

CROYDON COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting held on
Monday 24th March 2014 at 6.30 p.m.
in the Council Chamber

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR YVETTE HOPLEY - PRESIDING.

Councillors Arram, Avis, Ayres, Bains, Bashford, Bass, Bonner, Butler, Buttinger, Chatterjee, Chowdhury, Clouder, Collins, Cummings, Fisher, Fitzsimons, Flemming, Gatland, George-Hilley, Godfrey, Gray, Hale, Hall, Harris, Hay-Justice, Hoar, Hollands, Jewitt, Kabir, Kellett, S Khan, B Khan, Kyeremeh, Lawlor, Lenton, Letts, Mansell, Marshall, D Mead, M Mead, Mohan, Neal, Newman, O'Connell, Osland, Parker, Pearson, Perry, H Pollard, T Pollard, Quadir, Rajendran, P Ryan, Selva, Scott, Shahul-Hameed, Slipper, Smith, Speakman, Thomas, Wentworth, Winborn, Woodley and Wright.

ABSENT: Councillors Bee, Cromie, Fitze, G Ryan and Watson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Gerry Ryan and Mark Watson.

The Mayor advised Council that Councillor Gerry Ryan was unable to attend the meeting as he was in hospital and he had sent a message of thanks to all Members and officers for the messages of support which were much appreciated.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th February 2014 be signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the two Extraordinary Council Meetings both held on 24th February 2014 be signed as a correct record.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

All Members of the Council confirmed that their interests as listed in their Declaration of Interests Forms were accurate and up-to-date.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

None

5. EXEMPT ITEMS

None

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that a number of charity events will be held before the election that details were posted on the noticeboard in the Members area and all were welcome to attend.

As it was the last meeting before the election the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Fisher paid tribute to a number of Members who had indicated they were retiring in May 2014. He paid tribute to:

Councillor Eddy Arram, who had represented Ashburton Ward for 33 years and had held many roles in the community and on the council and was well respected by the residents. He had been a governor of a number of schools and has had a long association with the Addiscombe Boys & Girls Club. Councillor Arram was Mayor in 2012/13.

Councillor Janet Marshall, who had represented Shirley Ward, where she had served for 28 years. Elected in May 1986 for the then Spring Park Ward, Cllr Marshall has held a number of positions in the Council including vice chair of the Library Committee and Social Services Committee and held a variety of Shadow Cabinet positions. The Leader went on to say that Councillor Marshall had worked tirelessly in the community and with Leaf House Family Centre in Scrublands and is chair of governors for Coloma Convent Girls School in Shirley. Cllr Marshall was Mayor in 2006/7.

Councillor Graham Bass elected in 1992 and had served Purley Ward since that time and been a great advocate for the Ward. He had been involved with many residents associations in the Ward particularly PWRA. Cllr Bass was Mayor in 2011/12.

Councillor David Osland was elected in 1994 for Coulsdon West Ward (formally Coulsdon West and Woodcote). The Leader said that Cllr Osland had been his first Chief Whip and held many posts on the Council, on the Shadow Cabinet as Education spokesman and had been the Chairman of both the Scrutiny Committee and Planning Committee.

Councillor Avril Slipper was elected in 1990 in Ashburton Ward and has served on many Committees including the Libraries Committee, Environmental Consumer Services Committee and more recently Chair of the Corporate Services Committee. Cllr Slipper was Mayor in 2010/11.

Councillor Paul Smith elected in May 2002 for Waddon Ward, then re-elected in May 2010 for West Thornton Ward. He has held various roles on the Council and is much respected on both sides of the chamber.

Councillor Raj Rajendran was elected following a by-election in 2004 in Bensham Manor Ward. The Leader described him as an assiduous Member of the Council and a true gentleman. He served as the opposition chief whip for a time.

Councillor Donna Gray elected in 2010 in Bensham Manor and was a hard working Member who had made a number of well received contributions in the Chamber.

Councillor Terry Lenton, the Conservative Chief Whip (whose retirement meant she would be greatly missed by the Leader and members of the Conservative party), was elected in 2006 for Coulsdon East after a distinguished service as a council officer. The Leader went on to say that she had been a fantastic support to him as Leader of the Council. Cllr Lenton had held a number of posts locally in the Ward including governor of various schools and would be very hard to follow in Coulsdon East.

Councillor David Fitze first elected in 2006 for the Fairfield Ward, following a career in the Council as the Head of IT. As well as his role as Council member he had also been involved with a number of organisations in the borough including being Chairman of South London YMCA, a director for Fairfield Halls and had always taken a very keen interest in the business interests in his ward.

Councillor Clare George-Hilley elected in February 2008, following the sad and untimely death of Jonathan Driver, has a reputation as a hard working local councillor. The Leader thanked her for her hard work in Waddon including the work in delivering the Waddon leisure centre and work in Wandle Park.

Councillor Justin Cromie, elected in 2010 for Coulsdon East, a hard working local councillor who has been on the Planning and Scrutiny Committees.

Councillor Ian Parker, elected in 2010 in Coulsdon West, and has been known to many colleagues through his work as a Conservative Party agent for over 20 years. Cllr Parker had held various deputy Cabinet Member roles particularly leading on the skills agenda.

Councillor George Ayres, elected in 2006 in New Addington well known in that ward for his hard work and is much respected.

Councillor Fisher wished each Councillor and their family well for the future.

Councillor Tony Newman wished all retiring councillors well for the future. He went on to say that Councillor Ayres is retiring following a fantastic job in New Addington Ward, and has earned the title of a Community Champion. Turning to Councillors Raj Rajendran, Donna Gray and Paul Smith he said that he recognised the contributions they had made. Councillor Newman wished all colleagues well for the future.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

As this was the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council before her year of office came to an end, the Mayor made her farewell address.

The Mayor opened her speech by saying that she had had a wonderful year as Mayor of Croydon and recalled stating in her inaugural speech 'that the future was bright for Croydon and that we were in for significant change' and she was pleased to say that she had been accurate in her predictions.

During the year the Mayor had been at the openings of a number of significant buildings including Bernard Weatherill House, the new bridge at East Croydon station, the new facility at Purley hospital, new hotels, new office buildings, new stores, new restaurants, new nurseries, a significant amount of school expansions and new medium business. She went on to say that the decisions taken here in the Council Chamber by all councillors have taken Croydon to a new level. Companies opening in Croydon have led to a reduction in unemployment giving opportunities to many of the younger generation and there was excitement around the Hammerson Westfield development.

During the course of the year there had been a number of Royal visits, and when questioned by other Mayors asking what the attraction is she replies 'this is the London Borough of Croydon'. The Mayor spoke of her trip, with her Consort, to Arnhem and of the Remembrance Service at the Town Hall, Fairfield Halls and in Kenley. These events made her think of our forces and what they gave so that we can all be free here today and what they are all doing for us now in times of trouble.

She went on to thank the young people of Croydon, who have supported the Mayor's charities, Croydon College who put on a wonderful event for charity at the Town Hall and organised all the catering and entertaining. She went on to speak of a young lady who had composed her own orchestral works to be performed around the country to the most outstanding debating and sports people.

The Mayor recalled that shortly after she took office Drummer Lee Rigby was murdered and she felt she had a real purpose in Croydon in supporting the very many religious organisations and speaking on peace. Croydon is one of the most racially and culturally diverse of all boroughs and the Mayor had the opportunity to speak and attend events in mosques, temples and in synagogues and Christian churches and had been made to feel welcome.

The Mayor went on to thank all the volunteers in the borough, of which there are thousands, and that she had visited many of the organisations and was grateful to all of them for the work they do.

The Mayor thanked her Deputy Mayor Cllr Quadir and his wife Jebun for her their support over the year.

The Mayor thanked her consort Chris who despite having a full time job has been with her at every opportunity and to Natasha, her daughter, and all the family for their support.

The Mayor went on to thank everyone involved in helping to raise money for her charities the South East Cancer Help Centre and the British Heart Foundation. She went on the say that together with Cllr Margaret Mead they had signed a pledge so

Croydon could become a Heart Town. The 'Ramp Up the Red Day' held on 7 February had raised significant funds for the British Heart Foundation for which they were very grateful.

The Mayor thanked the Mayoral staff for their hard work and organisation and went on to say that there is now greater transparency of what the Mayor actually does through Facebook and twitter which is up-dated every day.

In concluding the Mayor thanked the Chief Executive and the director and staff of Democratic and Legal Services.

Finally the Mayor wished all Members standing in the next elections well.

Councillor Fisher moved a motion of thanks for the Mayor, which was seconded by Councillor Newman as follows,

MOTION OF THANKS

(a) the Council tender their grateful thanks to The Worshipful, The Mayor, Councillor Yvette Hopley, for the courteous and efficient manner in which she presided over the Council's deliberations during the past year;

(b) the Council record their sincere appreciation of the dignified manner in which Councillor Yvette Hopley has carried out the traditional duties of the office of Mayor, of the support and encouragement which she and her Consort Christopher Jeffery have given to the local organisations and of the prominent part which they have taken in the social life of the Borough during the Mayor's period of office; and

(c) that this resolution be engrossed and sealed and presented to the Mayor at the Annual Council Meeting in a suitable form.

The motion was passed unanimously.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Under the provisions of the Council Procedure Rules (Croydon Constitution, Part 4A), written questions had been submitted and written replies were given by the relevant Cabinet Member. These were placed in the Chamber and Public Gallery, oral supplementary questions were asked by members of the public. Oral replies were provided by the relevant Cabinet Members.

Oral Supplementary questions were asked by:

- PQ17-14 – Mr A Crawley
- PQ19-14 – Ms R Fernandes
- PQ20-14 – Ms S Khan
- PQ21-14 – Mr J Cartwright
- PQ22-14- Mr R Canning
- PQ23-14 – Mr S Creighton

PQ26-14 - Mr P Collier
PQ28-14 – Mr M Samuel
PQ33-14 – Mr P Sowan

[Note the written Public Questions and written replies can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/agenda]

9. NOTICES OF PETITIONS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING

Petitions were presented formally by Councillors as follows in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

- 1) A petition presented by **Councillor Paul Scott** on behalf of residents: South Norwood Hill Children's Centre

- 2) A petition presented by **Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed** or behalf of residents of Handcroft Road Estate and surrounding area.

These petitions were referred to the relevant Cabinet Member. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the reply to this petition will be included in the agenda for the next Council meeting.

10. RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

In accordance with the Council procedure rules, the printed responses were open to questions from Councillors. There were no questions.

11. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2013/2014 and SCRUTINY BUSINESS REPORT

Councillor Hollands moved the report and Councillor Cummings seconded.

Councillor Hollands introduced the report saying that Scrutiny had matured in the past 4 years as there were tough decisions being made which resulted in some very tough call in's. The main committee formed of half of council had seen to the quality of debate improve and were able to contribute with good humour. He went on to say that whilst all members of the committee may not agree all the time but they were able to agree a number of recommendations and comments that were returned to cabinet for consideration. Councillor Hollands thanked Councillor Jason Cummings and Councillor Sean Fitzsimons, his two vice chairs, for their contribution to scrutiny and particularly into Croydon's health agenda. He went on to thank all the Members that had served on the Scrutiny committees both past and present. He also thanked those members of the public that had participated in the scrutiny process. In concluding Cllr Hollands thanks the officers who had supported the scrutiny function.

Councillor Cummings Chair of Health, Social Care and Housing subcommittee opened by saying it had been an extremely busy year, with the results of the Francis Inquiry and Winterbourne Inquiry having a significant impact on many of the process that have been going on. Much of health scrutiny had focused on the external health provision to the borough and it was testament to the Councils Health and Social Care, under the stewardship of the Cabinet Member and Executive Director, that it was ranked as 4th best in the country. The main focus of the committee had been on A&E and maternity units service at Croydon University Hospital, and whilst good progress had been made over the year there was still some way to go. In concluding he thanked all members of the committee for their hard work over the year and Kate Denham, representing Health Watch who had joined the committee recently. He also thanked all the officers who supported the committee.

Councillor Fitzsimons chair of Children & Young people subcommittee, thanked to all members of the committee, officers and members of the public and external representatives who sit on the committee. He went on to say that he was pleased that the committee had been able to investigate and number of topics including availability of school places, youth employment, education standards and safeguarding.

The following Councillors asked questions on the report:

Councillor Buttinger – involving members of the public

Councillors Osland – Health Scrutiny and Children

Councillor Hale - Health Scrutiny and BSBV

Councillor Neal - Health Scrutiny impact on outcomes

Councillor Mansell - Health Scrutiny BSBV changes to A&E

Councillor Speakman – number of call in's

Councillor Winborn – district centres.

Replies were given by the appropriate Scrutiny chair.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report be received.

12. COUNCILLORS' OPEN SESSION ON WARD MATTERS

Councillor Janet Marshall spoke about Shirley Ward saying it had tree lined roads and open spaces, small woods and Millers pond and that friend's groups care for these areas. Shirley is area of good neighbours who watch out for each other especially of the elderly. She spoke of the privilege to represent the area. Scrubland is the part of Shirley that is council estate and has mature trees, grass areas and play facility for all young people. Leaf House, family centre in Scrubland Avenue is now back in their original home, the garden and house is full of pre-school children. In concluding she said that she was looking forward to all the summer events in Shirley, organised by caring people for everyone to enjoy and thanked all the residents in Shirley for their support for nearly 28 years.

Councillor Jane Avis lived in Croydon for 27 years, 20 years in South Norwood and the past 7 years in Selsdon and has represented South Norwood for 16 years. During the last labour administration much was accomplished, South Norwood lakes

received investment, the lakeside centre was refurbished and Labour also invested in South Norwood district centre. She went on to speak about the mosaic outside the library and under Portland Bridge. Cllr Avis said that there had been no investment since the Conservative had taken over and now the district centre was run down.

Councillor Eddy Arram, has represented Ashburton ward for 33 years and in that time had seen, 35 mayors, 6 Chief Executives, 4 leaders of Conservative party and 6 opposition leaders. He said it had been an honour to serve the people of Ashburton ward and hoped he had returned their trust. He said the ward had village like qualities, was key is shopping district that had recently undergone regeneration and was an ideal place for families. He thanked officers for their hard work and support and had been proud to have been Mayor. His time as Mayor had given him the opportunity to endorse of Croydon with its trams, green spaces, leisure centre and places to eat. He went on to say that the strength of this town is in its people, especially its young people who would take Croydon to greater and bigger things in the future.

Councillor Maggie Mansell speaking about Norbury Ward spoke of the shortage of housing in the Ward and the lack of refurbishments of council properties by the administration. She questioned what the reasons for this, lack of staff or incorrect contractors? She thanked the Chairman and volunteers of Nightwatch.

Councillor Jan Buttinger spoke of the flooding in Kenley and Purley, a tough and tiring time, many shopkeepers and business were affected by the flooding with reduced trade, flooded cellars and damaged stock. In spite of this most businesses stayed open thanks to brilliant support of officers. Some residents were offered hospitality by the council and officers worked tirelessly to support and advice residents. Part of Kenley water works were under water and the main A22 was closed which was a concern to Croydon resident, however thanked to the leadership CEO, Leader and dedicated of council officers, police & fire services, water companies and the army temporary ponds and reservoirs were created, emergency dams built to allow water to be released in a controlled way which helped to protect the residents and their properties. In concluding Cllr Buttering thanked the residents of Kenley and Purley for their resilience and generosity during this time.

Cabinet Members replied orally to matters raised.

13. LONDON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME FUND COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT VEHICLE

The report of the Director of Finance and Assets provided background and details of the proposal by London Councils to establish a collective investment vehicle. The report recommends that this authority commit to being a founder member of this vehicle by participating in a new London Councils Joint Committee.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- (a) Agree that the Council become a shareholder in a private company limited by shares which will be incorporated to be the Authorised

Contractual Scheme Operator (the “ACS Operator”) of the Common Investment Vehicle;

(b) Contribute £1 to the ACS Operator as initial capital;

(c) Delegate to the Director of Finance and Assets, in consultation with the Chairman of the Pensions Committee, authority to take such further steps as are necessary to implement the Council’s participation in the Common Investment Vehicle and to act for the Council in exercising its rights as a shareholder of the ACS Operator; and

(d) Agree to join the London Boroughs “Pensions CIV Joint Committee”, to be formed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to delegate to such Joint Committee those functions necessary for the proper functioning of the ACS Operator, including the effective oversight of the ACS Operator and the appointment of Directors.

14. BUSINESS REPORT OF THE LEADER AND CABINET AND COUNCILLORS’ WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

The Leader presented the Business Report summarising the proceedings of the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council, including matters considered by Cabinet Committees.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, written questions had been submitted in advance by Council Members and written replies had been given by the relevant Cabinet Members. The questions and answers had been placed in the Chamber. Supplementary questions were asked by Members of the Council and replies were given by the relevant Cabinet Members.

Each Cabinet Member was asked in turn if they had anything to add to their report. Questions were then invited from the Chamber for each Cabinet Member who replied orally to the questions on specific paragraphs or submitted questions.

The following Members asked questions on the Business Report

The following Members asked questions on the Business Report

Cabinet Member

Leader: Newman, Pearson, Hall, Osland, Letts, Speakman and Hale.

Councillor Mohan: Councillors Woodley, Chatterjee, Winborn, Neal and Pearson.

Councillor Hoar: Councillors Parker, H Pollard, Cummings and Butler.

Councillor Bashford: Councillor Lenton, Marshall, Fitzsimons, Buttinger and Cummings

At 21.17 the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Fisher moved a procedural motion 1.11.9 to move to the next item of business. This was seconded by Councillor Dudley Mead and agreed by Council.

The following Cabinet Members made announcements

Councillor Tim Pollard spoke of additional government funding for schools.

Councillor Dudley Mead said this was his last opportunity as Cabinet Member for

Housing, to say how proud he was of the department and officers that have worked so hard over the last 8 years. In that time 171 new council dwellings had been built, and he drew Members attention to the Cabinet Member bulletin item re amnesty in illegal sub-letting. This had resulted in 3 properties being returned to council with further investigations being undertaken that could lead to more properties being returned to the Council. Cllr Mead advised that confidential information lines would be publicised in the next issue of Open House.

Councillor Perry advised that the public realm consultation in London Road had ended. Public realm works in South End have just commenced providing a total of £3m of investment in the area. Half hour free parking in South End had been well received by local residents.

Councillor Margaret Mead – Thanked staff who participated in ‘Ramp up the Reds’ on behalf of the national British Heart Foundation on 7th February and raised £1375. She also thanked staff in Adult Services for their hard work over the year.

The recommendations contained in the business report were put and it was **RESOLVED** to agree the:

a) Conservation Area Appraisals & Management Plans Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – Adoption East India Estate

- ◆ Norbury Estate
- ◆ Norwood Grove
- ◆ St Bernards
- ◆ Upper Norwood Triangle

b) School Admissions Criteria Update

c) Children and Families Plan

15. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES DEFERRED FOR DEBATE

There was no business under this item

16. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

Two motions were submitted for debate in accordance with Council Procedure Rules as follows:

- 1) Proposed by Councillor Steve O’Connell
Seconded by Councillor Mike Fisher**

“Croydon can’t afford a Labour Council”

Councillor O’Connell opened the debate saying that the election in May would send Croydon one of two ways. He then went on to speak about the administration achievements compared to the previous labour administration. He also spoke of previous Labour administration increases in Council Tax of 27% and 35%

Councillor Butler, Councillor Flemming and Councillor Letts spoke against the motion.

Councillor Parker spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Fisher seconded the motion and spoke in favour.

The motion was **put** and was **carried**.

**2) Proposed by Councillor Tony Newman
Seconded by Councillor Stuart Collins**

“This Council regrets Croydon Tories decision to betray their 2010 election pledge that, they would never support an Incinerator on Croydon's border, and backs local residents in their ongoing opposition to this scheme.”

Councillor Newman in moving the motion spoke about the proposed incinerator, gridlocked roads, poor air quality and waste from other boroughs coming through the borough.

Councillor Hoar, Councillor George-Hilley and Councillor T Pollard spoke against the motion.

Councillor Kabir spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Collins seconded the motion and spoke in favour

The motion was **put** and was **lost**.

16. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 22:15

Full copies of the Council agenda, reports and appendices are available in the Members Library and on the Council website at

www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/minutes/committees