

CROYDON COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting held on Monday 20th July 2015 at 6.30pm.

THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR PATRICIA HAY-JUSTICE PRESIDING

Councillors Ali, Avis, Bashford, Bee, Benn, Bennett, Bird, Bonner, Brew, Butler, Buttinger, Canning, Chatterjee, Chowdhury, Clancy, Clouder, Collins, Creatura, Cummings, Fisher, Fitzsimons, Flemming, Gatland, Godfrey, Hale, Hall, Henson, Hollands, Hopley, Jewitt, Kabir, Khan B, Khan S, Kyeremeh, Lawlor, Letts, Lewis, Mann, Mansell, Mead D, Mead M, Mohan, Newman, O'Connell, Pelling, Perry, Prince, Quadir, Rendle, Ryan, Scott, Selva, Shahul-Hameed, Speakman, Stranack, Thomas, Thompson, Watson, Wood, Woodley.

Absent: Councillors Audsley, Bains, King, Winborn, Neal, Wentworth, H Pollard, T Pollard and Wright.

Councillor Bashford introduced her apologies for absence by expressing her disappointment that the date of the Council meeting had been changed (from 13th July) and this was the main cause of the many apologies to be given as Members would have made holiday arrangements when the Council dates were originally announced.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Audsley, Bains, King, Winborn, Neal, Wentworth, H Pollard, T Pollard and Wright.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 20th May 2015 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. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised Council that her next charity event was a garden party, to be held on 4th August at Heathfield gardens and everyone was welcome to attend.

The Mayor congratulated those Croydon residents, who had been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List:

Diane Layzelle, Head of Student Life, Croydon College, Awarded MBE
Michaela Groves, for charitable services (Road Safety), Awarded MBE

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS FROM THE PEOPLE OF CROYDON

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.
[Note: the meeting was webcast]

Oral Supplementary questions were asked by:

PQ039-15- Mr Paterson
PQ031-15 - Mr Cartwright
PQ034-15 – Mr Collier
PQ034-15 – Mr Weaving
PQ036-15 – Ms Saddler
PQ037-15 – Mr Gibbs
PQ038-15 – Mr Samuel
PQ039-15 – Mr Ottley
PQ041-15 – Mr Ottley asked a question on behalf of Miss Selezneva

[Note the written Public Questions and written replies can be found at
www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/council-questions]

7. PETITIONS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF CROYDON

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

- a) A petition presented by Councillor Emily Benn on behalf of residents requesting a controlled residents parking zone.
- b) A petition presented by Councillor Maddie Henson on behalf of residents regarding the provision of a 'lollipop lady' in Long Lane.
- c) A petition presented by Councillor Joy Prince on behalf of residents regarding "Croydon Faith Education Resources (CFER) Funding 2015"

- d) A petition presented by Councillor Stuart Collins on behalf of residents of Hathaway Road regarding a one way system.

In accordance with procedure these petitions stand referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution the reply to these petitions will be included in the agenda for the next Council meeting.

8. RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF CROYDON AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20TH APRIL 2015.

In accordance with the Council procedure rules, the printed responses were open to questions from Councillors. The following Councillors asked questions:
Councillor Steve O'Connell

9. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

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

1. The first motion for debate:

Proposed: Councillor Tony Newman
Seconded: Councillor Toni Letts

'Following the failure of the Davies Commission to deliver a viable outcome, this Council calls upon the Prime Minister to immediately back the building of a second runway at Gatwick Airport as this will bring much needed investment, jobs and growth to Croydon, South London and the South East without the need for public subsidy.'

Councillor Letts seconded the motions and reserved her right to speak.

Councillor Tony Newman opened the debate and spoke about the regeneration of Croydon with the launch of Boxpark, the Westfield/Hammerson redevelopment making progress and a new Waitrose distribution centre in Coulsdon providing 500 new jobs. He went on to express disappointment at the decision by the Davies Commission not to support a second runway at Gatwick. Whilst not opposed to the expansion of Heathrow, work at Gatwick could start immediately and the development would offer 22,000 jobs and is only 14 minutes from Croydon. In summing up Councillor Newman said that a second runway at Gatwick was future proof and asked that the opposition join with the administration and local MPs to lobby the Prime Minister to support the Gatwick expansion.

Councillor Vidhi Mohan supported the motion and quoted from the Davies Commission report and Dame Tessa Jowell where the benefits of a second runway at Gatwick were highlighted but saying that Heathrow was strategically a better option. He went on to say that the Conservative Group did not agree with the Davies Commission and they supported the option of a second runway at Gatwick and the C20150720 mins

extension of the Bakerloo line to Croydon which were both in the long term economic interest of Croydon.

Councillor Robert Canning opened by saying that no new runway had been built in the south east since the 1940's and that aviation was vital to the future prosperity of South East London and South East England. He spoke of the environmental impact that a third runway at Heathrow would have in comparison to Gatwick and of the job growth that would be seen if a second runway was built.

Councillor Mike Fisher said he welcomed the motion and agreed with much of what the Leader had said about the expansion of Gatwick and the economic benefits it would bring. He went on to say that the Davies Commissions' recommendations were undeliverable, economically and politically. He spoke of the cost differences with Gatwick needing no public subsidy and described the decision to build at Gatwick as a 'no brainer'.

Councillor Steve O'Connell supported the motion saying that the Commission's recommendation could result in nothing being done unless the government agreed to reverse the decision. The Gatwick option would have no cost to the public purse, was better environmentally, could deliver sooner than the Heathrow option and would bring jobs to south east London and southern England.

Councillor Toni Letts in seconding the motion said she was pleased that all Members agreed with the motion and called on the Prime Minister to support the expansion of Gatwick. She went on to say that Croydon had the fastest development programme in London and a second runway would bring more market confidence for commercial investors and public partnerships in Croydon. In summing up she said that the only deliverable option was for a runway at Gatwick rather than Heathrow.

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

2. The second motion for debate

Proposed: Councillor Jason Cummings

Seconded: Councillor Yvette Hopley

'This Council believes that the decisions taken by Councillor Newman and his Cabinet are putting the Council at risk based on their choices and lack of financial control.'

Councillor Jason Cummings moved the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Mario Creatura opened the debate saying that the Council was here for the betterment of our communities using money from the community. It was only right and proper that residents knew what the Council did with their taxes. He went on to speak about the wastefulness of the administration and cited the removing of the boulders at Central Parade as an example. He also spoke about other events where unnecessary expenditure had been made, festivals, bike races and the Fairness Commission. In summing up he said that residents should know how they are paying for this and stated that there are only two ways to fund this, raise taxes or

cut services.

Councillor Alison Butler opposed the motion saying it was weak and an attack on the choices made by the administration. She went on to list the choices that the administration were making for the benefit of the residents, keeping council tax frozen, introducing the job brokerage scheme, London Living Wage, affordable housing levels, stopping investment in tobacco industry, 'Don't mess with Croydon', Ambition Festival, 20 mph zones, redevelopment of Taberner House and others.

Councillor Hamida Ali in opposing the motion said it was characteristically vague and ambiguous and she disagreed with it. She went on to say that the July financial review showed that the council were meeting the ever increasing needs of our residents with the ever decreasing resources. The administration were safeguarding the Council finances not endangering it against a backdrop of cuts in funding from central government that did not reflect Croydon's need.

Councillor Yvette Hopley in seconding the motion spoke of the financial failings of the administration. She said that financial success is driven by good governance, sound political decisions and good leadership. Councillor Hopley went on to say that the Council's reserves were now being used and that borrowing was higher than it had ever been. She asked how future budgetary gaps would be filled.

Councillor Simon Hall in opposing the motion said that the administration would not take a lecture from a party that had left a £100m black hole in the Council finances. He went on to say that Labour had delivered on its manifesto promises that make a difference to the people of Croydon whilst central government continued to make cuts to local government funding.

Councillor Jason Cummings said that the motion was about getting to the heart of what is happening in Croydon. He went on to speak about the finance target failures over the year that Labour have been in control, of overspent budgets, increased borrowing and falling reserves. He also spoke of £3m that had been spent on pet projects through the year but that jobs were being cut. In summing up he predicted that overspends would continue, borrowing would increase and reserves would dwindle during the remaining term of the current administration.

The motion was **put and lost**.

10. 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.

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 and posted on the Council website. 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:

Leader: Councillors Bashford, Rendle, Creatura, Pelling, Thompson and S Khan

Councillor Butler: Councillors D Mead, Perry, Pelling, Chowdhury and Cummings

Councillor Collins: Councillors Thomas, Gatland

Councillor Hall: Councillors Cummings, Bonner, Bashford

Councillor Woodley: Councillors M Mead, D Mead, Hopley

Councillor Bee: Councillors Mohan, Thomas, Ryan

Councillor Flemming: Councillors Gatland, Brew and Speakman

Councillor Letts: Councillors Bashford, Perry

Councillor Watson: Councillor O'Connell, Benn and Mohan

At 21.30 Councillor Newman moved a procedure motion 1.11.9 to move to the next item of business. This was seconded by Councillor Butler and agreed by Council.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the Cabinet recommendations set out the Cabinet report:

1. To note the business report of the Leader and Cabinet:
2. To approve the Cabinet recommendations as set out in the Leaders Business report:
 - ↘ a) Beulah Hill, Church Road and Harold Road Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans Supplementary Planning Documents - Adoption
 - ↘ b) Community Ward Budgets Programme
3. To note the rotation of the 'batting order' for Cabinet Members questions prepared by officers but attached as an appendix to the business report. (Appendix 2 and 3)

11. COUNCILLORS' OPEN SESSION ON WARD MATTERS ON BEHALF OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed spoke about her pride in representing Broad Green Ward for the last 9 years. She spoke about the London Road Carnival which had been attended by many local resident and gave local business the opportunity to show case their shops and restaurants. She also spoke about improvements to shop front, pavements and traffic measures made over the last twelve months.

Councillor Simon Brew, spoke about Purley Ward where he had lived for 35 years and raised his family there. He spoke about the developments in the Ward and the varied housing and good transport links. He also spoke about the Purley Pool which he hoped would remain open for many years and the successful Purley Festival.

Councillor Stephen Mann spoke about Ashburton Ward and the community group Friends of Ashburton Park and the events hosted in the Library building. He also spoke about the local residents groups and the work completed around developments and traffic measures in the Ward. He went on to speak about supporting the campaign for the Bakerloo extension.

Councillor Richard Chatterjee spoke about Shirley Ward and asked if the Council could cut grass verges etc. He also spoke about instances of fly tipping and missed bin collections in the Ward. In summing up he spoke about the heritage of the area with a large number of green spaces that had many different species of flora and fauna.

Councillor Humayun Kabir spoke about Bensham Manor Ward where he has been a resident for more than 30 years. He spoke about the community spirit shown by residents who have assisted with street cleaning and clearing fly tips in the Ward with the support from the Council. He also spoke about the development of the area and improvements seen in the roads and local area.

12. BUSINESS REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Councillor Sean Fitzsimons, Chair of Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee, presented a written report to Council summarising the proceedings of that Committee since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, including matters considered by the Scrutiny Sub-Committees.

Council RESOLVED

- 1.1 To note the Scrutiny work programme for 2015-16 and scrutiny activity since the beginning of the municipal year (May 2015).
- 1.2 All Members are asked to consider the opportunities offered by Local Action Mini Reviews and what contribution they or their constituents can make to these or to the topics selected for Scrutiny as part of the 2015-16 scrutiny work programme.
- 1.3 Members are asked to note the Lines of Enquiry for each review and consider whether they or their constituents may be able to contribute comments or questions for consideration and to tweet/facebook the topics to their followers.

13. REPORT FROM THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the recommendations made by the Local Pension Board to adopt its Rules of Procedure.

The Meeting ended at 21.50

The meeting webcast can be viewed here: <http://www.croydon.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>