

COUNCIL MINUTES

14 APRIL 2011

Present:

- * Councillor Asad Omar (The Worshipful the Mayor)
- * Councillor Mrinal Choudhury (The Deputy Mayor)

Councillors:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| * Husain Akhtar | * Jerry Miles |
| * Sue Anderson | * Mrs Vina Mithani |
| * Nana Asante | * Chris Mote |
| * Mrs Camilla Bath | * Janet Mote |
| * Christine Bednell | * John Nickolay |
| * James Bond | * Joyce Nickolay |
| * Mrs Lurline Champagnie OBE | * Christopher Noyce |
| * Kam Chana | * Phillip O'Dell |
| * Ramji Chauhan | * Paul Osborn |
| * Bob Currie | * Varsha Parmar |
| * Margaret Davine | * David Perry |
| * Mano Dharmarajah | * Bill Phillips |
| * Tony Ferrari | * Raj Ray |
| * Keith Ferry | * Richard Romain |
| * Ann Gate | * Anthony Seymour |
| * Brian Gate | * Lynda Seymour |
| * David Gawn | * Navin Shah |
| * Stephen Greek | * Mrs Rekha Shah |
| * Mitzi Green | * Sachin Shah |
| * Susan Hall | * Stanley Sheinwald |
| * Graham Henson | * Victoria Silver |
| * Thaya Idaikkadar | * Bill Stephenson |
| * Nizam Ismail | * William Stoodley |
| * Krishna James | * Krishna Suresh |
| * Manji Kara | * Sasi Suresh |
| * Zarina Khalid | * Yogesh Teli |
| * Jean Lammiman | * Mark Versallion |
| * Barry Macleod-Cullinane | * Ben Wealthy |
| * Kairul Kareema Marikar | * Simon Williams |
| * Ajay Maru | * Stephen Wright |

* Denotes Member present

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Imam Hafiz Muhammed Akram.

86. MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Mayor requested Council to join him in observing a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Keeki Thammiah, Councillor John Cowan and Sir Simon Milton.

Following the sad deaths of former Councillor Keeki Thammiah and Councillor John Cowan, Councillors Husain Akhtar, Nana Asante, Christine Bednell, Brian Gate, Susan Hall, Thaya Idaikkadar, Nizam Ismail, Jean Lammiman, Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Kareema Marikar, Vina Mithani, Chris Mote, John Nickolay, Chris Noyce, Richard Romain, Tony Seymour and Bill Stephenson spoke in tribute of the long service each had given to Harrow.

87. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2011 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor invited appropriate declaration of interests. Members declaring interests considered these to be personal and that they could speak and vote thereon.

Item 9 – Draft Issues and Options Consultation Documents for Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan; Site Allocations DPD; and Development Management Policies DPD

Councillor Susan Hall declared that she owned a business in Wealdstone.

Item 10 – Questions With Notice

Councillor Mitzi Green declared that she was a Lloyds TSB pensioner.

Item 11(1) – Motions – Opposing Closure Plans of Wealdstone Police Station

Councillor Stephen Greek declared that he was an employee of the Greater London Authority.

Item 11(2) – Motions – Harrow Council Partnership with Schools

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared that his sister was a teacher at Hatch End High School.

Item 11(3) – Motions – Saving the NHS

Councillor Husain Akhtar declared that his son was employed by the NHS.

Councillor Sue Anderson declared that she occasionally worked for NHS Harrow.

Councillor Ann Gate declared that she worked for the NHS in a GP Surgery in the borough.

Councillor Brian Gate declared that he was married to an employee of the NHS.

Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar declared that his daughter and sister both worked for the NHS.

Councillor Krishna James declared that she was a former nurse and that her sister was currently a nurse employed at Northwick Park Hospital.

Councillor Vina Mithani declared that she worked for the Health Protection Agency and liaised with the NHS.

Councillor Chris Mote declared that his daughter worked for the NHS.

Councillor Janet Mote declared that her daughter worked for the NHS.

Councillor Mark Versallion declared that his uncle was the head of the Metropolitan Police Dive Team. He was also a non-executive director of North West London NHS Trust.

Councillor Simon Williams declared that his wife was a Community Psychiatric Nurse for Central North West London Mental Health Trust and that his company entered into business with the NHS.

Item 11(4) – Motions – Academies

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Asad Omar, declared that he was a governor at Nower Hill High School.

Councillors Camilla Bath, Bill Phillips and Rekha Shah declared that they were governors at Harrow High School.

Councillor James Bond declared that he was a governor at Longfield School.

Councillors Lurline Champagnie and Ramji Chauhan declared that they were governors at Hatch End High School.

Councillors Mrinal Choudhury and Yogesh Teli declared that they were governors of Elmgrove First and Middle School.

Councillor Jean Lammiman declared that she was a governor at Nower Hill High School and Shaftesbury High School.

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared that his sister was a teacher at Hatch End High School.

Councillor Kareema Marikar declared that she was a governor for Bentley Wood High School and Shaftesbury High School.

Councillor Ajay Maru declared that he was a governor at Priestmead Primary School.

Councillor Jerry Miles declared that he was a governor at Rooks Heath College for Business and Enterprise.

Councillor Raj Ray declared that he was a governor at Kingsley High School and Shaftesbury High School.

Councillor Lynda Seymour declared that she was a governor at Bentley Wood High School.

Councillor Sachin Shah declared that he was a governor of Rooks Heath College for Business and Enterprise.

Councillor Stephen Wright declared that he was a governor of Canons School and his wife was a teacher employed by the Council.

Item 11(6) – Motions – Grants Advisory Panel

Councillor Camilla Bath declared that she was the Chairman of the Bentley Priory Nature Reserve.

Councillor Lurline Champagnie declared that she was a Trustee on Relate.

Councillor Mrinal Choudhury declared that he was a Trustee of Harrow Association of Voluntary Services.

Councillor Margaret Davine declared that she was a Trustee of Harrow Women's Centre and Relate.

Councillor Brian Gate declared that he was a Trustee of Harrow Association of Voluntary Services and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Chris Mote declared that his sister-in-law was a fund raising trustee for St Luke's Hospice.

Councillor Janet Mote declared that her sister-in-law was a fund raising trustee for St Luke's Hospice.

Councillor Joyce Nickolay declared that she was a trustee of the Harrow Association of Voluntary Services and a member of the Bentley Priory Nature Reserve

Councillor Bill Phillips declared that he was a trustee of the Harrow Association of Voluntary Services.

Councillor Jean Lammiman declared that she was a trustee of Harrow in Europe, Relate, Harrow Young Musicians, Harrow Association of Voluntary Services, Harrow Equalities Centre and Harrow Association for Disabled People.

Councillor Yogesh Teli declared that he was the chairman of the Ashiana Trust.

Item 11(7) – Motions – Pollution Funding

Councillor Stephen Greek declared that he was an employee of the Greater London Authority.

89. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor requested that Council note the engagements he had undertaken.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Worshipful the Mayor, as tabled, be received.

90. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- (i) The Leader of the Opposition moved that the referral of the Kenton Road Motion to Cabinet be disapplied to allow Council to debate the Motion and offer comments or recommendations to Cabinet in its consideration of the matter.
- (ii) The Mayor ruled that the requirements contained in Rule 14.6 and 14.7 had not been met. Therefore the request to allow the Motion to be discussed was not allowed.
- (iii) A further procedural Motion was moved in the names of Councillors Osborn and Champagne, to suspend Council Procedure Rule 14.6.
- (iv) Upon a vote, the procedural Motion was lost.

91. PETITIONS

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petitions were presented:

- (i) Submitted by Councillor Susan Hall containing 32 signatures of Members and residents expressing concern that the Council's administration "is using the machinery of the Council to advocate a political position on academies".

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Schools and Colleges].

- (ii) Submitted by Councillor Chris Noyce containing 21 signatures of residents requesting that the Council repair potholes in both Clewer Crescent and Windsor Road.

[The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].

- (iii) Submitted by Councillor Husain Akhtar containing 280 signatures of residents objecting to the installation of a 12.5m high telecommunications monopole mast and ancillary radio equipment cabinet adjacent to 86 Dalkeith Grove, Stanmore, HA7 4SF and requesting the Council to reject the siting and appearance of the development.

[The petition stood referred to the Planning Committee and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise].

- (iv) Submitted by a resident containing 20 signatures of residents requesting the Council to improve the pavements in Milford Gardens, Edgware.

[The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].

92. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In accordance with Rule 11, the questions submitted by members of the public and responded to by Portfolio Holders are contained at Appendix I.

93. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council introduced his report highlighting achievements and proposals since the last ordinary meeting.

At the conclusion of his report, the Leader responded to questions from Members of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

94. RECOGNITION OF LONG SERVICE: COUNCILLOR LURLINE CHAMPAGNIE OBE

Council received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services, which set out a proposal for A Long Service Award to Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagnie and her 25 years' service to the Borough.

The Council on 18 July 1985 (Resolution 192) had agreed that the completion of 25 years' service on the part of Members of Council should be recognised by awarding a framed, illuminated copy resolution of appreciation.

The proposal was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the following formal resolution be adopted:

Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagnie S.R.N., N.D.N. OBE:
Recognition of Long Service

The Council of the London Borough of Harrow do hereby record their appreciation of the twenty five years' service by Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagnie, OBE to the London Borough of Harrow.

Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE was first elected in May 1986 as Councillor for the Pinner Ward, which she has represented continuously since then. She is currently serving her seventh consecutive period in office, for the life of the current Council 2010-2014.

Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE has served on various Council Committees, including the Social Services Committee and the Environment Services Committee. Her particular interest has, however, been with educational issues, giving rise to extended service on the Education Committee. In that time, she variously held the offices of Chairman of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Education Committee, Vice Chairman of the Social Services Committee and Chairman of the Arts Panel. Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE first served on the Education Committee in 1986, commencing a period of service on that Committee in its various guises and its sub-committees. Latterly, Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE has also served on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, the Standards Committee, and scrutiny sub-committees. Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE has represented the Council on numerous outside bodies including Age Concern Harrow, Deputy Lord Lieutenant's Committee, Harrow Unified Mental Health Service Partnership Board and Relate North West London.

Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE was Harrow's first black female Mayor. During her Mayoral Year of 2004/05, Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE served as the First Citizen to the Borough and attended approximately 600 engagements, with personal highlights including a private audience with Nelson Mandela at South Africa House. As Deputy Mayor, she hosted Her Majesty the Queen in the Town Centre on Harrow's 50th Anniversary Celebrations on 1 April 2004.

Cllr Mrs Champagnie, OBE also attended the 50th Year Celebration of the Borough Garden Party at the Grimsdyke Hotel. During this year she also received as Mayor the Queen's Colour Squadron exercise its right to undertake a RAF Freedom March through Harrow, plus a fly past.

In January 2010, Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to Local Government and diversity.

In recognition of her completion of twenty-five years' of public service to Harrow, this resolution be engrossed on vellum and publicly presented to Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2011."

95. RECOGNITION OF LONG SERVICE: COUNCILLOR JOHN COWAN

Council received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services, which set out a proposal for A Long Service Award posthumously to Councillor John Cowan to mark his 25 years' service to the Borough.

The Council on 18 July 1985 (Resolution 192) had agreed that the completion of 25 years' service on the part of Members of Council should be recognised by awarding a framed, illuminated copy resolution of appreciation.

The proposal was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the following formal resolutions be adopted:

Councillor John Cowan B.Com. (Hon), F.C.A: **Recognition of Long Service**

The Council of the London Borough of Harrow do hereby record their appreciation of the twenty five years' service by Councillor John Cowan to the London Borough of Harrow.

Councillor John Cowan was first elected in May 1986 as Councillor for the Canons Ward, which he has represented continuously since then. He was serving his seventh consecutive period in office, for the life of the current Council 2010-2014. Councillor Cowan was Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group from 1997–1998 and Leader of the Group from 1999–2003.

Councillor Cowan has served on various Council Committees, including the Education Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee. He also served as a key appointee to the Harrow College Further Education Corporation Board and North London Collegiate School Board. His particular interest has, however, been with financial issues, giving rise to extended service on the Audit Committee and subsequently the Governance, Audit and Risk Committee. In that time, he held the offices of Chairman of the Audit Committee, Chairman of Governance Audit and Risk Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Cowan first served on the Policy and Resources Committee in 1988 commencing a period of service on that Committee in its various strategic guises, and additionally on the Resources Committee when

this operated as a separate entity. When these arrangements were overtaken by the restructuring under the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Cowan served as a member of the first Cabinet between 2000 and 2003. Latterly, Councillor Cowan has also served on the Standards Committee and the Licensing and General Purposes Committee. Councillor Cowan has represented the Council on numerous outside bodies including Harrow College of Further Education Corporation Board, Harrow in Business, Parochial Charities of Little Stanmore and Sir Lancelot Lake Charity.

During his Mayoral Year of 1994/95, Councillor Cowan served as First Citizen to the Borough and attended in excess of 550 engagements with personal highlights including attendance at the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Douai in September 1994, the Borough's Twin Town. This was a highly memorable and moving occasion for all, with representatives from those army veterans who retook Douai also in attendance. He also served as Mayor when the Royal Air Force exercised its right to march following the granting of the Freedom of the Borough, receiving the salute of inspected troops and a "fly past" by aircraft of the Royal Air Force over the Civic Centre.

Councillor Cowan was fully supported in his personal Mayoral Year by his wife, late Councillor Janet Cowan, and reciprocally similarly aided his wife during her personal Mayoral Year of 2006.

In recognition of his twenty-five years' of public service to Harrow, this resolution be engrossed on vellum and publicly presented posthumously to Richard and Martin Cowan by the Mayor, at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2011."

96. DRAFT ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS FOR HARROW AND WEALDSTONE AREA ACTION PLAN; SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD; and DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES DPD

Further to Item 9 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the meeting of Cabinet held on 7 April 2011. The recommendation was formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bill Stephenson.

RESOLVED: That, having reviewed and commented on the draft issue and options consultation documents for the Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan, the draft Site Allocations DPD, and the draft Development Management DPD, the draft Issues and Options consultation documents for the Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan; the draft Site Allocations DPD and the draft Development Management DPD be approved for a six week period of public consultation on each of the documents, subject to authority being delegated to the Divisional Director Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise, to agree amendments to the documents prior to public consultation.

97. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

In accordance with Rule 12, the questions submitted by Councillors and responded to by Portfolio Holders, are contained at Appendix II.

98. MOTION - OPPOSING CLOSURE PLANS OF WEALDSTONE POLICE STATION

- (i) At Item 11(1) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors David Perry and Krishna James in the following terms:

“This Council firmly opposes The Metropolitan Police Authority’s (MPA’s) decision to dispose of Wealdstone Police Station, a listed building with a distinctive character located in Wealdstone High Street. This shocking decision is a repeat of previous such plans in 2003 and 2008 which were then firmly opposed by the Council and local MPs to ensure that the High Street and the surrounding areas were kept safe from anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime.

This Council notes that the existence of this police station is vital to maintaining the current ‘Wealdstone Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership’ (WASP) in the area together with the team of volunteers based in the existing building. Although members of the public do not have direct access to the building, this outrageous proposal to close the Police Station by the MPA is short sighted and will damage local policing initiatives being taken in an area which is of great concern to the Council and Harrow’s community.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of London, the MPA, Harrow’s three MPs and Brent and Harrow’s London Assembly Member:

- conveying Council’s strong objections and opposition to the closure of the police station;
- seeking immediate withdrawal of the closure plan;
- asking for their support to the Council’s opposition to the closure.”

- (ii) There was an amendment in the names of Councillors Susan Hall and Mark Versallion, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

“This Council is sympathetic to the need of the Metropolitan Police Authority’s (MPA) need to make savings given the financial legacy left by the previous Government, but nonetheless opposes its decision to dispose of Wealdstone Police Station until such time as a suitable replacement facility can be found. It is fully accepted that the current building is not fit for purpose, and that a new facility must include accommodation for the Wealdstone Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership (WASP), improved facilities for officers and the public, provide good

value for money and be fully DDA compliant (which the current building is not).

This Council notes that the existence of a borough-central police station is vital to maintaining WASP and keeping the surrounding area safe from anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime, as was argued by the Council and local MPs when the Wealdstone station was threatened in 2003 and 2008.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of London, the MPA, Harrow's three MPs and Brent and Harrow's London Assembly Member:

- to ask that all involved parties work together to find a suitable replacement to Wealdstone police station, with the possibility of utilising Council facilities;
- to convey Council's strong objections and opposition to the closure of the police station without a suitable replacement being found;
- to seek their support for the Council's opposition to the closure and the search for an alternative facility."

(iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (ii) was lost.

(iv) Upon a further vote the substantive Motion, was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as set out at (i) above, be adopted.

99. MOTION - HARROW COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOLS

(i) At Item 11(2) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Brian Gate and Bill Stephenson in the following terms:

"This Council is proud of its record of support, over many years to all of the schools in its care. It refutes the description of Harrow Council by Bob Blackman, MP as "the dead hand of the Local Authority".

This Council calls upon Mr Blackman to apologise for this gross mis-representation of the valued partnership that Harrow Council enjoys with all its schools, and would be more appropriately described as the "supportive hand of the Local Authority". Mr Blackman's description is an insult to all elected members, past and present, from all political parties, as well as officers and colleagues in our schools. It is dismissive of the strong cross-party support this valued partnership has enjoyed with its schools and colleges over many years.

For instance, the Local Authority has set up the Harrow Skills Centre, successfully changed the Age of Transfer to Secondary Schools from Year 8 to Year 7 as well as setting up a highly successful Sixth Form Collegiate. It is also delegates a higher percentage of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) directly to its schools than any other Local Authority in London.

This Council calls upon Mr Blackman to apologise to all of the Council's officers who have provided, and continue to provide strong high quality professional support, and to elected members past and present from all political parties who have served and continue to serve willingly on governing bodies and Local Authority Committees, for devaluing the hard work and commitment they have shown in supporting our young people.

This Council is committed to continuing to support all schools irrespective of whether they become academies or not.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Bob Blackman, MP for Harrow East, with Copies to Gareth Thomas, MP for Harrow West, and Nick Hurd, MP for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner informing them of this motion."

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion be adopted.

100. MOTION - SAVING THE NHS

- (i) At Item 11(3) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Margaret Davine and Victoria Silver in the following terms:

"This Council notes:

- that the cross-party Commons Health Committee has urged a rethink of the proposals contained in the Health and Social Care Bill;
- that on 4 April, Andrew Lansley was adamant that there would be no changes to the Bill; yet within 24 hours of his statement David Cameron intervened to put the Bill on hold to allow more time for consultation.

This Council welcomes this decision and believes that the proposed implementation of GP commissioning will overload doctors, thus resulting in services being outsourced to private providers over which local people will have no control. This is in total contravention of David Cameron's election promise that 'we will cut the deficit not the NHS'.

This Council further notes that many health professional bodies are opposed to these proposals, which have been introduced with undue haste.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to think again and drop its current proposals and enter into discussions with all those concerned to find a way forward to preserve and enhance the NHS, bearing in mind the need for accountability.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health, the Shadow Secretary of State for Health, all three Harrow MPs, the London Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow informing them of the above motion, and asking them to use their good offices to deliver the above outcome.”

- (ii) There was an amendment in the names of Councillors Barry Macleod-Cullinane and Mrs Lurline Champagnie, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

“This Council notes:

- that the cross-party Commons Health Committee has urged a rethink of the proposals contained in the Health and Social Care Bill;
- that on 4 April, Andrew Lansley was adamant that there would be no changes to the Bill; yet within 24 hours of his statement David Cameron intervened to put the Bill on hold to allow more time for consultation.

This Council welcomes this decision and believes that the proposed implementation of GP commissioning will overload doctors, thus resulting in services being outsourced to private providers over which local people will have no control. This is in total contravention of David Cameron’s election promise that ‘we will cut the deficit not the NHS’.

This Council further notes that many health professional bodies are opposed to these proposals, which have been introduced with undue haste.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to think again and drop its current proposals and enter into discussions with all those concerned to find a way forward to preserve and enhance the NHS, bearing in mind the need for accountability.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health, the Shadow Secretary of State for Health, all three Harrow MPs, the London Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow informing them of the above motion, and the following information:

1. Harrow Primary Care Trust (PCT) was rated as the sixth worst PCT in the country in 2010 (138th out of 144) by the Health Service Journal, with the second worst competency rating.
2. Despite receiving 5% extra funding from the previous government, Harrow PCT needs to make some £57 million of

cuts over the next year to tackle its own financial mismanagement. Harrow PCT's outgoing chief executive (and second within 15 months) said in February 2011 that its financial problems were "probably bigger than any other PCT in London".

3. Harrow PCT has already cut £2 million out of mental health services, vital to some of Harrow's most vulnerable residents, and is now looking to cut IVF and other services.
4. Harrow PCT abruptly closed the Pinner Village Surgery in 2010 without proper consultation and weak justification, inconveniencing thousands of Harrow residents."

(iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (ii) was lost.

(iv) Upon a further vote the substantive Motion, was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as set out at (i) above, be adopted.

101. MOTION - ACADEMIES

- (i) At Item 11(4) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Susan Hall and Barry Macleod-Cullinane in the following terms:

"This Council would welcome the adoption of academy status by:

- the seven Harrow high schools currently considering the proposals.
- any other Harrow schools that may wish to become academies in the future.

This Council believes in the merits of academies, and believes their introduction into Harrow will further improve the borough's already strong educational performance and benefit both our schools and our students."

- (ii) There was an amendment in the names of Councillors Brian Gate and Bill Stephenson, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

"This Council notes that seven Harrow High Schools are currently considering adoption of academy status:

As a supportive Local Authority, it will:-

- support the schools and work in partnership with them regardless of the outcome of the decision to convert to academy status

- encourage all schools to work closely together in the best interests of Harrow people, including high schools working with primaries and through the Collegiate
- ensure the Borough's admissions arrangements for community schools and fair access protocol are important to Harrow parents; we will not wish to see these changed and remain committed to high quality Harrow school places for all Harrow children
- remain committed to great learning opportunities for all Harrow pupils whatever their abilities or disabilities
- as democratically elected representatives, seek to be actively involved in supporting any new academies and continue to hold all schools publicly to account for outcomes for the borough's young people
- will work with the respective Governing Bodies to ensure that due diligence is exercised in considering academy status
- will encourage fair and wide consultation as part of the process.

This Council believes in the merits of all state schools in Harrow continuing to work together in partnership whatever their status, believing that this will improve the Borough's already strong educational performance and that this will be to the benefit of all of our students."

(iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (ii) was carried.

(iv) Upon a vote the substantive Motion, as amended, was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as amended and set out at (ii) above, be adopted.

102. MOTION - COUNCILLOR 'CODE OF CONDUCT'

(i) At Item 11(5) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Barry Macleod-Cullinane and Paul Osborn in the following terms:

"This Council pledges that Harrow councillors will:

- treat residents with respect.
- treat present and past councillors with respect.

This Council therefore pledges that no Harrow councillors will be involved with or affiliated with any blogs, websites or other media forms or activities which in any way contravene the above statements.

Additionally, this Council instructs the Director of Legal and Governance Services to issue reminding guidance to councillors on their obligations towards residents under the Code of Conduct.”

- (ii) There was an amendment in the names of Councillors Brian Gate and Bill Stephenson, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

“This Council reiterates its full support for the ‘Code of Conduct for Councillors’ as laid out in the Constitution. Council further welcomes the fact that training is to be provided in the near future on the conduct of councillors involved with or affiliated with any blogs, websites or other media forms.”

- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (ii) was carried.

- (iv) Upon a vote the substantive Motion, as amended, was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as amended and set out at (ii) above, be adopted.

103. MOTION - GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL

This Motion stood referred to the Executive.

104. MOTION - POLLUTION FUNDING

- (i) At Item 11(7) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Barry Macleod-Cullinane and Susan Hall in the following terms:

“This Council welcomes the additional £5 million in funding announced last week by the Transport Secretary Phillip Hammond to help combat pollution across London.

This Council is also greatly concerned by the looming threat of £300 million of fines that could be imposed on councils across London by the European Union if certain anti-pollution targets are not met.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to refer these concerns to the Transport Secretary, Harrow’s three MPs, and other relevant bodies, as such fines being forced on Harrow Council would have a significant impact on frontline services.”

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion be adopted.

105. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER AND USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURES

The Council received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services providing a summary of the urgent decisions taken by Cabinet, the Leader and Portfolio Holders, and the use of the special urgency procedure since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

106. PROCEDURE FOR TERMINATION OF MEETING

- (i) At 10.28 pm, during the debate on the Item 11(3) (Motion: Saving the NHS), the Mayor put to the vote a procedural motion under Rule 9.2 that the closure of time for the Council meeting be extended until the completion of all remaining business on the Summons. Upon a vote, this proposal was not agreed;
- (ii) At 10.30 pm, in the course of the consideration of Item 11(3) (Motion: Saving the NHS), the Mayor advised that the 'guillotine' procedure had come into operation for the determination of the remaining business on the summons and was applied to Items 11(4) (Motion: Academies), 11(5) (Motion: Councillor 'Code of Conduct'), 11(6) (Motion: Grants Advisory Panel), 11(7) (Motion: Pollution Funding) and 12 (Decisions Taken Under the Urgency Procedure by Portfolio Holders, Leader and Deputy Leader and Use of Special Urgency Procedures).

RESOLVED: That the provisions of Rules 9.2 and 9.3 be applied as set out at (i) and (ii) above.

(CLOSE OF MEETING: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.33 pm).

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

14 APRIL 2011

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public of a Member of the Executive, or the Chairman of any Committee.

1.

Questioner: Terry Revill, Flash Musicals

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Question: “Can you explain why Harrow Council has not committed to adding the £300,000 due to be returned by London Grants to the Grants pot?”

Answer: For many years now we have been campaigning to cut the large contributions which we have to pay to London Council’s grants scheme. Very few of the bodies which receive grants for this scheme directly provide services to Harrow residents. This year there has been a consensus to cut the funding to this scheme by 50%, which would mean a cut in our contribution of about £357,000 and this has been allowed from the budget.

However, following a judicial review, this had to be put on hold whilst London Councils consult again and ensure that we carry out a rigorous equality impact assessment, as the Judge has ordered us to do. London Councils is confident that having done this and taking account of any changes which may need to be made when we make these impact assessments, we will eventually receive our rebate.

I am sure you will be aware, the Council has to reduce its spending by nearly 30% over the next four years and the original proposal that was received for the grants budget was for it to be cut by the same amount. Rebate from the London Councils is not ring fenced. In my view the amount we give to London Councils is far too much, and I do not think it should be ring fenced. We have to take account of all the other financial pressures which we are under. However, we have taken account of our rebate and instead of

cutting the grants budget by 30%, we cut it by 15% and we are still providing nearly £600,000 in the grants budget.

As I indicated to you in my reply to a question from you at the Cabinet, many other London councils who were in exactly the same position in terms of their rebates, have not been nearly as generous.

I still think we are paying too much to London Councils grants scheme and I will continue to lobby for a much smaller contribution and bigger rebate to ourselves.

2.

Questioner: Ann Freeman

Asked of: Councillor Margaret Davine (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing)

Question “How did it happen that Harrow Council's own Quality Assessment Framework and other safeguards failed to protect from neglect and failed to allow people to flourish in the 3 houses that they own at 15 Greenhill Road, 777 Field End Road and 6 Weldon Crescent, and managed through Harrow's Supporting People and Harrow Adult Mental Health Services Care Programme Approach policies?”

Answer: Thank you for raising your concerns about the three properties you mention. I share those concerns, especially about the condition, maintenance, lack of cleanliness and health and safety issues in one of the properties.

The services that are provided at these sites are for people with Mental Health needs that have been commissioned by the Supporting People team and until recently were provided by CNWL.

The housing related support services delivered to the properties were monitored using the Quality Assurance Framework since 2004. The reason for the Supporting People team re-procuring the support service recently and resulting in the Richmond Fellowship having taking over the contract from April 2011 was because concerns had been identified through feedback from service users and carers. They had highlighted concerns about the quality and the standards. My hope is that now that Richmond Fellowship have taken over, the situation will be much better in the future.

Supplemental Question: Richmond Fellowship is only part of the care. What about Harrow Mental Health Services' input?

Supplemental Answer: The care for care and health related needs will be continued by CNWL which is, as you know because you helped monitor through the Section 75 agreement, and that will continue.

APPENDIX II

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

14 APRIL 2011

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE (ITEM 10)

Fifteen minutes will be allowed for Members of the Council to ask a Portfolio Holder a question on any matter in relation to which the Executive has powers or duties.

1.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

Question: "We saw recently that both Wealdstone and Hatch End now have full complements of Neighbourhood Champions. Can you provide an update on the recruitment figures for the Neighbourhood Champions scheme, both in terms of those signed up and those who have completed training?"

Answer: There are currently 636 Neighbourhood Champions trained and 535 Neighbourhood Champions awaiting training.

Supplemental Question: Given that your party was completely against their introduction, I was delighted but puzzled also, to see that there was a very positive quote about Neighbourhood Champions in March's Harrow People under the heading of "Our priorities in action".

Are you going to start taking these as one of your ideas, as you have just rebranded the Pride in Harrow, which was actually weeks of action, which the Conservatives brought in over four years' ago?

Supplemental Answer: Yes, we probably will.

2.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

Question “Could you provide us with an update on how the Public Realm Maintenance Transformation Project is progressing?”

Answer: The project is progressing at a satisfactory pace, especially as it is a complex project bringing together organisational change and the introduction of new technologies. There have been some minor delays of the programme due to progress in a complex staff change but this is thought this will not have any significant impact on the current business case.

Supplemental Question: Well yes, because that is the wrong answer actually Councillor O’Dell. It is a significant delay in this. Are you aware that by June over £1.1m will have come off the Public Realm budget and yet the Transformation Project, which should be well and truly underway by now, has not yet begun?

Can you explain why this is not cutting money from the frontline? How you are going to sort it out and how, indeed, you are going to cope with an extra £70,000 a month that Capita tells me they are going to be charging you when this does not happen on time?

Supplemental Answer: As I say, we do acknowledge there are some delays but as I previously said, we and the officers advising us do not agree that there will not be a significant impact on this business case.

3.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Question “What steps are being taken to reduce occurrences of meetings being moved at short notice, as well as meetings being either scheduled or moved to clash with other meetings, as this can make it difficult or impossible for councillors of all parties to attend?”

Answer: As far as possible, all major meetings are programmed for a year in advance. As we all know, from time to time, issues arise that require a change in meeting dates. We work hard to minimise these occurrences but they can and will arise, particularly where special additional meetings are needed.

When this occurs, as far as possible, this is negotiated with the Chairman and appropriate Nominated Member.

However, regrettably, occasionally clashes will occur and we will continue to do our very best to avoid this.

Supplemental Question: Would you not, therefore, agree with me that it is absolutely unacceptable for a Labour Member of the Planning Committee to miss ten out of the twelve scheduled meetings during the past year, with actually no apparent clashes with other Council meetings?

Supplemental Answer: I cannot possibly comment on something I do not know anything about. We have a system of rotating our Planning Committee meetings.

4.

Questioner: Councillor Anthony Seymour

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Question “I understand that the request for financial support regarding the closure of the North Harrow Lloyds TSB has been rejected by the bank. Are there any plans to appeal this decision, and what alternative sources of support funding are being explored?”

Answer: Again, I understand the request for financial support arising from the meeting between Gareth Thomas and the representatives of Lloyds TSB, a promise was made by Lloyds TSB to give some financial help to the North Harrow shopping centre.

In good faith, the Council put forward a modest proposal to Lloyds TSB. However, it turns out there was no specific fund available from Lloyds TSB, no set criteria to guide any application for funds and no appeals process in place to request that Lloyds TSB reconsider their decision. This has been made crystal clear to us by Lloyds TSB that no money will be made available.

Lloyds TSB, in a letter, stated “Regrettably the Bank has been unable to support the request. The bank, however, has offered to help traders to gain financial assistance through its Commercial Banking offer. A message has been relayed to the Chair of Traders Association.” I think we must all be shocked and disappointed at what has occurred.

Supplemental Question: I have to say that this is really a bitter blow for residents and for the traders of North Harrow, particularly as the source of funding, the bid was only some £36,000 from a bank which was one of the biggest banks in the world. £36,000 for a bank that is worth £36 b/million.

The bank is one of the biggest banks in the world and I think it is really a disaster for North Harrow residents and businesses and can you perhaps expand on the exact reasons why one of the biggest banks in the world cannot give £36,000, in light of the

fact that Gareth Thomas MP had apparently secured agreement and has failed to deliver?

Supplemental Answer: I cannot think of any reasonable reason and I think it is a disaster and I think it is a real shame because Lloyds Bank ought to be putting a bit back into the community. I am as disappointed as you are.

5.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Question: "Is the Leader aware of how many residents applied to the Harrow Observer to have him visit them in their homes to discuss Council finances, as per the competition it ran in February, and has the visit yet been undertaken?"

Answer: Before setting the toughest Council budget in a generation and in the face of severe cuts, the administration was determined to listen to residents first and give them a real say in the decisions we took.

Through our Let's Talk campaign, Council officers spoke to 800 residents face-to-face and more than 1,600 survey forms were returned by post. In partnership with the Harrow Observer I also offered to visit the home of a Harrow family to answer any questions about our draft budget. It was not a competition. So far we have not received any applications. I take this as a clear indication that residents were very happy with the way this administration has handled and set a robust budget and making savings at the same time as enhancing frontline services. This might also be the reason that there was a very small public gallery at the budget debate.

A possible home visit was just one strand in a wide campaign including information questionnaires on our website, in Harrow People and the local media, as well as five public roadshows. We have already had 2,500 hits on the budget pages on our website since March and a new phase of Let's Talk will be launched in the next months ahead, giving residents another opportunity to come and talk to us, tell us about their concerns and aspirations and work with us to find the solutions to the challenges we face.

Supplemental Question: With over 4,000 returns on the Redbridge consultation website, does the Leader believe that Harrow has held its own or has been left behind by Redbridge, in how to consult with its residents?

Supplemental Answer: We have looked into the Redbridge scheme. It cost quite a lot of money to run and we are still considering whether it is a good investment for our money. We are making 30% cuts in our communications budget because like everywhere else, communications budget has to achieve the same savings as other departments.

6.

Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Question "When will you be adopting the list of constitutional amendments that you proposed as Leader of the Opposition on 15th April 2010?"

Answer: Any suggestions for changes should be made by the Constitution Review Working Group and the matters which you have mentioned have been submitted to the Group and indeed are due to be considered again at its next meeting.

Any appropriate amendments or changes to the Constitution will come through the Council for approval via that avenue.

Supplemental Question: Is the Leader of the Council aware that it was me who submitted his own list to that Group and he did not?

Is he further aware that of the fifteen recommendations that he put forward as Leader of the Opposition, we implemented six of those fifteen? So far of the nine remaining ones, he has only implemented one. Does he really want to be remembered as someone who says one thing in opposition and another thing when he takes power?

Supplemental Answer: The proposal to have a Chair of Scrutiny from the Opposition, it not only says it is not agreed, you said that if we did it and you came back to power, you would reverse it. So I think we can have the discussion but remember, you disagreed with all those proposals, more or less and we are willing to do that.

I would say when the Localism Bill becomes an Act, we will have to look at the whole way that we conduct affairs in the Council. There are a whole range of issues to discuss. So I think those things will go into the pot.