

COUNCIL MINUTES

24 SEPTEMBER 2015

- Present:**
- * Councillor Krishna Suresh (The Worshipful the Mayor)
 - * Councillor Mrs Rekha Shah (The Deputy Mayor)
- Councillors:**
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ghazanfar Ali * Richard Almond * Mrs Chika Amadi * Jeff Anderson * Sue Anderson † Marilyn Ashton * Mrs Camilla Bath * June Baxter * Christine Bednell * James Bond * Michael Borio * Simon Brown * Kam Chana * Ramji Chauhan * Bob Currie * Niraj Dattani * Margaret Davine * Jo Dooley * Keith Ferry * Ms Pamela Fitzpatrick † Stephen Greek † Mitzi Green * Susan Hall * Glen Hearnden * Graham Henson * John Hinkley * Ameet Jogia * Manjibhai Kara * Barry Kendler * Jean Lammiman * Barry Macleod-Cullinane | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Kairul Kareema Marikar * Ajay Maru * Jerry Miles * Mrs Vina Mithani * Amir Moshenson † Chris Mote † Janet Mote * Christopher Noyce * Phillip O'Dell * Paul Osborn * Nitin Parekh * Ms Mina Parmar * Varsha Parmar * Primesh Patel * Pritesh Patel * David Perry * Kanti Rabadia * Kiran Ramchandani * Mrs Christine Robson * Lynda Seymour † Aneka Shah * Sachin Shah * Norman Stevenson * Sasi Suresh * Adam Swersky * Bharat Thakker * Antonio Weiss † Georgia Weston * Anne Whitehead * Stephen Wright |
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- * Denotes Member present
- † Denotes apologies received

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Reverend Matthew Stone, Mayor's Chaplain & Rector of St John The Evangelist, Stanmore.

100. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 19 May 2015 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor invited appropriate declarations of interest.

Councillor Susan Hall declared an interest in that she had a business in Wealdstone, an area that was mentioned throughout the agenda. She would remain in the room whilst the matters were considered and voted upon.

102. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (i) The Mayor announced that details of his engagements would be circulated to Members on the Members' Information Circular.
- (ii) The Mayor announced that the meeting of Full Council was taking place on Eid-UI-Adha and requested that Council join in him in acknowledging this event.

103. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- (i) The Mayor drew Council's attention to a tabled motion in relation to Police Community Safety Officers. Upon being put to the vote, it was agreed that the motion was urgent.
- (ii) Having asked whether there were any further Procedural Motions, Councillor Graham Henson moved that the tabled urgent motion in relation to Police Community Safety Officers be considered as the next item of business. The motion was duly seconded by Councillor David Perry. Upon being put to the vote it was carried.

104. URGENT MOTION

The Council received an urgent Motion in the names of Councillor Graham Henson and Councillor David Perry.

"Urgent Motion to Stop the Mayor of London putting our residents at risk

This Council notes:

- Harrow is currently the safest Borough in London.
- Since May 2010, as a result of the Conservative Government cuts, London has lost 3,170 dedicated neighbourhood Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) – this is a cut of over 70%.
- In Harrow the number of PCSOs on our streets have been reduced from 114 in April 2010 to 28 in August 2015.
- As a result of the Government's Spending Review in 2010 the Metropolitan Police have faced cuts of almost £600m. This 20% cut to its budget has devastated the police service in the capital, despite promises from the Mayor of London and Home Secretary that the cuts would not affect police numbers.
- At the upcoming Government's Spending Review this November it is widely expected that the Metropolitan Police will face a minimum of another £800m in cuts, with reports that the budget could be cut by as much as 43%.
- The 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' (SNT) model introduced by the Labour Government was widely welcomed by communities and saw each ward allocated a dedicated team of six officers (1 Sergeant, 2 PCs and 3 PCSOs).
- In Harrow PCSOs are an invaluable part of making our communities and neighbourhoods safe.
- In Harrow fear of crime is a real concern amongst residents; cutting neighbourhood policing teams and PCSOs will reduce the presence of police on our streets and only add to the fear of crime locally.
- The introduction of Boris Johnson's Local Policing Model dismantled SNTs reducing them to just a single dedicated PC and PCSO per ward.
- On the 29th September the Metropolitan Police's Management Board will consider proposals to scrap neighbourhood PCSOs altogether, resulting in a loss of over 1,000 officers if approved.

This Council believes:

- That the introduction of neighbourhood policing teams transformed local policing, increased public confidence and provided an integral link between communities and the police.
- That whilst PCSOs have been informed of the Metropolitan Police's intention to make this decision there has been no meaningful consultation with Council's, the public or PCSOs about the impact of scrapping PCSOs.

- The Mayor is trying to force through measures that put our residents at risk, whilst hoping nobody realises; this lack of transparency shows that the Mayor of London is aware of how damaging these cuts will be to our communities.
- Scrapping neighbourhood PCSOs would be the final nail in the coffin for neighbourhood policing as SNTs would be reduced to just a single dedicated PC. This would make residents feel more unsafe in their neighbourhoods.
- A further cut of £800m to the Metropolitan Police would devastate local policing and make our communities and residents in Harrow less safe, whilst putting at risk all of the excellent work the Police, Harrow Council and community stakeholders have achieved in making Harrow a safe place to live and work.

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Home Secretary, the Mayor of London, the Mayor of London candidates, local MPs and Assembly member in opposition to further cuts to our Safer Neighbourhood teams and police numbers in Harrow.
- To condemn attempts to reshape London's police force by stealth and call on the Mayor and Metropolitan Police to set out the true impact of Government cuts and engage in a meaningful consultation with Londoners about the future of policing in the capital.
- To locally campaign to save our local police services to keep our residents safe.”

Upon a vote, the Motion was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Motion as set out above be adopted.

105. PETITION: BELMONT CIRCLE BUSINESSES

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council received a petition containing over 2,000 signatures as follows:

- (1) Petition submitted by Belmont Circle businesses stating “We refer to one of the Corporate Priorities for 2015/19 of Harrow Council – “Making a difference for local business” and we hope, by that, you meant for better! Harrow Council recently implemented a parking and traffic management plan for Belmont Circle Area as approved at the TARSAP meeting of 10 December 2014.

As a result of the scheme, especially introduction of double yellow lines, a good number of available parking spaces have been removed and parking displaced. This has resulted in shoppers not being able to

park and continue to bring business to the area. We can categorically confirm that this has resulted in a substantial drop in business to the detriment of the sustainability of once flourishing business.

We, the business owners along with our valued customers, urge Harrow Council to urgently review the scheme and revert the implementation of at least the restrictive double yellow lines. If the double lines were introduced for safety measure, we would like the council to produce evidence of any accidents in recent years.

We welcome the full support of our ward councillors in this matter.”

Debate was held on the content of the petition.

RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel for consideration.

106. PETITIONS

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions had been received.

107. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received.

108. LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (i) The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Perry, introduced the item highlighting the achievements, challenges and proposals since the last ordinary meeting.
- (ii) Other Members of the Council spoke and/or asked questions of the Leader of the Council which were duly responded to.

109. PRESENTATION CEREMONY - RECOGNITION OF LONG SERVICE - COUNCILLOR MRS CAMILLA BATH

Council had previously agreed, by Resolution 192 on 18 July 1985, that Members who completed 25 years' service with the Council be presented with framed, illuminated copy resolutions of appreciation. Councillor Mrs Camilla Bath had completed 25 years' service as a Member of the Authority in May 2015, and her resolution of appreciation had been adopted by Council on 19 May 2015.

The Mayor, Councillor Krishna Suresh, on behalf of the Council, now formally congratulated Councillor Mrs Bath and presented her with a framed, illuminated copy resolution to mark her long service achievement. Councillors Christine Bednell, James Bond, Simon Brown, Susan Hall, Ameet Jogia, Jean

Lammiman, Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Kareema Marikar, Christopher Noyce, David Perry, Lynda Seymour and Anne Whitehead spoke in appreciation of Councillor Bath's service.

Councillor Bath returned thanks for her presentation.

110. PRESENTATION CEREMONY - RECOGNITION OF LONG SERVICE - COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER NOYCE

Council had previously agreed, by Resolution 192 on 18 July 1985, that Members who completed 25 years' service with the Council be presented with framed, illuminated copy resolutions of appreciation. Councillor Christopher Noyce had completed 25 years' service as a Member of the Authority in May 2015, and his resolution of appreciation had been adopted by Council on 19 May 2015.

The Mayor, Councillor Krishna Suresh, on behalf of the Council, now formally congratulated Councillor Noyce and presented him with a framed, illuminated copy resolution to mark his long service achievement. His Worshipful the Mayor and Councillors Jeff Anderson, James Bond, Jean Lammiman, Paul Osborn and David Perry spoke in appreciation of Councillor Noyce's service.

Councillor Noyce returned thanks for his presentation.

111. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Parenting Strategy be noted and the position that all Members should undertake training to ensure they understood and were able to meet their Corporate Parenting responsibilities be endorsed.

112. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT (CTS) SCHEME FOR 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR

Upon the meeting moving to a vote upon the substantive Recommendation and the report of the Corporate Director of Resources it was carried. The voting was as follows:

In Favour of the Motion: His Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Krishna Suresh, Councillors Ali, Amadi, Jeff Anderson, Sue Anderson, Borio, Brown, Currie, Dattani, Davine, Dooley, Ferry, Fitzpatrick, Hearnden, Henson, Kendler, Marikar, Maru, Miles, O'Dell, Parekh, Varsha Parmar, Primesh Patel, Perry, Ramchandani, Robson, Mrs Rekha Shah, Sachin Shah, Sasikala Suresh, Swersky, Weiss and Whitehead.

Against the Motion: Councillors Almond, Ashton, Mrs Bath, Baxter, Bednell, Chana, Chauhan, Hall, Hinkley, Jogia, Kara, Lammiman, Macleod-Cullinane, Mithani, Moshenson, Noyce, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson, Thakker and Wright.

Abstain: Councillor James Bond

RESOLVED: That there was no need to review the Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for 2016/17 financial year and the existing CTS scheme, as previously adopted by full Council, for the 2016/17 financial year, be continued with.

113. PROPERTY PURCHASE INITIATIVE OF GOOD QUALITY TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

RESOLVED: That an addition of a total of £30m to the Capital Programme be approved to enable the Council to proceed with the purchase and repair of properties, as set out in resolution 1 of the Cabinet minutes of 14 July 2015; an initial spend profile to assume a spend of £7.5m in 2015-16, £15m in 2016-17 and the final £7.5m in 2017-18, though this might vary depending on how quickly appropriate properties could be sourced.

114. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2014/15

RESOLVED: That the proposed revised Counterparty Policy, as described in Appendix 6 to the Cabinet report, be approved.

115. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

RESOLVED: That the Community Safety Strategy be adopted.

116. 'BUILDING A BETTER HARROW' - DELIVERY PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: That

- (1)** an addition to the 2015/16 Capital Programme for site assembly for the Wealdstone re-development, as set out in the confidential Appendix A to the Cabinet report, be approved;
- (2)** the allocated capital funding of £1,150k be brought forward from 2016/17 to 2015/16 and the re-allocation of this funding and £750k of existing capital funding in 2015/16, as detailed in paragraph 2.4.5 of the Cabinet report.

117. GAYTON ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a capital budget of up to £15m for the social affordable and private housing elements, as per option 3 of the report, be approved;**
- (2) additional borrowing of up to £15m to fund the capital expenditure in Cabinet resolution 3 (i) be approved.**

118. REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING

RESOLVED: That the addition to the Capital Programme, set out in paragraph 107 of the Cabinet report in respect of Grange Farm Regeneration be approved.

119. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISMISSAL OF/DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE AND CHIEF OFFICERS

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a Committee be established under Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 with terms of reference and membership as set out in Appendix 1 to the Director of Legal and Governance Services report;**
- (2) the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition Group be appointed to the Committee;**
- (3) the Leader of the Council be appointed as Chair of the Committee;**
- (4) amendments to the terms of reference of the Chief Officers' Employment Panel and to the functions and terms of reference of full Council as set out in Appendix 2 to the report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services be agreed;**
- (5) other consequential and additional changes to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 2 to the report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services be agreed.**

120. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillors Adam Swersky and Keith Ferry be appointed as representatives to London Councils' Pensions Collective Investment Vehicle for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2015/16;**

- (2) **Councillor Keith Ferry be appointed as representative to London Councils' Employment and Skills Lead Member for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2015/16;**
- (3) **Alderman Keith Toms be appointed as representative to Mayor of Harrow's Charity Fund Trustees.**

121. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

To note that fourteen questions from Councillors to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders had been received and that a written response would be provided and placed on the Council's website.

122. MOTIONS

At item 22 the Council received four Motions:

- (i) Motion in the names of Councillor Pamela Fitzpatrick and Councillor Sachin Shah. The tabled amendment was voted upon but not carried.

"Budget cuts to Welfare Motion

Council notes that:

- In George Osborne's emergency Budget, £12bn of cuts to the UK's vital safety net for people who have hit on hard times were laid out, with a further £19bn to be cut from non-protected government departments, including the Department for Communities & Local Government.
- In the budget many of the welfare cuts will detrimentally affect Harrow's residents, including:
 - 18 – 21 year olds in Harrow will no longer be automatically eligible for housing benefit.
 - Employment & Support Allowance, which helps people with severe medical conditions will be cut (i.e. Working age benefits will be cut in real terms each and every year for four years).
 - Cutting the benefit cap to below the level needed by a family with two children living in the private rented sector. Tax credit, housing benefit and universal credit will be limited to two children from April 2017.
 - A new national 'living wage' to be introduced for over 25s, which is set almost £2 an hour lower than the London living wage.

Council believes that:

- Making 18 – 21 year olds exempt from housing benefit will be a further hit to a generation of young people both in Harrow and across the UK who are struggling to get on the housing ladder.
- The cut to Employment & Support Allowance is unjustified and will penalise people with disabilities through no fault of their own; people with severe medical conditions may no longer be able to afford to eat or heat their homes, leading to their condition deteriorating.
- The effects of these cuts will push more and more people in to severe poverty, rent arrears and homelessness.
- Setting the benefit cap at £23,000 will force families out of Harrow and London, forcing children to move schools and putting more pressure on families.
- Limiting certain benefits to families with a maximum of two children has put families in a terrible place by making no allowance for women who have become pregnant with a third child after being a victim of a traumatic sexual crime.
- The new national 'living wage' is solely an increase to the minimum wage, and falls below the actual living wage, which in London is £9.15.

Council resolves that:

- The Council will monitor the impacts of these welfare cuts on our residents.
- The Council is committed to supporting the most vulnerable, and is prohibited in doing this within the financial constraints placed on it by the Conservative Government.
- The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive jointly writes to Harrow's three MPs and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to express our concern about these changes on Harrow's residents.
- The Council will lobby national government to reverse some cuts if they are found to impoverish or have a significant and damaging impact on the lives of our residents.”

Upon a vote, the Motion was agreed.

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

- (ii) Motion in the names of Councillor Adam Swersky and Councillor Graham Henson. The tabled amendment was voted upon but not carried.

“National Park City Motion

Council notes that:

- There is a campaign by the Greater London National Park City to make London the world’s first National Park City.
- The proposed organisation would bring together public, private and third sector organisations to enhance our natural and cultural heritage, encourage a better understanding and enjoyment of the city, foster wellbeing and inspire others to share these purposes.
- Air pollution in London is a real problem and is linked to 1 in 12 deaths in London; taking measures to improve London’s green spaces and parks will help reduce levels of air pollution, and be of benefit to all our residents health & well-being.
- Living in a green city with easy access to local parks, nature and wildlife improves the well-being of local residents.
- The London Assembly have passed a motion approving the plans to turn London into a National Park City.
- That under the guidance of the Labour administration, the Council has set a target to be the best Borough in London for recycling, as a part of its campaign to make the Borough cleaner and more green.
- The Borough of Harrow has over 100,000 trees, with a third of the Borough categorised as green space – including five parks that have been awarded green flag status.
- Good quality green spaces are an essential component of the urban fabric of Harrow and, with over 1,300 hectares of open space within the borough, this make a profound contribution to the quality of life of local communities.
- The Council has set up Park User Group Forums to allow local people to have a greater say in how their parks are maintained, and to encourage community use of our parks.
- The Council has a fully developed open spaces strategy to preserve our parks and green spaces.

Council believes that:

- That the £83m of cuts imposed by the Conservative Government on Harrow Council and our residents, has put severe pressure on our ability to maintain our parks and open spaces to the highest possible standard.
- As a Council we should work with all organisations to improve our parks and green spaces, as well as reduce air pollution and help support our residents to access and enjoy our many parks.
- We should welcome and fully support the excellent campaign to make London the world's first National Park City.
- The Greater London National Park City initiative would bring together public, private and third sector organisations to enhance our natural and cultural heritage, encourage a better understanding and enjoyment of the city, foster wellbeing and inspire others to share these purposes.

Council resolves that:

- The Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning & Regeneration should meet with Greater London National Park City to explore how the plans to make a London a National Park City can fit in with the Labour administration's ambitious regeneration plans for the Borough.
- All Harrow Councillors should sign to declare their Wards support on the http://www.nationalparkcity.london/ward_support website.
- The Council should support the organisation in developing its vision, in particular by setting out how Harrow Council and its local partners could contribute towards its aims."

Upon a vote, the Motion was agreed.

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

- (iii) Motion in the names of Councillor Barry Kendler and Councillor Keith Ferry.

"National Review of Planning Permission Motion

Council notes that:

- Overcrowding is an increasing problem not just in Harrow but across London.
- There is an increasing problem with 'beds in sheds,' where Landlords are cramming vulnerable people into unsuitable accommodation, often asking for extortionate rents.

- In 2008 there was a relaxation of planning permission laws to allow large structures to be constructed in rear gardens for domestic purposes without planning permission – this received cross party support under the Permitted Development Order SI 2362:2008.
- This change to planning law is now being exploited to build structures to house vulnerable people and charge them extortionate rents.

Council believes that:

- Everyone should have access to good quality and affordable accommodation.
- Tenants should not be exploited; the Tories disastrous housing policies have created a housing crisis in London and Harrow that is leading to vulnerable people being exploited.
- The abuse of SI 2362:2008 is creating overcrowded and insanitary living conditions, especially for migrant communities. This is damaging community relations and is creating hazardous living conditions.
- These problems were not envisaged in 2008 and the legal framework Planning Departments are working within are too weak to allow proper enforcement to take place.
- Due to the prevalence of this issue across the UK there should be a national review of SI 2362:2008.

Council resolves that:

- The Director of Planning and Chief Executive write a joint letter to Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and Brandon Lewis MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning to ask them to look at bringing in a national review on SI 2362:2008.”

Upon a vote, the Motion was agreed.

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

- (iv) Motion in the names of Councillor Jeff Anderson and Councillor Antonio Weiss.

“Supporting The Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)

Council notes that:

- Harrow Council had to make savings of £70m from 2010 to 2014 and £83m from 2014 to 2018.

- Extending the current FTT on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives could raise £20bn of additional revenue in the UK a year.
- At least 11 European nations including France, Germany, Italy and Spain are moving ahead with FTTs on shares, bonds and derivatives which is estimated to raise £30bn a year.

Council believes that:

- Revenues from the FTT could help repair the damage caused by cuts in public services since 2010.
- Local government deserves to receive a significant proportion of FTT revenues, making an important contribution to both capital and revenue expenditure to help us meet the cost of an increasing and ageing population.
- Whilst an FTT might have a negligible effect on jobs in the City of London, investing FTT revenues in a smart and progressive way would see a significant increase in employment levels in other sectors, and more locally in Harrow.

Council resolves that:

- The UK government should extend the current FTT on shares to other asset classes, such as bonds and derivatives.
- The Council will write to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Local MPs stating this council's support for extending FTTs."

Upon a vote, the Motion was agreed.

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

123. INFORMATION REPORT - REMUNERATION PACKAGES AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS OF £100,000 OR GREATER

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

124. PROCEDURE FOR TERMINATION OF MEETING

At 10.28 pm, during the consideration of item 12 – Review of the Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for 2016/17 Financial Year, the Mayor sought agreement to the extension of the guillotine. Councillor Keith Ferry moved

that the guillotine be extended until the after the completion of item 16 – ‘Building a Better Harrow’ – Delivery Programme. This was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the provisions of Rules 9.2 and 9.3 be applied as set out above.

(CLOSE OF MEETING: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 11.03 pm).