

# Council

## Minutes

### 26 November 2020

**Present:** Councillor Nitin Parekh (The Worshipful the Mayor)

Councillor Ghazanfar Ali (The Deputy Mayor)

**Councillors:**

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

## **PRAYERS**

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by His Holiness Shri Rajrajeshwar Guruji, Founder and Spiritual Leader of the International Siddhashram Shakti Centre

### **166. Minute Silence**

Members of Council stood and observed a minute silence for former Mayor and Councillor Mrinal Choudhury who had passed away on 1 August 2020 and former Mayor and Councillor Manoharan Dharmarajah who had passed away on 30 October 2020.

### **167. Council Minutes**

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting and Ordinary meeting held on 16 July 2020 be taken as read and signed as correct records.**

### **168. Declarations of interest**

**RESOLVED: To note that**

- (1) the Declarations of Interests published in advance of the meeting on the Council's website were taken as read;**
- (2) Members who had declared interests remained in the virtual meeting whilst the matters were considered and voted upon;**
- (3) during the course of the meeting, the following further interests were declared:-**

#### **Item 5 – Petitions – Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes**

**Councillor Paul Osborn declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he lived in the area of one of the schemes.**

#### **Item 5 – Petitions – Canons Park Station Development**

**The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Nitin Parekh declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a resident of Canons Park.**

**Councillor Ameet Jogia declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was the Canons ward councillor, the area of which covered both Canons Park and Stanmore Stations. He also declared that he was a reserve member of the Planning Committee and that he would not sit on the Committee when the application was considered.**

**Councillor Primesh Patel declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a resident of Canons Park.**

## **Item 5 – Petitions – Stanmore Station Development**

**Councillor Ameet Jogia declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was the Canons ward councillor, the area of which covered both Canons Park and Stanmore Stations. He also declared that he was a reserve member of the Planning Committee and that he would not sit on the Committee when the application was considered.**

**Councillor Amir Moshenson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in that he lived in the area and would leave the meeting whilst the matter was debated.**

## **Item 16(1) – Motion – Temporary Street Space Schemes**

**Councillor Paul Osborn declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he lived in the area of one of the schemes.**

### **169. 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 Leader of the Opposition Group proposed that the agenda be re-arranged so that Motion 1, Temporary Street Spaces, be considered after the debate on the Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes petition. Having consulted Members, the Mayor indicated that agenda order would remain as published.

**RESOLVED: That the closure time for the meeting be 9.30 pm.**

### **170. Petitions**

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Shirley Sackwild on behalf of Stop the Development of Canons Park Station Car Park Group containing 2,522 signatures requesting that the development of Canons Park Station Car Park be stopped.

(In accordance with the Council's petition scheme, as the petition contained over 2,000 signatures it would be debated at Council).

- (ii) Petition submitted by Neil Sint on behalf of Keep Stanmore Station Car Park Alliance containing 2,285 signatures requesting that the development of Stanmore Station Car Park be stopped.

(In accordance with the Council's petition scheme, as the petition contained over 2,000 signatures it would be debated at Council).

Upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED: That the petitions in relation to both Canons Park Station Car Park Development and Stanmore Station Car Park Development be debated at this Council meeting.**

**171. Petition - Low Traffic Neighbourhood Road Blocks**

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Prash Kotecha, FreeHarrow Team, containing approximately 5,500 signatures requesting the removal of Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes at a number of locations in Harrow.
- (ii) Debate was held on the content of the petition.

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

**172. Petition - Canons Park Station Car Park Development**

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council having received a petition from the Stop the Development of Canons Park Station Car Park Group containing over 2,000 signatures debated the content of the petition, the terms of which were as follows:-

"Reject planning proposal P/0858/20 for the development of a site that is totally unsuitable for a project of this size.

We strongly object to the proposed redevelopment of Canons Park Station Car Park into 118 flats in 3 seven storey blocks. The bulky over-intensive and overbearing proposal is totally out of character with the surrounding suburban area, goes against / contravenes Local, London and National planning policies and will have a devastating and detrimental effect on the views across the Grade 2 listed registered Canons Park. The loss of 100 commuter parking spaces will have a major effect on the locality especially on local and Wembley event days, problems that will be compounded by the application for development of Stanmore Station Car Park. Please act now - there is no time to lose!"

**RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Planning Committee for consideration.**

**173. Petition - Stanmore Station Car Park Development**

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council having received a petition from the Keep Stanmore Station Car Park Alliance containing over 2,000 signatures debated the content of the petition, the terms of which were as follows:-

"Harrow Council Planning Committee should not grant planning permission to TfL/Catalyst to redevelop the Stanmore Station car park site.

As early as January 2021, a decision could be made by the Harrow Planning Committee that will turn Stanmore Station car park into an overcrowded housing development. This is a totally unsuitable location, with limited open spaces, poor access from the main road and totally out of character with the area. There will be several tower blocks, including an 11-storey tower next to London Road. The proposed development will also significantly cut the number of parking spaces at the station. The chaos this development will cause will have far-reaching consequences for the whole area.

Harrow Council and Transport for London (TfL) must withdraw their planning application.

1. The development will cause a steep increase in traffic along London Road both during construction and after completion.
2. The traffic congestion and increased levels of exhaust and noise pollution created by the development will worsen air quality and should be a serious concern for everyone living in the area.
3. Step-free access to Stanmore Station will be through a lift inside one of the tower blocks, far from the actual station platforms. This is a clear failure to provide proper access within the station building for those with restricted mobility.
4. There are no plans in place to increase the local infrastructure and amenities, including nurseries, schools and healthcare centres, to cope with the sudden increase in residents.
5. The development does not provide any parking for its residents, so the hundreds of new families living there will be forced to park on surrounding streets, leading to chaotic scenes and a huge deficit in available spaces.
6. As the first stop on the Jubilee Line, Stanmore Station is the main hub for people traveling into London by Public Transport. The drastic cut in the number of parking spaces will force commuters to drive into London, adding traffic and congestion.

We're calling on all residents, together with commuters and visitors using Stanmore Station car park to sign this petition.

We must send a strong message to Harrow Council and its Planning Committee that they should not grant planning permission to TfL/Catalyst to redevelop the site."

**RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Planning Committee for consideration.**

[Councillor Amir Moshenson left the meeting for the debate on the petition].

#### **174. Public Questions**

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

## 175. Honorary Freedom of the Borough

The Mayor and six other Members of the Council made speeches in tribute to the service of Alderman Keith Toms to the authority and the community of the Borough of Harrow.

Given the restrictions due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Mayor had presented Alderman Keith Toms with an illuminated scroll recording the Council's decision to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Harrow on him at his home and a video and photographs of the event were displayed at the virtual meeting.

Alderman Keith Toms made a speech of thanks in response.

## 176. 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. He advised Council of changes to a number of Portfolio Holder remits.
- (ii) Other Members spoke and/or asked questions of the Leader of the Council which were duly responded to.

In light of the Leader's notification of the change in Portfolio Holder remits the Mayor sought Council's agreement to Monitoring Officer making the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

**RESOLVED: That the Monitoring Officer be requested to amend the Constitution in light of the changes to the Portfolio Holder remits.**

## 177. Harrow Strategic Development Partner - Appointment of Directors

The Mayor sought nominations for appointment by the Harrow Strategic Development Partnership. Three nominations were received and each having been seconded and put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) Councillors Keith Ferry and Ajay Maru be nominated for appointment by the Harrow Strategic Development Partnership (HSDP);**
- (2) the Chief Officers' Employment Panel (COEP) be authorised to employ an independent director to be appointed to the HSDP board on terms the Panel considered appropriate.**

Having been nominated for appointment by the HSDP, Councillor Keith Ferry indicated that he would step down from his role as Chair of the Planning Committee after the next meeting.

The Mayor sought nominations for the Chair of the Planning Committee.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Sachin Shah be appointed as Chair of the Planning Committee with effect from 10 December 2020.

**178. Borough Plan Update**

**RESOLVED:** That any of the proposed amendments to the Borough Plan took account of the Council's response to the Black Lives Matters movement; tackling racial disproportionality and the COVID public health emergency, and the new corporate equality objectives.

**179. Appointment of Active Scheme Member Representative to the Pension Board**

**RESOLVED:** That Patrick O'Dwyer be appointed as the Active Scheme Members' Representative to the Pension Board.

**180. Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20**

**RESOLVED:** That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20 be endorsed.

**181. Refreshed Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21 to 2021/22**

**RESOLVED:** That the Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21 to 2021/22 be endorsed.

**182. Information Report - Decisions Taken Under The Urgency Procedure - Executive**

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

**183. Questions with Notice**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no Councillor questions had been received.

**184. Motions**

**(i) Motion to remove Temporary Street Space Schemes**

Motion in the names of Councillor Paul Osborn and Councillor Anjana Patel:

"This Council requests that the Executive immediately removes all temporary Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes (LTNs) from Harrow, all temporary Strategic Cycling routes, and those temporary Pedestrian Space schemes that were recommended for removal by TARSAP (Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel) of 10 August.

The LTN schemes and the Strategic Cycle routes, while well intentioned, have caused congestion, consternation, and chaos for local people across the borough. The Pedestrian Space

schemes have made negligible difference for pedestrian safety while seriously impacting local businesses. It is now time for the Executive to acknowledge that these hastily implemented schemes are not working and should be removed.

This Council notes:

- These Street Space schemes have led to numerous petitions being set up by residents, signed by thousands of local people.
- The most recent petition, which calls for the removal of nearly all LTNs, gained over 5,500 signatures in a matter of days.
- Many Members of the Council have received numerous communications from residents expressing their dismay at the effect of these schemes.
- Many residents feel there was no meaningful consultation by the Council for these schemes, and that these schemes were not properly publicised.

This Council recommends that the Executive immediately removes all temporary LTNs, Strategic Cycling routes and those Pedestrian Space schemes that were recommended for removal by TARSAP in order to allow for a meaningful consultation with residents to take place and to restore confidence in this Council.”

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

**Roll Call Vote (In Favour of the Motion):** Councillors Almond, Ashton, Bath, Baxter, Benjamin, Chana, Chauhan, Greek, Halai, Hall, Hinkley, Hirani, Jogia, Lammiman, Dr Lewinson, Mithani, Moshenson, Chris Mote, Janet Mote, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Anjana Patel, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson and Thakker.

**Roll Call Vote (Against the Motion):** Councillors Ali, Dan Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Sue Anderson, Assad, Borio, Brown, Butterworth, Dattani, Ferry, Fitzpatrick, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Jamie, Lee, Kairul Kareema Marikar, Maru, Miles, Murphy-Strachan, O’Dell, Varsha Parmar, Primesh Patel, Perry, Proctor, Ramchandani, Robson, Rekha Shah, Sachin Shah, Smith, Krishna Suresh, Sasikala Suresh, Swersky and Dr Weiss.

**Abstain:** The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Nitin Parekh.

## (ii) London Living Wage Motion

Motion in the names of Councillor Adam Swersky and Councillor



Kiran Ramchandani:

“This Council notes that:

- 4.7 million people in Britain are low paid
- The real Living Wage is calculated independently by the Living Wage Foundation based on what people need to get by
- The real Living Wage is currently £9.50 per hour nationally and £10.85 per hour in London. A GMB London study showed that 25% of jobs in Harrow are paid below the London Living Wage
- Harrow Council has committed to paying its own staff the London Living Wage. It has also modified its procurement processes to encourage contractors to pay this rate to their staff
- 121 Councils are accredited as Living Wage employers by the Living Wage Foundation

This Council resolves to:

- Seek accreditation as a Living Wage employer with the Living Wage Foundation
- Ensure all staff employed by the Council are paid the real Living Wage
- Develop a plan for all contractors to pay their staff the real Living Wage over time, recognising the dependency on the Council's budget settlement from central government for 2021/22 and beyond.”

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

**(iii) Motion to create a better built environment for developments of Council owned land**

Motion in the names of Councillor Marilyn Ashton by Councillor Stephen Greek:

“This Council notes that there have been many planning applications for large high-rise developments within Harrow. Many of the developments that have been approved and built have significantly changed the character of Harrow and have damaged the leafy and pleasant landscape, which had attracted so many people to live in the borough.

This Council notes:

- The lessons from the past when tower blocks dominated the street scene only to be demolished, because they failed to deliver sustainable communities.

- The Council can, and should, influence the scale, bulk and height of developments on Council land that it owns or wishes to dispose of.
- Restrictive covenants are an effective way of influencing potential future developments on land the Council owns at present and might wish to dispose of in future.

This Council resolves:

To insert the following condition to Section C87 of the Council's Financial Regulations (Part 4K of the Council Constitution).

VI. ensure that a restrictive covenant is in place limiting any future development on the site to be no higher than 10 storeys in the town centre and no higher than 5 storeys in the rest of the borough."

Upon the meeting moving to the vote, the Motion was lost.

#### **185. Procedure for the Termination of Meeting**

At 9.19 pm, during the debate on Motion 1, Temporary Street Spaces it was proposed that the guillotine be extended until 9.45 pm. This was lost.

**RESOLVED: That the provisions of Rule 9.3 be applied as set out above.**

**(Close of Meeting:** All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.34 pm).