

Council (Council Tax)

Minutes

24 February 2022

Present:	Councillor Ghazanfar Ali	(The Worshipful the Mayor)
	Councillor Sasi Suresh	(The Deputy Mayor)
Councillors:	Richard Almond	Ajay Maru
	Dan Anderson	Jerry Miles
	Jeff Anderson	Amir Moshenson
	Sue Anderson	Janet Mote
	Marilyn Ashton	Angella Murphy-Strachan
	Peymana Assad	Phillip O'Dell
	Christopher Baxter	Paul Osborn
	Philip Benjamin	Nitin Parekh
	Michael Borio	Mina Parmar
	Simon Brown	Varsha Parmar
	Sarah Butterworth	Anjana Patel
	Ramji Chauhan	Primesh Patel
	Niraj Dattani	Pritesh Patel
	Keith Ferry	David Perry
	Dean Gilligan	Natasha Proctor
	Stephen Greek	Kanti Rabadia
	Susan Hall	Kiran Ramchandani
	Graham Henson	Christine Robson
	Maxine Henson	Lynda Seymour
	John Hinkley	Sachin Shah
	Nitesh Hirani	Chloe Smith
	Ameet Jogia	Norman Stevenson
	Hitesh Karia	Krishna Suresh
	Jean Lammiman	Adam Swersky
	James Lee	Bharat Thakker
	Dr Lesline Lewinson	Antonio Weiss
	Kairul Kareema Marikar	Stephen Wright
Joined virtually:	Camilla Bath	Chetna Halai
	Kam Chana	Rekha Shah
	Pamela Fitzpatrick	

Absent: Councillor Honey Jamie

Prayers

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Imam Professor Hafiz Muhammad Akram, Harrow Central Mosque.

250. Council Minutes

RESOLVED: That, subject to noting that a number of Members had joined the meeting virtually and were not absent, the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2021 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

251. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Declarations of Interest published in advance of the meeting on the Council's website be taken as read and noted;**
- (2) it be noted that Councillor Anjana Patel had notified a pecuniary interest in advance of the meeting in that her mother had received a grant for adaptations to her bathroom and that the property was owned by Councillor Anjana Patel. She would leave the Chamber during the budget discussion if funding for disabled facilities grants was specifically debated or voted upon;**
- (3) it be noted that the following interests were also declared:**

Item 9 – Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Councillor Susan Hall declared an interest in that she was a member of the Greater London Authority.

Councillor Graham Henson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was the Chair of the West London Waste Authority.

Councillor Stephen Greek declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was employed by the Greater London Authority.

Councillor Kareema Marikar left the Chamber for the duration of the Budget debate (items 8-12).

Councillor Paul Osborn declared an interest in that he was Chair of a precepting authority, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. During the course

of the meeting, as Vaughan Road had been mentioned during the debate, he declared a further interest in that he resided in that road.

Item 14 – Non-Executive Fees and Charges

Councillor Susan Hall declared an interest in that she had previously held a special treatments licence but that this had now expired.

252. Procedural Motions

The Mayor indicated that given the earlier start time of the Council meeting he proposed that the closure time of the meeting be 9.30 pm. Upon being put to the vote this was agreed.

The Mayor drew Council's attention to the Procedural Motion under Rule 26.1 included in the Tabled Documents. The procedural motion was agreed so that, in line with previous years and for the purposes of the debate on the Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2024/25, the rules of debate be varied, as set out in the Tabled Documents, and that the procedure therein also be applied to the reports on the Borough Plan Update, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 to 2024/25, the Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23 and Capital Strategy for 2022/23, the Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25, in so far as the recommendations be debated jointly.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the partial suspension under Rule 26.1, regarding the moving of recommendations from Cabinet and the rules of debate (including extended time for opening speeches by the political groups), as set out in the Tabled Documents be approved for the purposes of the debate upon**

- Item 8 - Borough Plan Update**
- Item 9 - Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2024/25**
- Item 10 - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 to 2024/25**
- Item 11 - Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23 and Capital Strategy for 2022/23**
- Item 12 - Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25**

- (2) **the Procedural Motion be agreed.**

253. Petitions

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Manji Kara containing 75 signatures in relation to speeding vehicles in Borrowdale Avenue and Grasmere Gardens.
- (ii) Petition submitted by Stephen Hickman containing 25 signatures in relation to the pavements in Dudley Gardens.
- (i) Petition submitted by Ashley Braganza containing 100 signatures in relation to the condition of road surface, footpath, kerbs and grass verges in and around Whitegate Gardens. Councillor Stephen Greek indicated that he had also intended to submit the petition in relation to Whitegate Gardens and endorsed the submission by residents.
- (ii) Petition submitted by Councillor Kareema Marikar on behalf of the residents of Fernbrook Drive containing 81 signatures in relation to improving security on the Ridgeway, West Harrow.
- (iii) Petition submitted by Councillor Richard Almond on behalf of residents in Glover Road containing 4 signatures in relation to trees in the Croft Playing Field.
- (iv) Petition submitted by Councillor Phil O'Dell on behalf of the residents of the Meadow Way containing 5 signatures in relation to upgrading the pavements.

254. Petition - Stop Pinner Road Development

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Alia Lewis, containing approximately 11,200 signatures stating

“Please act now to STOP the Pinner Road Development in Harrow, North West London!!!

SAVE THE BADGERS

This area is a precious green corridor and home to a plethora of flora and fauna.

A private landowner has applied to build a housing estate consisting of 4 blocks of apartments and access road. This has been planned on a small strip of woodland that lies between residential homes and the railway.

This will cause complete destruction of the woodland which is home to a family of badgers and other animals and a plethora of flora and fauna, which includes protected trees.

Let's get this piece of woodland protected.

Please act now and sign the petition! and stop the Pinner Road Development".

- (ii) Debate was held on the content of the petition.

RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director of Community for consideration.

255. Public Questions

To note that three questions from members of the public had been received and were responded to and that the recording of these questions and the answers given had been placed on the Council's website.

256. Leader and Portfolio Holder Announcements

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

257. Borough Plan Update

RESOLVED: That the Borough Plan, as updated and circulated on the Council Summons, be approved.

258. Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

- (i) Further to item 9 on the Summons, the Council received the Recommendation of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 February 2022.
- (ii) The Mayor requested that Members, in making the decision on this item, had regard to the Cabinet report of 10 February 2022, the sections on equalities, the equality impact assessments and the results of the budget consultation.

A tabled amendment was received, duly seconded and was lost. The voting was as follows:

In favour of the amendment: Councillors Almond, Ashton, Baxter, Benjamin, Chauhan, Greek, Hall, Hinkley, Hirani, Jogia, Karia, Lammiman, Dr Lewinson, Moshenson, Janet Mote, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Anjana Patel, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson, Thakker and Wright.

Against the amendment: His Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Ghazanfar Ali, Councillors Dan Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Sue Anderson, Assad, Borio,

Brown, Butterworth, Dattani, Ferry, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Lee, Maru, Miles, Murphy-Strachan, O'Dell, Parekh, Varsha Parmar, Primesh Patel, Perry, Proctor, Ramchandani, Robson, Sachin Shah, Smith, Krishna Suresh, Sasikala Suresh, Swersky and Dr Weiss.

Absent: Councillor Kareema Marikar

Upon the meeting moving to the vote on the substantive Recommendation it was carried. The voting was as follows:

In Favour of the Recommendation: His Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Ghazanfar Ali, Councillors Dan Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Sue Anderson, Assad, Borio, Brown, Butterworth, Dattani, Ferry, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Lee, Maru, Miles, Murphy-Strachan, O'Dell, Parekh, Varsha Parmar, Primesh Patel, Perry, Proctor, Ramchandani, Robson, Sachin Shah, Smith, Krishna Suresh, Sasikala Suresh, Swersky and Dr Weiss.

Against the Recommendation: Councillors Almond, Ashton, Baxter, Benjamin, Chauhan, Greek, Hall, Hinkley, Hirani, Jogia, Karia, Lammiman, Dr Lewinson, Moshenson, Janet Mote, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Anjana Patel, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson, Thakker and Wright.

Absent: Councillor Kareema Marikar

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the 2022/23 budget be approved, being mindful of the results of the various consultations and equality impact assessments, to enable the Council Tax for 2022/23 to be set (Appendix 15 to the officer report refers);**
- (2) the Model Council Tax Resolution 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 11 on Cabinet second supplemental agenda, be approved;**
- (3) in accordance with Section 38 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Chief Executive be authorised to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 2 above within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision;**
- (4) the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), as set out in Appendix 2 to the officer report, be approved;**
- (5) the 2022/23 Members' Allowance Scheme, as set out in Appendix 12 to the officer report, be approved;**
- (6) the 2022/23 Annual Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 13 to the officer report, be approved; and**

- (7) the Capital Receipts Flexibility Strategy, as set out in Appendix 14 to the officer report, be approved.

259. Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2024/25

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budgets for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the officer report, be approved;
- (2) the HRA Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the officer report, be approved;
- (3) the proposed average weekly rent for general needs non-sheltered and sheltered accommodation of £123.13 and £102.25 for 2022-23 respectively, as set out in paragraph 28 and Appendix 2 to the officer report, be approved noting that these increases were 4.1% from 2021/22 in line with Government rent policy;
- (4) the proposed average weekly tenant service charge of £3.38 per week, as set out in paragraph 28 and Appendix 2 to the officer report, be approved;
- (5) the proposed average weekly rents for affordable rented properties of £201.65 and the shared ownership accommodation weekly rents of £210.53 for 2022-23, as set out in paragraph 29 and 30 to the officer report, be approved noting that the increase for affordable rented properties were 4.1% from 2021/22 in line with Government rent policy;
- (6) a 5-year HRA Capital programme of £225,904,648 made up of £49,544,120 planned investment, £144,185,151 Building Council Homes for Londoners (BCHfL), £23,648,727 Grange Farm phase 3 and £8,526,650 Grange Farm Infrastructure, as set out in paragraphs 52 to 61 and Appendix 7 to the officer report, be approved noting that the figures included reprofiled carried forward expenditure of £51.98m for the Building Council Homes for Londoners (BCHFL) programme.

260. Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23 and Capital Strategy for 2022/23

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23 be approved including:

- Prudential Indicators for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25
- Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2022/23, (see paragraph 2.8 and Appendix C to the officer report)

- Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23
- Annual Capital Strategy (Appendix G to the officer report).

261. Final Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25

RESOLVED: That the capital programme, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the officer report, be approved.

262. Recruitment of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Chief Officers' Employment Panel for the purposes only of selecting a preferred candidate as Harrow's Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service be made up of the Leaders and Deputies from the 2 largest Groups, plus 2 councillors nominated by the Leader of the largest Group, and 1 councillor nominated by the Leader of the second largest Group;
- (2) an Extraordinary Council meeting be called during the week commencing either 9 or 16 May 2022 to:
 - Appoint the Leader of the Council until May 2026;
 - Appoint a new Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service;
 - Receive notification of Deputy Leader.

263. Non-Executive Fees and Charges

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the fees and charges listed in Appendix 1 to the officer report for the financial year 2022-23 be approved and set;
- (2) the Director of Finance be authorised to amend fees and charges in year and agree new fees and charges, following consultation with the Corporate Director of Community and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).

264. Invitation from Public Sector Audit Appointments to opt-in to external audits from 2023-24 to 2027-28

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a sector led approach be approved and that the Council opt in to appointing external auditors through an appointed person (the PSAA) as set out in option 3 of the officer report;
- (2) the Director of Finance and Assurance be authorised to accept the Public Sector Audit Appointments invitation of opting in on behalf of this Authority by 11 March 2022.

265. Constitution Update

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the amendments to the constitution set out in the appendices to the officer report be agreed;**
- (2) **it be noted that the Monitoring Officer had a delegation to make minor housekeeping amendments prior to the new Constitution document being published.**

266. Retiring Councillors

The Worshipful the Mayor announced that, for a number of Members, this would be their last meeting of Council as they were not standing for re-election in May 2022. He thanked the Members for their service and work and wished them well for the future. These sentiments were endorsed by the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition Group.

267. Questions with Notice

To note that no Councillor questions had been received.

268. Motions

“MOTION - Recognition of Tamil Heritage Month & Partnership with Tamil Community in Harrow

Motion in the names of Councillor Krishna Suresh and Councillor Peymana Assad

Since 2011 we have been celebrating Thai Pongal in Harrow and it was the Leader of Harrow Council who first announced in 2020 the recognition of Tamil Heritage Month and Harrow Council was the first ever council to do so.

Under this administration, Harrow has been a trailblazer in recognising the rich contribution made by our Tamil community in Harrow, London and across the country. In January we celebrated Tamil Heritage month and the celebration of Thai Pongal.

It is a matter of pride for us that Harrow’s significant Tamil population typifies the immense contribution made by Tamils in the UK in every walk of life including health & social care, support & sacrifices during the pandemic, politics, education, social, cultural and economic aspects.

The Council has been privileged to work with our Tamil community over the years. It’s been a joy this year too to mark Tamil heritage month and celebrate Thai Pongal event, as we have done for the last 11 years, in Harrow Civic Centre showcasing the amazing talent of Tamil youth and celebrating the depth of Tamil culture and history. Additionally, this year we have promoted Tamil language and poetry books in Harrow’s libraries and

continued to work constructively with our Tamil community organisations to further their rich heritage and support the vulnerable people.

For Harrow, recognition of the contribution made by our Tamil community is year round and not just limited to the Tamil Heritage Month. In recognising the contribution of the Tamil community and saluting Tamil Heritage.

Council resolves;

- Continue and commit to its partnership with the Tamil community celebrating Tamil heritage month and ensure that our much-valued Tamil community is supported across the borough.
- Thank the Tamil community for their invaluable contribution to our borough and our city. We are profoundly grateful for the work that they do.
- Continue the excellent and cohesive work with all of Harrow's communities and support the wider effects of austerity in fighting the cost of living crisis imposed by the Government."

A tabled amendment was received and duly seconded and was lost.

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

269. Procedure for the Termination of Meeting

At 9.29 pm, during the debate on items 8-12, it was proposed that the guillotine be extended. Members assented to continue until business was completed.

RESOLVED: That the provisions of Rules 9.2 and 9.3 be applied.

(Close of Meeting: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.59 pm).