

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## 30 NOVEMBER 2017

**Present:**

- \* Councillor Margaret Davine (The Worshipful the Mayor)
- \* Councillor Kairul Kareema Marikar (The Deputy Mayor)

**Councillors:**

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

## PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Reverend David Tuck, the Parish Church of St Alban's, North Harrow.

### 270. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council welcomed Paul Walker, Corporate Director, Community to his first meeting and Michael Lockwood, Chief Executive, to his last.

The Mayor informed Council of the death of former Member Bob Aitken, aged 92, who had served as a member of the first Labour Administration on the Council from 1971-78.

### 271. COUNCIL MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 September 2017 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### 272. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

#### Item 6 – Leader and Portfolio Holders' Announcements

Councillor Sachin Shah declared an interest in that his sister had a veterinary practice in Pinner.

#### Item 13 – Motions – Universal Credit Union Motion

Councillor Pamela Fitzpatrick declared an interest in that she worked for the Harrow Law Centre.

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he worked for the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

#### Item 13 – Motions – Tapan Ghosh – no place for hate speech in Harrow Motion

Councillor Graham Henson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he had campaigned for equality of opportunity for 40 years.

### 273. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- (i) The Mayor drew Council's attention to six tabled amendments to item 7 – Community Safety and Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy and amendments to Motions 2 and 3.
- (ii) Councillor Sachin Shah moved a Procedural Motion to enable the six tabled amendments to item 7 - Community Safety and Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy to be considered and voted upon en bloc. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Osborn and upon being put to the vote was carried.

## **274. PETITIONS**

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petitions were presented

- (i) Petition submitted by Angela Murphy, a representative of the residents of Buckingham Road, Edgware in relation to parking and congestion containing 49 signatures.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment].

- (ii) Petition submitted by Councillor Nitesh Hirani, on behalf of the residents of Mary Close, Ruth Close and Honey Pot Lane (slip road), in relation to inconsiderate and dangerous parking containing 80 signatures.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment].

- (iii) Petition submitted by Councillor Nitin Parekh, on behalf of the residents of Camrose Avenue, in relation to crime and safety around Chandos Park containing 138 signatures.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holders for Public Health, Equality and Community Safety and Environment].

- (iv) Petition submitted by Councillor Nitin Parekh, on behalf of the residents of Camrose Avenue, in relation to speeding vehicles containing 169 signatures.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment].

- (v) Petition submitted by Councillor Ajay Maru, on behalf of the residents of a number of streets, requesting the introduction of double yellow lines at certain road junctions containing 113 signatures.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment].

- (vi) Petition submitted by Councillor Pamela Fitzpatrick, on behalf of the residents of Southfield Park, in relation to traffic conditions containing 35 signatures.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment].

- (vii) Three Petitions submitted by Councillor Krishna Suresh, on behalf of the residents of Clitheroe Avenue, High Worple and Church Avenue, proposing a reduction of the speed limit to 20 mph containing 36, 18 and 18 signatures respectively.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment].

## **275. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

**276. LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (i) The Leader of the Council, Councillor Sachin Shah, 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.

**277. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VIOLENCE VULNERABILITY AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY**

Six amendments in the name of Councillor Paul Osborn were moved and duly seconded. Upon a vote, the amendments were carried.

**RESOLVED: That the Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy, as amended, be approved.**

**278. YOUTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2017-18**

**RESOLVED: That the Youth Justice Partnership Plan 2017-18, as amended, be approved.**

**279. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARKETS IN FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DIRECTIVE (MiFID II)**

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the immediate commencement of applications for elected professional client status with all relevant institutions be agreed in order to ensure it could continue to implement an effective investment strategy;
- (2) responsibility be delegated to the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Commercialisation, for the purposes of completing the applications and determining the basis of the application as either full or single service.

**280. INFORMATION REPORT - REVIEW OF HARROW COUNCIL'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

**281. PENSION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

**RESOLVED: That the Pension Board Annual Report 2017 be approved.**

**282. INFORMATION REPORT - MINOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE APPROVED BY THE MONITORING OFFICER**

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**283. MOTIONS**

**(i) Motion in the names of Councillor Kiran Ramchandani and Councillor Barry Kendler.**

**“Universal Credit Motion**

Harrow Council notes that:

- The start of the rollout in December means that families receiving Universal Credit for the first time will be left without benefit payments in the run up to Christmas. Those switching over to Universal Credit from other existing benefits, will also risk a significant disruption to their income at a challenging time of year for low income households.
- Landlords are reporting that rent arrears among tenants receiving universal credit with arrears running up to five times the level of those on the old system. Research by Citizens Advice found that of the people it had helped, over a third had been waiting for more than six weeks for their first payment, and more than half were borrowing money to cope. Many statutory and voluntary services are closed or operating at a reduced level over the Christmas period and assistance for local families who are in practical and financial difficulty will be exacerbated.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Call on the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon David Gauke MP, to pause the rolling of the Universal Credit until all the issues of the new system that have been identified are solved.
- Ask the Chief executive and the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State setting out the council’s concerns.

Upon a vote, the Motion was agreed.

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

**(ii) Motion in the names of Councillor Kiran Ramchandani and Councillor Ghazanfar Ali. The tabled amendment was voted upon and was lost.**

**“Tapan Ghosh - no place for hate speech in Harrow Motion**

The Council believes:

- Harrow has an excellent reputation for outstanding community relations and tolerance of a wide diversity of faiths and peoples;
- Hate speech is not tolerated in Harrow and no local official, such as a local Member of Parliament, should be endorsing speakers who are considered to be hate speakers;

The Council notes:

- The Harrow East MP, Bob Blackman, has recently hosted an event where the keynote speaker was Mr Tapan Ghosh, who has written articles that are regarded by many in our community as anti-Muslim;
- Mr Ghosh has also inappropriately tried to justify the Myanmar ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya community.

The Council resolves:

- To instruct the Chief Executive to write to Bob Blackman MP, condemning the visit of Tapan Ghosh and reaffirming that Harrow is one of the most diverse places in the UK, where hate speech is not tolerated;
- To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, calling on him to condemn the visit of Tapan Ghosh and to discourage hate speech in public institutions (such as the UK Parliament).”

Upon a vote, the Motion was agreed.

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

**(iii) Motion in the names of Councillor Christine Robson and Councillor Sachin Shah.**

**“Harrow Council supporting votes at 16 Motion**

This Council believes:

- Sixteen and seventeen year olds are able to become more active citizens, being able to work on a full time basis, pay tax, join the army reserves and getting married;

This Council supports:

- Extending the voting rights to sixteen and seventeen year olds, as advocated by Harrow Youth Parliament on behalf of the young people residing in the borough;
- Young people in exercising their democratic right over the

political direction of local authorities and national governments;

This Council resolves:

- To instruct the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Theresa May MP, and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Civil Society, Tracey Crouch MP, expressing our support for the extension of the voting rights to sixteen and seventeen year olds.”

Upon the meeting moving to a vote upon the tabled amendment to the Motion, ten Members rose and requested a Roll Call vote. The amendment was lost. The voting on the tabled amendment was as follows:

**Roll Call Vote (In Favour of the Tabled Amendment):** Councillors Almond, Ashton, Mrs Bath, Baxter, Bednell, Bond, Chana, Chauhan, Greek, Hall, Hinkley, Hirani, Jogia, Kara, Lammiman, Macleod-Cullinane, Mithani, Moshenson, Chris Mote, Janet Mote, Noyce, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson, Thakker, Weston and Wright.

**Against (the Tabled Amendment):** Her Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Margaret Davine, Councillors Ali, Jeff Anderson, Sue Anderson, Borio, Brown, Dattani, Dooley, Ferry, Fitzpatrick, Hearnden, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Kendler, Marikar, Maru, Miles, O'Dell, Parekh, Varsha Parmar, Primesh Patel, Perry, Ramchandani, Robson, Aneka Shah-Levy, Mrs Rekha Shah, Sachin Shah, Krishna Suresh, Sasikala Suresh, Swersky, Weiss and Whitehead.

Upon a vote, the substantive Motion was agreed.

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

#### **284. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Councillor questions as were received were responded to and any recording placed on the Council's website. Those questions not reached would be responded to in writing and placed on the Council's website.

#### **285. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED: That in accordance with Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item for the reasons set out below:**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reason</u>
16.	Information Report Severance Packages £100,000 or Greater	– Information under paragraph 1 of (contains information relating to any individual).

[Note: Members of the Conservative Group wished to be recorded as having voted against the above Resolution].

**286. INFORMATION REPORT - SEVERANCE PACKAGE OF £100,000 OR GREATER**

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

**(CLOSE OF MEETING:** All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.25 pm).