



Council

Minutes

28 September 2023

Present: Councillor Ramji Chauhan (The Worshipful the Mayor)
Councillor Janet Mote

Councillor Salim Chowdhury (The Deputy Mayor)

Councillors:

Ghazanfar Ali	Eden Kulig
Dan Anderson	Kuha Kumaran
David Ashton	Jean Lammiman
Marilyn Ashton	Jerry Miles
Christopher Baxter	Vipin Mithani
June Baxter	Amir Moshenson
Philip Benjamin	Phillip O'Dell
Govind Bharadia	Paul Osborn
Nicola Blackman	Nitin Parekh
Simon Brown	Mina Parmar
Shahania Choudhury	Anjana Patel
Dean Gilligan	Pritesh Patel
Matthew Goodwin-Freeman	David Perry
Stephen Greek	Natasha Proctor
Chetna Halai	Kanti Rabadia
Susan Hall	Aneka Shah-Levy
Graham Henson	Rekha Shah
Maxine Henson	Norman Stevenson
Stephen Hickman	Samir Sumaria
Nitesh Hirani	Krishna Suresh
Asif Hussain	Sasi Suresh
Thaya Idaikkadar	Yogesh Teli
Ameet Jogia	Zak Wagman
Rashmi Kalu	Antonio Weiss
Hitesh Karia	

Apologies received: Councillor Peymana Assad Councillor Varsha Parmar
Councillor Kandy Dolor

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Yogvivekdas Swami, Head Swami of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir ('Neasden Temple')

95. Council Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 18 May 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

96. Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared:

Item 12 – Questions without Notice

Councillor Nitin Parekh declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he lived in the area mentioned in one of the questions.

Item 13 – Motion calling on TfL to examine the boundary position of ULEZ cameras

Councillor Stephen Greek declared a pecuniary interest in that he was employed by the Greater London Authority and would leave the room for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Susan Hall declared a pecuniary interest in that she was a member of the Greater London Authority and would leave the room for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Asif Hussain declared a pecuniary interest in that he was employed by the Greater London Authority and would leave the room for the discussion and voting on this item.

97. Procedural Motions

There were no procedural motions.

98. Petitions

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Mike Williams containing 56 signatures in relation to the condition of the pavements in Butler Avenue, West Harrow.
- (ii) Petition submitted by Councillor Stephen Hickman containing 30 signatures in relation speeding traffic on Whitmore Road East.

[The petitions stood referred to the Corporate Director, Place].

99. Public Questions

To note that one question from a member of the public had been received and the recording was on the Council's website.

100. Leader and Portfolio Holder Announcements

- (i) The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Osborn, introduced the item highlighting the Administration's achievements, challenges and plans since the last ordinary meeting.
- (ii) Other Members spoke and/ asked questions of the Leader of the Council which were duly responded to.

101. Recognition of Long Service - Councillor Simon Brown

RESOLVED: That a Long Service Award marking Councillor Simon Brown's 25 years' service as a Member of the Council in May 2023 be approved.

102. Community Safety Strategy 2023 - 2026

RESOLVED: That the new Community Safety Strategy 2023-2026 be approved.

103. Pension Board Annual Report 2022-23

RESOLVED: That the Pension Board Annual Report 2022-23 be approved.

104. Information Report - Use of Urgency Procedure - Council

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

105. Information Report - Remuneration Packages of £100,000 or greater

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

106. Questions with Notice

To note that four questions from Councillors to the Portfolio Holders had been received and that the recording was on the Council's website.

107. Motions

- (i) **"An active transport strategy for Harrow Motion**

Motion in the names of Councillor Eden Kulig and Councillor Paul Osborn

This Council acknowledges that all Harrow residents, whether they

drive or not, have a shared interest in ensuring that a range of active travel options exist across the borough, and that supporting residents to make active transport choices where possible has beneficial effects for individuals, neighbourhoods and the borough as a whole.
Council Notes:

- The Leader's statement on 10 January 2023 that he wishes to see a 'more unified cycle network' across the borough and welcomes this commitment to improving the borough's cycling infrastructure.
- The Leader of the Council is the appointed representative on the Harrow Cycling Hub.
- According to TfL statistics, 31% of Harrow households do not own a car.
- That according to Harrow's Annual Public Health report of 2021, 54.8% of Harrow residents are overweight or obese, and 24.6% of adults do less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week, and that the most effective way for Harrow Council's Public Health team to support increased physical activity for these groups would be to promote ways for them to incorporate walking and cycling into their daily routines.
- That as per the Education Act 1996, all local authorities in England have a statutory duty to support active travel choices for school children.
- That many residents face challenges to incorporate cycling into their daily journeys around the borough due to factors including a lack of safe and unified cycle routes, and a lack of storage space for bikes within or near their homes or at tube stations.
- That the administration has pledged in its flagship actions to create safe and secure cycle parking at Harrow-on-the-Hill by May 2024.

Council believes that:-

- Supporting residents who choose to make active transport choices for short journeys around the borough will reduce air pollution, ease traffic, reduce pressures on parking and make our streets safer for children and more peaceful for all residents.
- Walking and cycling is a significant contributor to public health and wellbeing, and with NHS guidelines advocating that all adults take moderate exercise each day, the easiest way to achieve this is through individuals incorporating walking and cycling into their daily routines.
- Harrow's cycling infrastructure is not currently sufficiently unified,

and that it would be beneficial for cycle routes across the borough to be better linked, more separate from roads, and with their signage improved.

- That a lack of secure storage for cycles can discourage people from owning and using a cycle.

This Council resolves to:

Request that officers:

- Work in consultation with groups such as Harrow Cyclists, Healthy Streets for Harrow, and the Harrow Cycling Hub, to investigate the feasibility of creating a more unified cycling network across the borough, with cycle routes better linked across the borough, more separate from roads and better signposted, while balancing the needs of other road users and pedestrians.
- To work towards increasing cycling rates by the end of this administration, in consultation with Ward Councillors.
- To engage with the government's recently announced £32.9 million Active Travel Fund as well as exploring using Council funding for improved active travel infrastructure, specifically for the creation of a cycle corridor linking Station Road and Sheepcote Road, which would link Harrow and Wealdstone town centres, Harrow & Wealdstone station, the University of Westminster, Harrow High School and Northwick Park hospital, and which is one of the highest-demand cycle routes in Harrow according to TfL's Strategic Cycling analysis.
- To request TARSAP to review all transport provision while considering the active travel perspective.
- To examine the feasibility of installing 100 reasonably priced accessible cycle hangars, including spaces for non-standard cycles, in areas of multiple occupancy or terraced housing where people have nowhere to store a bike, as well as at all tube and train stations, and outside all shopping areas which do not currently have bike racks by May 2026."

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

- (ii) **“Motion calling on TfL to examine the boundary position of ULEZ cameras**

Motion in the names of Councillor Paul Osborn and Councillor Marilyn Ashton

This Council notes:

- Council passed a motion to oppose the ULEZ expansion in July 2022.
- The Mayor of London's decision to expand the ULEZ came into effect on 29 August 2023.
- The ULEZ, on its old boundary, made £224 million in revenue during 2022. It is expected that the expanded ULEZ will extract over £300 million per annum from London's poorest and most vulnerable motorists and traders.
- There have been worrying reports by Harrow residents who say that they have received ULEZ fines while driving on non-ULEZ boundary roads.
 - The most frequently mentioned sites are Common Road and Brockley Hill.
 - It emerged over the summer that the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy had asked a City Hall-funded expert to counter science that questioned the benefits of ULEZ.
 - The Leader of the Council wrote to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities requesting that the government supports a parliamentary amendment which will grant London Councils greater power to reject London-wide schemes like ULEZ.

This Council believes:

- The ULEZ expansion is a regressive tax on our poorest motorists and struggling trades people.
- It is wrong that some residents have been allegedly fined while driving on roads which TfL's website states are not within the ULEZ zone.

This Council resolves:

- To call on TfL to urgently examine the locations of their cameras near to boundary roads.
- To tell TfL to ensure anyone who was mistakenly fined while driving along a non-ULEZ boundary road is contacted and refunded.
- To reiterate our opposition to the ULEZ stealth tax and call on the Mayor of London to stop his war on Harrow's poorest and most vulnerable motorists.
- To welcome the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities positive response to Leader's request for enhanced decision-making powers for London Councils, which will allow

councils to reject future schemes like ULEZ from being imposed by the Mayor of London/GLA.”

A tabled amendment in the names of Councillor David Perry and Councillor Natasha Proctor was received and, having been put to the vote, was lost.

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

[Note: Councillors Stephen Greek, Susan Hall and Asif Hussain left the room for the discussion and vote on this item].

(Close of Meeting: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.44 pm).