

Council

Minutes

21 July 2022

Present: Councillor Janet Mote (The Worshipful the Mayor)

Councillor Ramji Chauhan (The Deputy Mayor)

Councillors:

Ghazanfar Ali	Hitesh Karia
Dan Anderson	Eden Kulig
Marilyn Ashton	Kuha Kumaran
Peymana Assad	Jean Lammiman
Christopher Baxter	Jerry Miles
June Baxter	Amir Moshenson
Philip Benjamin	Phillip O'Dell
Govind Bharadia	Paul Osborn
Nicola Blackman	Nitin Parekh
Simon Brown	Mina Parmar
Shahania Choudhury	Varsha Parmar
Salim Chowdhury	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

Joined virtually: Councillor David Ashton

Apologies received: Councillor Kandy Dolor Councillor Vipin Mithani

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by
Monsignor Vincent G Brady of St Luke's Church, Pinner.

14. Council Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 26 May 2022 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

15. Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared:

Item 14 – Motion opposing Mayor Khan's ULEZ Expansion

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

Councillor Asif Hussain declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and would leave the Chamber for the discussion and vote on this item.

Councillor Stephen Greek declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was employed by the Greater London Authority.

16. Procedural Motions

The Leader of the Council moved a procedural motion that the petitions for debate at items 5 and 6 on the Summons, Stop Closure of Harrow Viewpoint Car Park and Reinstate the right for people to Visit Old Redding Viewpoint and the Case is Altered Pub, be debated together for up to a maximum of 15 minutes. Upon being put to the vote this was agreed.

17. Petitions

No petitions were received.

18. Petition - Stop Closure of Harrow Viewpoint Car Park

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Geoff Eldridge containing over 2,000 signatures stating

"Harrow Council have decided to close Harrow View Point car park from 6pm. This will not only effect all dog walkers / walkers who have used this space for decades but will also effect the pub The Case Is Altered which has bought life back to the area and made it a family friendly place for people to visit. The pub was previously shut for over 2 years which bought problems to the area where anti social behaviour started from. When the pub opened it stopped people from using the car park inappropriately. The closure of the car park will affect the pub

and could potentially lead to closure ! Are they planning more flats ?? Harrow doesn't need anymore flats and it would be a shame to lose such a beautiful part of Historic Harrow. There will also be severe traffic issues when the car park closes as people will start to park their cars on the road and this could be hazardous.

Sign this petition to help save a beautiful part of Harrow.”

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

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

19. Petition - Reinstate the right for people to visit Old Redding Viewpoint and The Case is Altered Pub

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Geoff Eldridge containing over 2,000 signatures stating

“This petition is for Harrow Council to either increase the hours of operation of the car park until 11:30 pm as per their off-street parking places public notice and/or remove the double yellow lines which are now on both sides of the entire length of the road. The actions of Harrow Council have not considered the needs of Harrows' residents and are discriminatory, unreasonable and show a complete disregard for the small business that operates from The Case is Altered. The Case is Altered relies on people being able to visit the area by car and Harrow Council have gone to great lengths to ensure that is no longer possible after 4 pm.

We the undersigned, request that Harrow Council increase the hours of operation of our public car park until 11:30 pm as per Harrow Council's public notice and/or remove the unnecessary double yellow lines in order to save The Case is Altered from closure.”

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

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

20. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

21. 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/or asked questions of the Leader of the Council which were duly responded to.

22. Honorary Alderman

RESOLVED: That an Extraordinary Council meeting be convened on 29 September 2022 to consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on Camilla Bath.

23. Scrutiny Annual Report 2022

RESOLVED: That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-2022 be endorsed.

24. Outside Body Appointment - Deputy Lord Lieutenant's Committee

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jean Lammiman be appointed to the Deputy Lord Lieutenant's Committee, in place of Councillor Nitesh Hirani.

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

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

26. Questions with Notice

To note that one question from Councillors to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders had been received and that the recording was on the Council's website.

27. Motions

(i) "Motion opposing Mayor Khan's ULEZ Expansion

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

To be moved by Councillor Paul Osborn and seconded by Councillor Marilyn Ashton:

"This Council notes that:

- On 4th March 2022 the Mayor Khan announced his plan to expand the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) from its current boundary to cover almost all of Greater London, including Harrow. These plans would see the ULEZ expanded by 29th August 2023.
- On 25th October 2021, the ULEZ was already expanded to 18 times its original size.

- The October 2021 expansion was a significant change which took place less than a year ago.
 - The ramifications of this change have not yet been fully assessed.
- The proposed 2023 expansion would mean that those with non-compliant vehicles would pay £12.50 per day to drive within the ULEZ.
 - Residents would be forced to pay more to get to work, visit friends and family and take advantage of Harrow's local businesses and high streets.
 - This will likely cost jobs, damage the social fabric of Harrow, and encourage businesses to locate elsewhere.
 - The less well-off are disproportionately penalised.
 - The proposed 2023 expansion is fundamentally unfair on those Harrow residents, who would be unable to afford to replace their car or pay the £12.50 per day and would thus be forced to rely on public transport which is not always reliable.
 - The Mayor of London has set aside over £200 million towards expanding the ULEZ and related projects.

This Council resolves to:

- Oppose measures to push up the cost of living in Harrow by imposing taxes and charges on Harrow residents, who rely on their cars and trades vehicles to get about.
- Call on the Mayor of London to withdraw his unworkable and discriminatory ULEZ expansion.
- Recommend to Mayor Khan that the over £200 million set aside for the ULEZ and related projects should be invested in more equitable and effective ways of improving London's air quality, such as:
 - A faster upgrade to a zero-emission bus fleet
 - Increasing the roll out of rapid charging points
 - Encouraging more freight consolidation schemes
 - Bringing back the previous Boiler Cashback Scheme to encourage Londoners to upgrade their boilers to reduce household emissions
 - Financing a generous scrappage scheme to support Londoners in replacing their vehicles.”

Upon the meeting moving to the vote, the Conservative Group requested that their vote be recorded. The Motion was carried.

[For the Motion: Councillors Marilyn Ashton, Christopher Baxter, June Baxter, Benjamin, Bharadia, Blackman, Chowdhury, Goodwin-Freeman, Chauhan, Greek, Halai, Hirani, Idaikkadar, Jogia, Karia, Kumaran, Lammiman, Moshenson, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Anjana Patel, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson, Sumaria, Teli and Wagman].

Against the Motion: None.

Abstain: The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Janet Mote, Councillors Ghazanfar Ali, Dan Anderson, Assad, Brown, Chauhan, Choudhury, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Hickman, Kalu, Kulig, O'Dell, Parekh, Varsha Parmar, Perry, Proctor, Rekha Shah, Aneka Shah-Levy, Krishna Suresh and Sasikala Suresh.]

Absent: Councillors David Ashton, Dolor, Hall, Hussain and Mithani.

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

(ii) **“Cost of Living Emergency in Harrow Motion**

Motion in the names of Councillor David Perry and seconded by Councillor Natasha Proctor

To be moved by Councillor David Perry and seconded by Councillor Natasha Proctor:

“This Council notes that:

Harrow and its residents are suffering due to a cost of living crisis:

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent and this is almost certainly going to increase in October.
- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £600+ per year and the average pre-pay meter energy bills increasing by £700+ per year (*Ofgem, 2022*).
- On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25%, which is projected to cost the average Harrow family an additional £108 per year.
- On 18 May 2022, inflation was confirmed at 9%.
- The escalating cost of fuel is putting huge strain on local people simply trying to go about their everyday lives. As of 12 July, petrol is at an average of 190.65p per litre, while diesel is 198.42p per litre. It is expected they will be more than £2 per litre by the end of the summer and already are in some petrol stations. Filling up a

typical family car's 55-litre fuel tank with petrol now costs £104.86 on average, while it costs £109.13 to do so with diesel.

- The Government has suspended the pensions 'triple lock' for 2022/3, meaning that Harrow's pensioners will see a rise of 3.1 per cent this year (*instead of 8.3 per cent under the triple lock formula*). This year, this will cost a Harrow pensioner on the full new state pension an average of £487, and on the full basic state pension an average of £373 (*TUC, 2022*).
- In 2021/22 Harrow foodbanks have handed out food parcels to thousands of residents on a weekly basis, many of whom are families with children. This continues to get worse.
- The recent 'Covid Additional Relief Fund' (*CARF*) and 'Household Support Fund' (*HSF*) is just not adequate enough for the needs of Harrow families and businesses. Many will not even qualify for the schemes.

Council believes:

Under the current government, people are seeing tax hikes, energy bills soaring and fuel and food prices rising drastically.

Council resolves:

- To declare a "Cost of Living Emergency".
- Council instructs the Interim Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and three local Harrow MPs (*Gareth Thomas, Bob Blackman and David Simmonds*) to collaboratively write to the relevant Secretaries of State to express concerns over the points raised above along with seeking a meeting to discuss local circumstances and argue;
 - Against the changes to the 'Pension' Triple Lock,
 - Consider a regular Windfall Tax on energy giants supporting residents with ongoing energy bills should the Cost of Living Crisis deepen in future years.
 - Further duty reductions on fuel at the pumps
- Endorse the setting up of a local 'Cost of Living Emergency Summit' to be led by the Leader of the Council and Leader of the *Opposition*, with stakeholders including Citizens Advice, Food Banks, Local Trades Unions, Chambers of Commerce and invite local MPs to attend to discuss how the Council could further support residents in the future, work collaboratively, offer further support and use its influence to create positive change.
- Immediately work with all relevant stakeholders in Harrow to seek an increase in both CARF and HSF funding."

A tabled amendment was received, duly seconded, put to the vote and was carried. Upon the meeting moving to the vote, the Conservative Group requested that their vote be recorded.

[For the Amendment: Councillors Marilyn Ashton, Christopher Baxter, June Baxter, Benjamin, Bharadia, Blackman, Chowdhury, Goodwin-Freeman, Chauhan, Greek, Halai, Hall, Hirani, Idaikkadar, Jogia, Karia, Kumaran, Lammiman, Moshenson, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Anjana Patel, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson, Sumaria, Teli and Wagman].

Against the Amendment: Councillors Ghazanfar Ali, Dan Anderson, Assad, Brown, Chauhan, Choudhury, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Hickman, Hussain, Kalu, Kulig, O'Dell, Parekh, Varsha Parmar, Perry, Proctor, Rekha Shah, Aneka Shah-Levy, Krishna Suresh and Sasikala Suresh.

Abstain: The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Janet Mote and Councillor Chauhan.]

Absent: Councillors David Ashton, Dolor and Mithani.

Upon the meeting moving to the vote on the substantive Motion it was carried. The Conservative Group requested that their vote be recorded.

[For the Substantive Motion: Councillors Marilyn Ashton, Christopher Baxter, June Baxter, Benjamin, Bharadia, Blackman, Chowdhury, Goodwin-Freeman, Chauhan, Greek, Halai, Hall, Hirani, Idaikkadar, Jogia, Karia, Kumaran, Lammiman, Moshenson, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Anjana Patel, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson, Sumaria, Teli and Wagman].

Against the Substantive Motion: None.

Abstain: The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Janet Mote, Councillors Ghazanfar Ali, Dan Anderson, Assad, Brown, Chauhan, Choudhury, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Hickman, Hussain, Kalu, Kulig, O'Dell, Parekh, Varsha Parmar, Perry, Proctor, Rekha Shah, Aneka Shah-Levy, Krishna Suresh and Sasikala Suresh.]

Absent: Councillors David Ashton, Dolor and Mithani.

RESOLVED: That the Motion, as amended and as set out below, be recommended to the Executive for consideration:

“Cost of Living Emergency in Harrow Motion

This Council notes that:

Harrow and its residents are suffering due to a Global cost of living

crisis:

- Cost of oil and gas has spiked due to Putin's horrific and illegal war in the Ukraine, which has restricted supplies. The impact of this war, in addition to economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, has led to the price rises and inflation which has created this cost of living crisis.
- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent and this is almost certainly going to increase in October.
- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £600+ per year and the average pre-pay meter energy bills increasing by £700+ per year (Ofgem, 2022).
- On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25% to provide money for the NHS and social care, which is projected to cost the average Harrow family an additional £108 per year.
- Harrow Council, under Labour, increased the Council Tax burden on Harrow residents by a staggering amount, which has only worsened the cost of living for local people. The previous Labour administration:
 - Increased Council Tax by the maximum every year.
 - Increased Council Tax by over 31% since 2011, the largest increase of any London Council.
 - Increased Council Tax by £79.72 in their February 2022 budget, the largest cash increase of any London Council this year.
 - After being in control of the Council for most of the last 12 years, Labour left Harrow with the second highest Council Tax rate of any London Council.
- Labour Mayor Khan has increased the GLA precept by 8.8% in April, adding £31.93 to Band D bills. The previous Conservative Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, froze the precept for his first term and cut it throughout his second term.
- The Labour Mayor of London is also planning to expand the ULEZ (Ultra Low Emission Zone) to include Harrow. This would mean Harrow's poorest residents, who can't afford to replace their cars, would be forced to pay £12.50 per day to drive their vehicles.
- On 18 May 2022, inflation was confirmed at 9% in the UK. Inflation is currently 9.1% in the USA and 8.6% in the Eurozone.
- The escalating cost of fuel is putting huge strain on local people simply trying to go about their everyday lives. As of 12 July, petrol is at an average of 190.65p per litre, while diesel is 198.42p per

litre. It is expected they will be more than £2 per litre by the end of the summer and already are in some petrol stations. Filling up a typical family car's 55-litre fuel tank with petrol now costs £104.86 on average, while it costs £109.13 to do so with diesel.

- The Government has suspended the pensions 'triple lock' for 2022/3, meaning that Harrow's pensioners will see a rise of 3.1 per cent this year (instead of 8.3 per cent under the triple lock formula).
- In 2021/22 Harrow foodbanks have handed out food parcels to thousands of residents on a weekly basis, many of whom are families with children. This continues to get worse.
- The recent 'Covid Additional Relief Fund' (CARF) and 'Household Support Fund' (HSF) has helped Harrow residents by providing much need financial relief. The Conservative government has implemented a number of measures to ease the cost of living, including:
 - A £6 billion tax cut for 30 million working people across the UK, worth over £330 a year, by raising the National Insurance personal threshold from £9,500 to £12,570. Around 70 per cent of all workers will have their taxes cut by more than what they will pay through the levy to sustainably fund the NHS and social care.
 - A £150 Council Tax rebate and a £400 discount to energy bills in the autumn.
 - £326, the first of two cost of living payments, will automatically be paid into 7 million bank accounts between 14 July and 31 July 2022 as part of the government's £37 billion support package. The second instalment of £324 will follow from the autumn, with separate payments for pensioners and disabled people also coming later this year.
- Harrow Council's new Conservative administration are introducing policies which will save residents money:
 - 1 Hour of Free on Street Parking will commence in August.
 - Before the end of the year, the Council will introduce a free bulky waste collection service.
 - Extend Free School Meals during school holidays to include May Half Term and the 6-week summer holiday.

Council believes:

- Due to a Global pandemic and the war in the Ukraine people around the world are seeing energy bills soaring and fuel and food prices rising drastically.
- The Government over this period has taken unprecedented measures to support Harrow residents.

- The Government should continue its strong and proud record of supporting Harrow's residents and should see what further measures can be introduced.

Council resolves to:

- Declare a "Cost of Living Emergency".
- Work with local MPs and neighbouring Councils to lobby the Secretary of State responsible for local government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure that Harrow residents get the support that they need at this difficult time.
- Endorse the setting up of a local 'Cost of Living Emergency Summit' to be led by the Leader of the Council, with other stakeholders to discuss how the Council could further support residents in the future, work collaboratively, offer further support and use its influence to create positive change.
- Immediately work with all relevant stakeholders in Harrow to seek an increase in both CARF and HSF funding."

(Close of Meeting: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.46 pm).