

COUNCIL MINUTES

29 NOVEMBER 2018

- Present:**
- * Councillor Kairul Kareema Marikar
(The Worshipful the Mayor)
 - * Councillor Nitin Parekh (The Deputy Mayor)
- Councillors:**
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ghazanfar Ali * Richard Almond * Dan Anderson * Jeff Anderson * Sue Anderson * Marilyn Ashton * Peymana Assad * Camilla Bath * Christopher Baxter * Philip Benjamin * Michael Borio * Simon Brown * Sarah Butterworth * Kam Chana * Ramji Chauhan * Niraj Dattani * Keith Ferry * Pamela Fitzpatrick * Dean Gilligan * Stephen Greek * Chetna Halai * Susan Hall * Graham Henson * Maxine Henson * John Hinkley * Nitesh Hirani * Honey Jamie * Ameet Jogia * Jean Lammiman * James Lee * Dr Lesline Lewinson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ajay Maru * Jerry Miles * Vina Mithani * Amir Moshenson * Chris Mote * Janet Mote * Angella Murphy-Strachan * Phillip O'Dell * Paul Osborn * Mina Parmar * Varsha Parmar * Anjana Patel † Primesh Patel * Pritesh Patel * David Perry * Natasha Proctor * Kanti Rabadia * Kiran Ramchandani * Christine Robson * Lynda Seymour * Mrs Rekha Shah * Sachin Shah * Chloe Smith * Norman Stevenson * Krishna Suresh * Sasi Suresh * Adam Swersky † Bharat Thakker * Antonio Weiss * Stephen Wright |
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- * Denotes Member present
- † Denotes apologies received

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Imam Sheikh Salman Sidiq, Sri Lankan Muslim Cultural Centre.

37. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary meetings held on 19 July 2018 be taken as read and signed as correct records.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5 – Loss of spaces due to Poet’s Corner Redevelopment

Councillor Ghazanfar Ali declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he attended the mosque.

Item 16 (1) – Motion on Temple Burglaries

Councillor Nitesh Hirani declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he attended the Kenton Temple.

Councillor Kanti Rabadia declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he worshipped at the temples.

Item 16 (2) – Motion on Breaking Point Campaign

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

Councillor Susan Hall declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was an Assembly Member at the Greater London Authority.

Councillor Amir Moshenson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in that his wife was a primary school teacher. He would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Norman Stevenson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his wife was employed by Harrow Council.

Item 16 (3) – Motion on Education Funding

Councillor Ghazanfar Ali declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a governor at Norbury School.

Councillor Richard Almond declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a governor at St Teresa’s Catholic Primary School.

Councillor Marilyn Ashton declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a governor at Park High School.

Councillor Peymana Assad declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a governor at Kenmore Park School.

Councillor Camilla Bath declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a governor at St George's School.

Councillor Phillip Benjamin declared an interest in that he was employed in higher education. He would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Michael Borio declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Sarah Butterworth declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Kam Chana declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a school governor.

Councillor Ramji Chauhan declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a governor at Glebe Primary School.

Councillor Stephen Greek declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in that his wife was employed as a Teaching Assistant. He also declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a school governor. He would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Chetna Halai declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a school governor.

Councillor Graham Henson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a school governor.

Councillor Maxine Henson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a school governor.

Councillor Jean Lammiman declared an interest in that was Chair of Shaftesbury High school.

Councillor Dr Lesline Lewinson declared an interest in that was a governor at Pinner Park School and was employed in higher education.

Councillor Vina Mithani declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a governor at Glebe Primary School.

Councillor Ajay Maru declared an interest in that his wife was employed by a school in Harrow.

Councillor Amir Moshenson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in that his wife was a primary school teacher. He would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Janet Mote declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a teacher in the private sector, a member of NEU and a governor at St John Fisher School.

Councillor Angella Murphy-Strachan declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in that she worked in schools. She would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Chloe Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a school governor in Harrow.

Councillor Stephen Wright declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as his wife was employed as a teacher in Harrow.

Item 16 (5) – Motion on Women against State Pension Inequality

Councillor Jeff Anderson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in that his wife was in the age category of the women affected. He would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Sue Anderson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in that she was in the age category of the women affected. She would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Susan Hall declared a disclosable pecuniary interest. She would leave the Chamber for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Vina Mithani declared an interest in that she was in the age category of the women affected.

Councillor Chris Mote declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his daughter would be affected.

Councillor Anjana Patel declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Councillor Norman Stevenson declared an interest in that he was a supporter of the Women against State Pension Inequality campaign and his wife was in the age category of the women affected.

39. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- (i) The Mayor drew attention to the item, Additions to the Capital Programme for the Financial Year 2018/19, which she agreed was urgent and which was set out on the supplemental summons, and to the tabled amendments to Motion 1 and Motion 5 set out on the Tabled Documents.
- (ii) Councillor Graham Henson moved a Procedural Motion to include the urgent item, Additions to the Capital Programme for the Financial Year 2018/19, on the Summons for discussion before item 15, Questions with Notice. This was seconded by Councillor Keith Ferry and upon being put to the vote was carried.

- (iii) Councillor Graham Henson moved a Procedural Motion that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.6.1, Motion 4 on Modern Slavery not be referred to the Executive and instead be debated at Council. This was seconded by Councillor Keith Ferry and upon being put to the vote was carried.

40. PETITIONS

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Mr Parmod Athi containing 102 signatures concerning the increase in school meals prices for children attending Woodlands and Kingsley Schools in Harrow.

[The Petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources].

- (ii) Petition submitted by Councillor Kanti Rabadia containing 35 signatures concerning fly tipping in the alleyway behind Kenton Park Gardens.

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

- (iii) Petition submitted by Councillor Jerry Miles containing 8 signatures supporting an addition to the parking restrictions in Walpole Close.

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

41. PETITION - LOSS OF SPACES DUE TO POET'S CORNER REDEVELOPMENT

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Mr Iftikhar, Harrow Mosque, containing over 2,000 signatures, stating

'The biggest ever regeneration program in Harrow borough for a generation, featuring around 1,000 new homes including 400 affordable homes will be built at the current location of Harrow Civic Centre.

We are concerned about the loss of parking spaces for local business, residents and emergency services due to regeneration proposal of the Harrow Civic Centre site.

We urge the Council, Gareth Thomas, Harrow Councillors and Mayor of London to ensure that there are sufficient parking spaces for local businesses, residents in the vicinity of the Civic Centre, Wealdstone and Harrow Central Mosque.'

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

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

42. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

43. LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' 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 of Council spoke and/or asked questions of the Leader of the Council which were duly responded to.

44. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

Members paid tribute to Tom Whiting, Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) who would be leaving the Council's employ in February 2019.

RESOLVED: That Mr Sean Harriss, Interim Chief Executive Officer at oneSource, the Strategic Corporate Resources Shared Service – London Boroughs of Bexley, Havering and Newham, be appointed to the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) of the London Borough of Harrow, with effect from 4 February 2019 until 3 February 2021, and in accordance with the terms and conditions governing Chief Officer posts.

45. GAMBLING POLICY - REVISED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

RESOLVED: That the revised Statement of Principles be approved.

46. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2017 - 2019

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017 – 19 and Priorities set out in the Strategy be approved.

47. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

RESOLVED: That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-18 be endorsed.

48. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2018-2022

RESOLVED: That the scrutiny work programme 2018 – 2022 be noted.

49. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - TERMS OF REFERENCE OF JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULES IN RELATION TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed terms of reference for the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as attached at Appendix 1 to the officer report, be agreed and included in the Council's Constitution;
- (2) the proposed new wording for the Committee Procedure Rules in relation to the Planning Committee, as set out in paragraph 8 of the officer report, be agreed.

50. INFORMATION REPORT - USE OF THE URGENCY AND SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

51. URGENT ITEM - ADDITIONS TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19

The Mayor indicated that the item had been admitted to the Summons for the reasons set out on the Supplemental Summons.

RESOLVED: That the addition to the 2018/19 Capital Programme for the items set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the officer report be approved.

52. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

To note that four questions from Councillors to the Leader of the Council had been received and that and a recording of those responded to would be placed on the Council's website.

53. MOTIONS

- (i) Motion in the names of Councillor Kanti Rabadia and Councillor Vina Mithani.

"Temple Burglaries Motion

This Council notes and condemns:

- The burglary of Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple in Kenton, Harrow.
- The burglary of the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in Willesden, Brent.
- Any crime carried out against any religious establishment.

This Council believes:

- Harrow has a diverse community that deserves to feel safe and have the right to freely practice whatever religion they follow.
- Local communities and religious establishments should be protected.
- Any crime carried out against any religious establishment is unacceptable.

This Council resolves:

- To instruct the interim Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition to send a cross-party letter to both Temples, condemning the burglaries and offering solidarity and support.
- To offer a meeting to representatives from the Kenton Temple with the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition and relevant Council officers to discuss how the Council can provide better support.”

A tabled amendment was received. Upon being put to the vote the amendment was agreed. The Substantive Motion was agreed as follows:

“This Council notes and condemns:

- The burglary of Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple in Kenton, Harrow.
- The burglary of the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in Willesden, Brent.
- Hate crime incidents at the Sree Ayyappan Temple in Masons Avenue, Harrow.
- Any crime carried out against any religious establishment.

This Council believes:

- That diverse and cohesive communities are what makes Harrow the great place that people want to call home
- That all residents deserve to feel safe
- Local communities and religious establishments should be protected.
- Any crime carried out against any religious establishment is unacceptable.

Harrow Council welcomes/supports:

- The work carried out to date by the Police to investigate the incidents
- The partnership work undertaken directly with the affected places of worship by Harrow Council, Councillors, Police and Assembly Member for Brent & Harrow to strengthen working relationships, enhance security of the premises and to convey the message of reassurance to the community.

This Council resolves:

- To instruct the interim Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition to send a cross-party letter to these places of worship, condemning the criminal incidents and offering solidarity and support.
- As part of the Council's on-going work on community cohesion, to offer a meeting to representatives from the Kenton Temple with the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition and relevant Council officers to discuss this work and explore whether Harrow can provide further support."

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

- (ii) Motion in the names of Councillor Graham Henson and Councillor Adam Swersky.

"Breaking Point Campaign Motion

This Council notes that many council budgets are now at Breaking Point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled children and adults, and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, and children's centres;

- Government cuts mean councils have lost 60p out of every £1 that the last Labour Government was spending on local government in 2010;
- Harrow Council has lost £55 million of central government funding as our RSG has been eliminated entirely.
- Councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children.
- With an aging population and growing demand adult social care faces a gap of £3.5 billion – with only 14% of council workers

now confident that vulnerable local residents are safe and cared for.

- Government cuts have seen over 500 children's centres and 475 libraries close, potholes are left unfilled, and 80% of councils workers now say have no confidence in the future of local services.
- Northamptonshire has already gone bust and more councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding.
- Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services 'standing still' and meeting additional demand. Even Lord Gary Porter, the Chair of the Local Government Association, has said 'Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring'

This Council condemns Chief Secretary to the Treasury for stating on BBC Newsnight on 1st October 2018 that the government is "not making cuts to local authorities", when all independent assessments of government spending show that this is entirely false; and that this Council further notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has also claimed that "austerity is over" despite planning a further £1.3bn of cuts to council budgets over the next year;

This Council agrees with the aims of the 'Breaking Point' petition signed by Labour councillors across the country, in calling for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in local government by properly funding local public services.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the 'Breaking Point' campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community.
- Work with other councils to campaign for proper funding for local government and other public services.
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by Harrow Council, and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government."

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

- (iii) Motion in the names of Councillor Pamela Fitzpatrick and Councillor Maxine Henson.

“Education Funding Motion

Harrow Council believes education to be the foundation of our society, it is through education that we unlock the individual’s full potential and create a more equal and prosperous society for all. This is why cuts to education are so catastrophic.

Harrow Council notes:

At the national level, per pupil funding has declined by 8% since 2010.

In Harrow, our schools are facing annual funding pressures of £77,000 for primary schools and £194,000 for secondary schools.

Since 2015, Harrow has suffered a net loss of 105 teachers in our maintained schools owing in part to recruitment and retention issues.

Harrow schools must bear the brunt of unfunded National Insurance increases.

Harrow schools see inadequate High Needs Block Funding, leaving our most vulnerable pupils without the support they need.

Harrow Council resolves:

To resist the Government’s ongoing cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education.

To support national campaigns against school cuts

To call on the Government to fully fund the pay increase for teachers that is recommended by the School Teachers’ Review Body.”

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

- (iv) Motion in the names of Councillor Jeff Anderson and Councillor Adam Swersky

“Modern Slavery Motion

Modern slavery continues to be a significant problem in Harrow. In 2013 there is evidence that as many as 42 children were trafficked to the borough providing large revenue streams for criminal gangs. Harrow Council has been proactive in its investigations into not only child trafficking but modern slavery as a whole. This scourge affects all those who are vulnerable and it is for this reason that we have chosen to implement the following resolutions:

Harrow Council requests it’s Cabinet to:

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and

Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.

2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually."

RESOLVED (Unanimously): That Cabinet be requested to receive and consider the Motion set out at (iv) above.

- (v) Motion in the names of Councillor Natasha Proctor and Councillor Sarah Butterworth.

"Women Against State Pension Inequality Motion

Harrow Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1950, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

Thousands of women who live in Harrow, and hundreds of thousands nationally, had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Thousands of women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

Harrow Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1950, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.”

A tabled amendment was received and, having been further amended, was put to the vote and was carried.

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive Motion was agreed as follows:-

“Women Against State Pension Inequality Motion

Harrow Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1950, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

Thousands of women who live in Harrow, and hundreds of thousands nationally, had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995, 2007 and 2011 under successive Governments, with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Thousands of women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been

too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

The state pension is by far the largest benefit paid in the UK. It is paid from National Insurance receipts paid by those in work - predominantly much younger people. They are contributing to this benefit for an increasing proportion of our ageing population. This is why both equalisation and extending the starting age were essential to make it more affordable. Clearly a particular group of women have been adversely affected by this and communication of the changes was poor. This is why we support the review of transitional arrangements which will be carried out. The review should also include the effectiveness of communication with people affected by legislative changes. The WASPI campaign has cross-party support.

Harrow Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1950, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.”

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

54. PROCEDURE FOR TERMINATION OF MEETING

At 10.22 pm, prior to the debate on Motion 5, Women Against State Pension Inequality, it was proposed that the guillotine be extended to 10.35 pm. 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 10.32 pm).