



**MINUTES
of the
MEETING
of the
COUNCIL
of the
LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW
held on
THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2005**

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Lurline Champagne)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Asad Omar)

Councillors:

R. Arnold
Nana Asante-Twumasi
David Ashton
Mrs Marilyn Ashton
Mrs Camilla Bath
Miss C A Bednell
F. Billson
Alan Blann
H. Bluston
J. Branch
K. Burchell
M. Choudhury
Mrs Janet Cowan
John Cowan
Bob Currie
Margaret Davine
M. Dharmarajah
Sanjay Dighé
A.T. Foulds
Brian Gate

Mitzi Green
Ann Groves
C. Harrison
C. Harriss
T. Idaikkadar
M. Ingram
N. Ismail
Mary John
M. Kara
Mrs E.M. Kinnear
M. Kinsey
A.C. Knowles
Jean Lammiman
D. Lavingia
A. Lent
Myra Michael
Jerry J. Miles
Vina Mithani
Chris Mote
Mrs Janet Mote

J.W. Nickolay
Mrs Joyce Nickolay
Marie-Louise Nolan
Phillip O'Dell
P. Osborn
Anjana Patel
A. Pinkus
R. Ray
R.D. Romain
Anthony Seymour
Navin Shah
Mrs Rajeshri Shah
E. Silver
Bill Stephenson
Keekira Thammaiah
S. Thornton
Keith Toms
M. Versallion
A.E. Whitehead
G.G.V. Williams

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by the
Reverend Clive Pearce

A OPENING PROCEEDINGS**265. INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKE DISASTER - 26 DECEMBER 2004:**

Following the Chaplain's prayers, the Mayor requested Council to remain standing to pay honour to all those who had lost their lives consequent on the tsunami which had occurred in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004.

The Mayor informed the Council of a number of activities being undertaken in Harrow to aid the relief effort, and that an inter-faith memorial service for the victims of the tsunami was also planned.

The Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the many thousands of people who had died in South-East Asia as a result of the disaster.

266. PROCEDURAL MOTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.2:

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Shah, moved and the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor C Mote, seconded a procedural motion for an Urgent Motion relating to the Indian Ocean Earthquake Disaster to be admitted to the business to be transacted at this Council Meeting.

The Council noted that the proposed Urgent Motion had met the requirement of Council Procedure Rule 15.2(a), having been received prior to the deadline for receipt of such Motions.

The proposal received the general assent of the Council.

RESOLVED:

THAT THE PROCEDURAL MOTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.2 RELATING TO THE ADMISSION OF AN URGENT MOTION BE AGREED, AND THAT THE URGENT MOTION BE CONSIDERED AS THE NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS.

267. URGENT MOTION - INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKE DISASTER:

- (i) The following Urgent Motion, having been admitted to the Council Summons under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 15.2 (see Resolution 266 above), was moved by Councillor N Shah and seconded by Councillor C Mote:

"The London Borough of Harrow expresses its deepest sympathy and support to the victims of the Indian Ocean earthquake disaster, and to the many residents of the Borough who have family and friends in the region.

The people of Harrow have reacted to the disaster with enormous generosity and humanity, and Members of this Council wish to put on record their admiration and thanks to all those who have reacted so swiftly in giving their time and money to the relief effort.

This Borough has proud and well-established cultural and social links with many of the affected areas, particularly Sri Lanka. Many of the Borough's residents have themselves been affected by this disaster, and our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are grieving for lost relatives and friends.

The Council, through the Borough's close links with the region, believes it is in a special position to play a long term role in helping to rebuild and reconstruct shattered communities, through the sharing of the experience and expertise we in Harrow have at our disposal.

We urge our residents to donate generously to the Relief Fund set up by the Council and support the fundraising events and activities that are being organised in the Borough.

The Council expresses its commitment to the relief efforts for the long term".

- (ii) The Motion was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

THAT THE MOTION, AS SET OUT AT (i) ABOVE, BE ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

B **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

268. **COUNCIL MINUTES:**

RESOLVED:

THAT (1) THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2004, HAVING BEEN CIRCULATED, AND SUBJECT TO THE CORRECTIONS REFERRED TO IN THE SUMMONS AND AN ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OF RESOLUTION 255 TO READ "SUBSTITUTE COUNCILLOR THAMMAIAH BY COUNCILLOR GATE", BE TAKEN AS READ AND SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD;

(2) THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2004 BE DEFERRED UNTIL PRINTED IN THE COUNCIL MINUTE VOLUME.

269. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest on behalf of Members with regard to the business to be transacted at this Council Meeting.

270. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

RESOLVED:

THAT THE COUNCIL RECEIVE AND NOTE THE REPORT OF THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, AS TABLED, UPON HER OFFICIAL DUTIES, TOGETHER WITH THOSE OCCASIONS ON WHICH SHE WAS REPRESENTED BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR OR PAST MAYORS, SINCE THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 21 OCTOBER 2004

271. **TRIBUTES TO PAST MEMBERS AND A FORMER OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL:**

The Mayor regretfully informed the Council that the following past Members and former officer of the Council had recently died:

- (1) **FORMER COUNCILLOR MRS SALLY EDGEWORTH** – Mrs Edgeworth had been a Councillor of the London Borough of Harrow for Stanmore South Ward between 1958 and 1961, and had also been the first Secretary of the Harrow Association of Voluntary Service.
- (2) **FORMER COUNCILLOR GLYN DAVIS** – Mr Davis had served three terms as an elected Member of the London Borough of Harrow for Roxbourne Ward, totalling 11 years.
- (3) **DEREK BARKER** – Mr Barker had been a former Director of Engineering at the London Borough of Harrow.

Additionally, the Mayor advised of the recent death of the following person:

- (4) **JIMMY FOREST** – Mr Forest was President of the Royal British Region in Harrow and a holder of the Military Cross.

272. **QUEEN'S NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST:**

The following Harrow residents received awards in the Queen's New Year's Honours List:

Miss Pamela Singh	– Commander of the British Empire
Mr Ray Cooper	– Member of the British Empire
Mr Derek Roy	– Member of the British Empire
Mr Michael Turvey	– Member of the British Empire

C PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**273. PETITIONS:**

It was noted that no petitions were submitted to this Meeting under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.

274. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Further to Item 6 on the Summons, the following four questions were submitted by members of the public, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.3:

<u>QUESTION BY</u>	<u>QUESTION OF</u>	<u>TEXT OF QUESTION</u>
(1) Mr P Seedher	The Leader of the Council (Councillor N Shah)	“The Council is seeking 10 new executive managers at a cost of £43,000 to £63,000 each. I assume this figure is their salary. What is the real cost of these positions – taking into account recruitment costs, office overheads, pension provision and other perks such as ‘essential car allowance’?”
(2) Mr S Miah	Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder (Councillor O’Dell)	“Regarding the Petts Hill Bridge Improvement Phase 1, what action was taken to comply with the obligation in Harrow’s Borough Spending Plan to consult with the business community regarding the design of the scheme?”
(3) Ms L Kouparis	Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder (Councillor O’Dell)	“Can you give an assurance that the pedestrian tunnels to be constructed through the embankment either side of the Petts Hill railway bridge will be entirely crime-proof?”
(4) Mr M Carr	The Leader of the Council (Councillor N Shah)	“Why was an inexperienced officer assigned, by the Chief Planning Officer, to give evidence at an informal Public Hearing in respect of the Planning Application on 24 Uxbridge Road, Stanmore (August 3, 2004) against the wishes, recommendation and advice of Councillor Marilyn Ashton nominated by the Appeal by this Authority’s Development Control Committee and why has there not been a thorough investigation into this matter and satisfactory explanation given by the Chief Executive as requested by the residents who attended the Appeal and the said Councillor nominated to this case?”

[Notes: (1) Oral answers were provided to the above questions;

(2) under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12.4 and other than in respect of the third question, valid supplementary questions were also asked. The supplementary questions were answered orally, with the exception of the supplementary question asked by Mr Miah, to which the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder undertook to provide a written response;

(3) the relevant Members indicated that written responses would additionally be provided to questions (1), (3) and (4) above, and to the supplementary question asked in respect of the fourth question].

D REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**275. COUNCIL TAX BASE AND COLLECTION FUND 2005-06:**

Further to Item 7 on the Summons, the Council received Recommendation I of the Cabinet meeting of 13 January 2005 in this matter.

The Recommendation was adopted as printed.

RESOLVED:

(1) THAT THE BAND D EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF TAXABLE PROPERTIES BE CALCULATED AS SHOWN IN APPENDIX 1 TO THE RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT CALCULATIONS;

(2) THAT THE PROVISION FOR NON-COLLECTABLE AMOUNTS OF COUNCIL TAX FOR 2005-2006 BE AGREED AT 1.0% PRODUCING AN EXPECTED COLLECTION RATE OF 99%;

(3) THAT SUBJECT TO (1) AND (2) ABOVE, A COUNCIL TAX TAXBASE FOR 2005-2006 OF 84,309 BAND D EQUIVALENT PROPERTIES (BEING 85,160 X 99%) BE APPROVED, ALLOWING FOR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF MINISTRY OF DEFENCE PROPERTIES;

(4) THAT THE COUNCIL CONTINUES WITH ITS POLICY OF VARYING THE DISCOUNT RATE ON EMPTY PROPERTIES TO 10% DISCOUNT OF SECOND HOMES AND FURNISHED EMPTY PROPERTIES AND NO DISCOUNT FOR UNFURNISHED EMPTY PROPERTIES.

[REASON: To fulfil the Council's statutory obligation to set the Council Tax taxbase 2005-2006].

276. URGENCY AND SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE:

In accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Constitution, the Chief Executive presented a report at Item 8 of the Summons which set out details of urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet and individual Portfolio Holders since the previous Council Meeting, and of a decision taken under the Special Urgency procedure on behalf of the Executive.

RESOLVED:

THAT THE URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CABINET AND INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING, AND THE DECISION TAKEN UNDER THE SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE, AS NOW REPORTED, BE NOTED.

E ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**277. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE (COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13):**

Further to Item 9 on the Summons, the following nine questions had been submitted by Members of the Council, notice of which had duly been given under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 13.2. Oral answers were provided by the relevant Portfolio Holders (see also Notes below).

<u>QUESTION BY</u>	<u>QUESTION OF</u>	<u>TEXT OF QUESTION</u>
(1) Councillor Williams	The Leader of the Council (Councillor N Shah)	"Is it deliberate policy to deny Ward Councillors the opportunity of representing their Constituents, or was the tabling, at the very last moment and with no notice to myself, nor to the other two Pinner South Ward Councillors, at the Development Control meeting relating to another mobile 'phone mast at the junction of Eastcote

		Road and Lyncroft Avenue, Pinner, a mistake?"
(2) Councillor C Mote	The Leader of the Council (Councillor N Shah)	"Would the Leader tell us what the policy and time frame is on replying to written questions from members of the public, both in acknowledging and replying to them?"
(3) Councillor John Nickolay	Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder (Councillor O'Dell)	"In view of the acute difficulties being experienced by residents in Ealing and Harrow to obtain responses to anxieties raised during the present work (due in the main to doubts over the boundary), can he give an undertaking that at least one dedicated and reliable telephone hotline number will be made available to ensure that such enquiries can be effectively dealt with?"
(4) Councillor Marilyn Ashton	Planning, Development and Housing Portfolio Holder (Councillor Burchell)	"Although some limited progress has been made in respect of hiring temporary staff in the Planning Enforcement Department, when is it likely that any real achievement will be made to clear the increasing backlog of planning enforcement cases, and is it not the case that the majority of members of the law-abiding public are getting increasingly concerned and anxious about a growing minority who are being allowed by this Administration to retain developments without having been granted planning permission?"
(5) Councillor Seymour	Deputy Leader of the Council: Business Connections and Performance Portfolio Holder (Councillor Dighé)	"Can the Deputy Leader confirm that the proposed 24 hour drinking culture when implemented will not lead to any significant increase in Council Tax?"
(6) Councillor Seymour	The Leader of the Council (Councillor N Shah)	"How much has the Council spent on external consultants since 2002?"
(7) Councillor Harriss	Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder (Councillor O'Dell)	"When was the contract with Barhale signed for the six months of preliminary work at the site of the Petts Hill Bridge Improvement scheme and what is the latest date the contract for construction work needs to be ready for signature?"
(8) Councillor Myra Michael	Social Care and Health Portfolio Holder (Councillor Margaret Davine)	"Could it be explained why despite a massive rise in Council Tax over recent years (24% in the last 2 years) and a continued rise in officer numbers, Harrow's Social Services showed no improvement on the one Star rating in the latest Audit report?"
(9) Councillor Knowles	The Leader of the Council (Councillor N Shah)	"Would the Leader of the Council explain why the Housing Improvement Options Advisory Panel is better than the scrapped ALMO (Spire Community Homes

Limited) and also what is expected of this Panel?”

[Notes: (1) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.4, it was agreed that the Planning, Development and Housing Portfolio Holder would additionally provide a written answer to question (4); and

(2) under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 13.5, the Members submitting the above questions each asked a supplementary question which was also answered orally, with the exception of the supplementary question to question (4), to which the Planning, Development and Housing Portfolio Holder undertook to provide a written response].

278. MOTION AT ITEM 10(1) - PRIMARY CARE TRUST MANAGEMENT BOARD:

The mover and the seconder of the Motion set out at Item 10(1) of the Summons sought leave of the Council to withdraw the Motion.

RESOLVED:

THAT THE MOTION SET OUT AT ITEM 10(1) OF THE SUMMONS IN THE NAMES OF COUNCILLORS C MOTE AND D ASHTON BE WITHDRAWN FROM CONSIDERATION WITH THE CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL.

279. MOTION AT ITEM 10(2) - LOCALLY LISTED BUILDINGS:

(i) Councillor C Mote moved and Councillor N Shah seconded the following motion appearing at Item 10(2) of the Summons:

“This Council notes its previous Motion regarding locally listed buildings prompted by the untimely demise of The Railway Public House, Hatch End.

This Council also notes the unhelpful comments of the Mayor of London.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive and the Chief Planning Officer to lobby the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to bring in legislation to protect effectively locally listed buildings.”

(ii) The Motion was carried by general assent.

RESOLVED:

THAT THE MOTION SET OUT AT (i) ABOVE BE ADOPTED.

(CLOSE OF MEETING: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm).