

Council (Council Tax)

Minutes

25 February 2021

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

186. Council Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2020 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

187. 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 except that Councillor Kairul Kareema Marikar, who had declared a disclosable pecuniary interest, left the meeting whilst agenda item 13, Non-Executive Fees and Charges 2021, was considered and voted upon.

188. 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 Summons. The procedural motion was agreed so that, in line with previous years and for the purposes of the debate on the Final Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 - 2023/24, the rules of debate be varied, as set out on the Summons, and that the procedure therein also be applied to the reports on the Council Borough Plan including the Draft Corporate Plan, the Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22 and Capital Strategy for 2021/22, the Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2023/24, 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 included in the Chief Executive's report on the Council Borough Plan and the rules of debate (including extended time for opening speeches by the political groups), as set out in the Summons be approved for the purposes of the debate upon

- Item 7 - Council Borough Plan including the Draft Corporate Plan
- Item 8 - Final Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 - 2023/24
- Item 9 - Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22 and Capital Strategy for 2021/22
- Item 10 - Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24
- Item 11 - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2023/24;

(2) the Procedural Motion be agreed.

189. Petitions

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petition was received:

- (i) Petition submitted by Councillor John Hinkley on behalf of the residents of Royston Park Road containing 151 signatures in relation to speeding issues.

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

190. Public Questions

To note that one question from a member of the public had been received and responded to and the recording of this question and the answer given had been placed on the Council's website.

191. 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.
 - (i)
- (ii) Other Members spoke and/or asked questions of the Leader of the Council which were duly responded to.

192. Council Borough Plan including the Draft Corporate Plan

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Borough Plan approved by Council in November 2020 remain as the Corporate Plan for the Council in the 2021/22 year;**

- (2) **the Corporate Priorities approved by Council in November 2020 remain as the Corporate Priorities for the 2021/22 year and that all Council activity be driven by this set of Corporate Priorities;**
- (3) **responsibility be delegated back to Cabinet for approving the Council Delivery Plan in due course following the end of the Covid Emergency (which would set out the Council's shorter-term contribution and performance measures for delivery of the Corporate Plan [Borough Plan]); and**
- (4) **the final Borough Plan 2021-2030 be submitted to Council for approval once consultation could be undertaken with the Harrow community.**

193. Final Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 - 2023/24

- (i) Further to item 8 on the Summons, the Council received Recommendation II of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 February 2021.
- (ii) The Mayor requested that Members, in making the decision on this item, had regard to the Cabinet report of 11 February 2021, 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 proposer of the amendment requested that the vote on the amendment be recorded. The voting was as follows:

In favour of the amendment: 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.

Against the amendment: Councillors Ali, Dan Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Sue Anderson, Assad, Borio, Brown, Butterworth, Dattani, Ferry, Fitzpatrick, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Marikar, Lee, Jamie, 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: His Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Nitin Parekh

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

In Favour of the Recommendation: Councillors Ali, Dan Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Sue Anderson, Assad, Borio, Brown, Butterworth, Dattani, Ferry, Fitzpatrick, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Marikar, Lee, Jamie, 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.

Against the Recommendation: 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.

Abstain: His Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Nitin Parekh.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the 2021/22 budget, taking into account the results of the various consultations and equality impact assessments, be approved to enable the Council Tax for 2021/22 to be set (Appendix 2 to the report referred);
- (2) the Model Council Tax Resolution 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 11 to the report, be approved;
- (3) the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), as set out in Appendix 2 to the officer report, be approved;
- (4) the 2021/22 Members' Allowance Scheme, as set out in Appendix 12 to the officer report, be approved;
- (5) the 2021/22 Annual Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 13 to the officer report, be approved;
- (6) the Capital Receipts Flexibility Strategy, as set out in Appendix 14 to the report, be approved.

194. Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22 and Capital Strategy for 2021/22

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22 be approved, including:
 - Prudential Indicators for 2021/22
 - Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2021/22, as set out in paragraph 2.10 and Appendix C to the officer report;
 - Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22
- (2) the Annual Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix G to the officer report, be approved.

195. Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the officer report, be approved.

196. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2023/24

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2021-22 be approved;**
- (2) the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme, as set out at Appendix 7 to the report, be approved.**

197. Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee Annual Report 2019/20

RESOLVED: That the Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee Annual Report 2019/20 be noted.

198. Non- Executive Fees and Charges for 2021/22

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the fees and charges for the financial year 2021-22 listed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved and set;**
- (2) the Director of Finance be authorised, following consultation with the Corporate Director, Community and the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Equalities, to amend fees and charges in year and agree new fees and charges.**

(Councillor Kairul Kareema Marikar left the meeting for the debate on this item).

199. Pension Board Annual Report

RESOLVED: That the Pension Board Annual Report for 2019/20 be endorsed.

200. Information Report - Decisions Taken Under The Urgency Procedure - Executive

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

201. Questions with Notice

To note that no Councillor questions had been received.

202. Motions

“Motion to adopt a Supplementary Planning Document to resist high-rise developments in suburban Harrow

Motion in the names of Councillor Marilyn Ashton and Councillor Stephen Greek.

This Council notes:

- (i) The Government has directed the GLA to amend policy D9 of the new London Plan, known as the Tall Buildings policy, in order to give Councils the ability to resist high-rise developments in suburban areas and outside of locations identified as suitable in local development plans (such as Intensification or Opportunity Areas).
- (ii) Residents across Harrow have expressed concerns about the number of tall buildings dominating our skyline, resulting in a complete change of character within the borough.

This Council believes:

- We should take back control, now that we have the tools to do it, of the built environment within Harrow.
- The way to control these developments is through Supplementary Planning Documents, which would be targeted at areas where we have identified development potential.
- The detail contained within these documents will add weight to the Council’s argument against inappropriate development and high-rise tower blocks in our suburban areas, particularly on sites that are privately owned.
- Where sites are owned by the Council, the Council should take advantage of the amendment to policy D9 and scale back developments accordingly.

This Council resolves:

- To bring forward and adopt Supplementary Planning Documents, which will specify and limit the height of new buildings to a maximum of six storeys high in areas outside of the Opportunity Area and where there are known brown field sites as yet to be developed.”

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

In Favour of the Motion: Councillors Almond, Ashton, Bath, Baxter, Benjamin, Chana, Chauhan, Greek, Halai, Hall, Hinkley, Hirani, Jogia,

Lammiman, Dr Lewinson, Kairul Kareema Marikar, Mithani, Moshenson, Chris Mote, Janet Mote, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Anjana Patel, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson and Thakker.

Against the Motion: Councillors Ali, Dan Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Sue Anderson, Assad, Borio, Brown, Butterworth, Dattani, Ferry, Fitzpatrick, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Jamie, 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: His Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Nitin Parekh and Councillor Lee.

(Close of Meeting: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.22 pm).