

A question had been received and tabled. The questioner was present and asked a supplementary question. A written copy of the reply would be sent to the elector.

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44. Recommendations of the Cabinet Commercial Sub-Committee and Cabinet from meetings held on 16th December 2019 and 20th January 2020

Appointment of Directors for DISH Holding Company and Registered Providers

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

“(a) That Councillors Swindlehurst, Nazir and Mann be appointed as directors of DISH CLS;

(b) That two Councillors be nominated to work with officers on the set up of each of the DISH RP (Not for Profit) and the DISH RP (For Profit).”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved –

(a) That Councillors Swindlehurst, Nazir and Mann be appointed as directors of DISH CLS;

(b) That two Councillors be nominated to work with officers on the set up of each of the DISH RP (Not for Profit) and the DISH RP (For Profit).

Housing Rents and Service Charges 2020/21

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

“(a) That Council house dwelling rents for 2020/21 increase by 2.7% (CPI + 1%) over the 2019/20 rent with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is in line with current government guidelines and legislation.

(b) That garage rents, heating, utility and ancillary charges increase by 1.7% with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is based upon the September CPI figure.

(c) That service charges increase by 1.7% with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is based upon the September CPI figure.

(d) That ‘other committee’ property rents increase by an average of 1.7% from Monday 6th April 2020 in line with the September CPI figure.

(e) That properties leased from James Elliman Homes increase by an average of 1.7% from Monday 6th April 2020 in line with the September CPI figure.

(f) That DISH property rents increase by 2.7 % (CPI + 1%) over the 2019/20 rent with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is as per the Council’s recommendation to the DISH Board.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

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Resolved –

- (a) That Council house dwelling rents for 2020/21 increase by 2.7% (CPI + 1%) over the 2019/20 rent with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is in line with current government guidelines and legislation.
- (b) That garage rents, heating, utility and ancillary charges increase by 1.7% with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is based upon the September CPI figure.
- (c) That service charges increase by 1.7% with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is based upon the September CPI figure.
- (d) That 'other committee' property rents increase by an average of 1.7% from Monday 6th April 2020 in line with the September CPI figure.
- (e) That properties leased from James Elliman Homes increase by an average of 1.7% from Monday 6th April 2020 in line with the September CPI figure.
- (f) That DISH property rents increase by 2.7 % (CPI + 1%) over the 2019/20 rent with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is as per the Council's recommendation to the DISH Board.

45. Recommendation of the Trustee Committee from its meeting held on 27th November 2019

It was moved by Councillor S Parmar,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That the proposed changes to the Trustee Committee Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix A of this report be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – That the proposed changes to the Trustee Committee Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix A of this report be approved.

46. Calendar of Meetings 2020/21

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

- “(a) That the Calendar of Meetings for the period May 2020 to May 2021, as set out in Appendix A of this report, be approved; subject to confirmation of the Conservative Group meeting dates.
- (b) That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make amendments to the Calendar resulting from any constitutional changes that may be agreed, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

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Resolved –

- (a) That the Calendar of Meetings for the period May 2020 to May 2021, as set out in Appendix A of this report, be approved; subject to confirmation of the Conservative Group meeting dates.
- (b) That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make amendments to the Calendar resulting from any constitutional changes that may be agreed, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

47. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

A) Fireworks

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

“This Council resolves to -

a) Acknowledge:

- The detrimental environmental impact of fireworks on air quality and particularly the high risk for animals, autistic children and vulnerable people.
- Every year 4,000 people in England end up in A&E with firework related injuries.

b) Actively promote a public awareness campaign in Slough, educating firework users of the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people- including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks and effects on the environment.

c) Write to the UK Government in support for legislation on tighter controls and restrictions; preventing supermarkets and retailers from selling fireworks above 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays, and calling for fireworks to be used only at organised displays with exception of those in category F1 and F2.

d) Conduct an assessment into the feasibility of a firework permit scheme in Slough.”

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Akram,

“This Council acknowledges the detrimental environmental impact of fireworks on air quality and the high risk for animals, autistic children and vulnerable people and resolves to:

- Actively promote a public awareness campaign in Slough, educating firework users of the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks and effects on the environment

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- Write to the UK Government in support for legislation on tighter controls and restrictions on fireworks; preventing the sale fireworks above 90dB, banning category F3 fireworks from personal use and requesting that the Government enshrine EU Directive 2013/29/EU and EU Directive 2014/58/EU in UK Law to ensure the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015 can remain in force after the UK exits the European Union.”

The amendment was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

The amendment became the substantive motion and was agreed unanimously.

Resolved - This Council acknowledges the detrimental environmental impact of fireworks on air quality and the high risk for animals, autistic children and vulnerable people and resolves to:

- Actively promote a public awareness campaign in Slough, educating firework users of the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks and effects on the environment
- Write to the UK Government in support for legislation on tighter controls and restrictions on fireworks; preventing the sale fireworks above 90dB, banning category F3 fireworks from personal use and requesting that the Government enshrine EU Directive 2013/29/EU and EU Directive 2014/58/EU in UK Law to ensure the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015 can remain in force after the UK exits the European Union.

B) A Fully Funded Proper Pay Rise for Local Government Workers

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

“This Council recognises our workers are public service super heroes and acknowledges that government funding has been cut to such an extent that a proper pay rise would result in a reduction in services and therefore resolves to;

- Write to the Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be fully funded with new money from central government;
- Back the campaign for a £10 per hour minimum wage;
- Encourage all local government workers to join a union
- Encourage local business to pay their staff a minimum of £10 per hour.”

The motion was put to the vote and carried with 35 votes For, 1 Against and 4 Abstentions.

Resolved – This Council recognises our workers are public service super heroes and acknowledges that government funding has been cut to such an extent that a proper pay rise would result in a reduction in services and therefore resolves to;

- Write to the Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be fully funded with new money from central government;
- Back the campaign for a £10 per hour minimum wage;
- Encourage all local government workers to join a union
- Encourage local business to pay their staff a minimum of £10 per hour.

C) Fire Safety

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

“Council recognises that sprinkler systems and other automatic fire suppression systems (AFSS) have the ability to save lives and to reduce damage done by both fire and water, which is ultimately less costly and disruptive for the community, as well as being better for the environment.

Therefore this Council commits to;

- The installation of sprinkler systems or other AFSS within its own building stock wherever practicable when planning for and constructing new buildings or as a retrofitted solution when undertaking major refurbishments of existing buildings.
- Through the planning application or building control process, promote and support the installation of sprinklers or other AFSS for all new or refurbished buildings in accordance with current legislation and guidance associated with fire safety protection measures.
- Supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council position on sprinklers by writing to Central Government to express support for the creation of a legal requirement to fit sprinklers or AFSS in buildings.”

The motion was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved – Council recognises that sprinkler systems and other automatic fire suppression systems (AFSS) have the ability to save lives and to reduce damage done by both fire and water, which is ultimately less costly and disruptive for the community, as well as being better for the environment.

Therefore this Council commits to;

- The installation of sprinkler systems or other AFSS within its own building stock wherever practicable when planning for and

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constructing new buildings or as a retrofitted solution when undertaking major refurbishments of existing buildings.

- Through the planning application or building control process, promote and support the installation of sprinklers or other AFSS for all new or refurbished buildings in accordance with current legislation and guidance associated with fire safety protection measures.
- Supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council position on sprinklers by writing to Central Government to express support for the creation of a legal requirement to fit sprinklers or AFSS in buildings.

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

None received within the relevant time period.

49. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items in Part II of the agenda as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 the Schedule 12A the Local Government Act 1972.

50. Part II Minutes - 26th November 2019

Resolved – That the Part II minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2019 be approved as a correct record.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.07 pm)