

# MINUTES

## EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON

**Monday 5 December 2016 at 6.30 p.m. in Council Chamber, the Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX**

Present: Councillor H Ali, Councillor J Audsley, Councillor J Avis, Councillor S Bashford, Councillor K Bee, Councillor S Bennett, Councillor M Bird, Councillor C Bonner, Councillor S Brew, Councillor A Butler, Councillor J Buttinger, Councillor R Chatterjee, Councillor S Chowdhury, Councillor L Clancy, Councillor P Clouder, Councillor S Collins, Councillor M Creatura, Councillor J Cummings, Councillor M Fisher, Councillor S Fitzsimons, Councillor A Flemming, Councillor M Gatland, Councillor T Godfrey, Councillor L Hale, Councillor S Hall, Councillor P Hay-Justice, Councillor M Henson, Councillor S Hollands, Councillor Y Hopley, Councillor K Jewitt, Councillor H Kabir, Councillor B Khan, Councillor S Khan, Councillor S King, Councillor T Letts, Councillor O Lewis, Councillor S Mann, Councillor M Mansell, Councillor D Mead, Councillor M Mead, Councillor V Mohan, Councillor M Neal, Councillor T Newman, Councillor S O'Connell, Councillor A Pelling, Councillor J Perry, Councillor H Pollard, Councillor T Pollard, Councillor J Prince, Councillor B Quadir, Councillor A Rendle, Councillor P Ryan, Councillor P Scott, Councillor M Selva, Councillor M Shahul-Hameed, Councillor D Speakman, Councillor A Stranack, Councillor P Thomas, Councillor J Thompson, Councillor W Trakas-Lawlor, Councillor M Watson, Councillor J Wentworth, Councillor S Winborn, Councillor D Wood, Councillor L Woodley, Councillor C Wright, Councillor C Young

## MINUTES - PART A

### A1 REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAM DISASTER

The Mayor of Croydon opened the Extraordinary Council and read the names of the seven people who had lost their lives:

- Dane Chinnery
- Donald Collett
- Robert Huxley
- Philip Logan
- Dorota Rynkiewicz
- Philip Seary
- Mark Smith

The Chamber held a minute of silence to remember the seven people who lost their lives. The Mayor remarked on how the tragedy had brought the community together and thanked the emergency services for their professionalism and dedication which had saved lives. The Mayor also thanked the voluntary groups who provided support at the time of the incident and in the weeks that followed for those affected. The Mayor praised the representatives of the groups and organisations that were present in the Chamber and thanked them for all they had done.

The Mayor called for speeches from both parties.

Councillor Newman stated that the people of Croydon needed to know why the tram was travelling so fast so that all possible measures could be taken to ensure such an incident could not happen again. He paid tribute to the volunteers, organisations, Council staff and staff at the hospitals. Councillor Newman stated that in times of tragedy, Croydon stood together, and would do so again to remember the victims. He quoted the Bishop of Croydon who had stated the importance of how people remember those that had been lost. The one moment of comfort to come from the tragedy had been how the people of Croydon had come together, alongside public services, to help those affected. The loss would be shared by everyone and the victims would always be remembered.

Councillor Tim Pollard thanked the Mayor for the extraordinary meeting being held and thanks were voiced to the emergency services and support workers. He had been shocked to hear the news – trams were a common sight in Croydon and their safety was taken for granted. Councillor Pollard stated that the response from the emergency services, supported by volunteers and public bodies, made him extremely proud to be a Croydon resident. Particular thanks were delivered to the Council's Resilience Team and the Croydon public who had supported fundraising for the victims and their families. Councillor Pollard noted the extra poignancy of Remembrance Sunday as it fell so soon after the tram incident. He passed thanks to the unseen heroes who had helped emergency services and supported victims.

Councillor Bonner expressed the concern she had felt when the tram was reported to have been travelling from her constituency of New Addington. It was a testament to Croydon that when the enormity of what had taken place became clear, the community wanted to do all it could to support and help, such as local shops who had donated food and the New Addington firefighters donated their entire day's wages to the victims. New Addington was in mourning but was a Ward with a strong community and extended family networks. New Addington residents would support and care for the families of the victims every step of the way.

Councillor O'Connell thanked the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, for visiting Croydon on the day of the incident and supporting the borough in its efforts; many of the emergency services reported to

the Mayor of London. The most important people to thank were the residents of Croydon and the voluntary sector, such as the New Addington Community Centre and Crystal Palace Football Club – who had held their own minute’s silence for the victims. The tram was still the jewel in Croydon’s crown and it was important to ensure it was safe and proper inquiries should be made. Thanks were expressed to City Hall, the Greater London Authority and the Mayor of Croydon.

Councillor Hall stated that New Addington was a strong community which had experienced tragedies before. Everyone in New Addington knew someone who had been affected by the tram incident. When it was opened, the Tramlink provided the Ward with a quick and easy link to the centre of Croydon that had not been available before. Before the tram, the Ward had been more isolated from the rest of the borough. Tribute was paid to the emergency services, the Council and voluntary groups, who had attended a harrowing scene. An emergency welfare centre had been opened within hours of the incident and throughout the time ordinary people had done extraordinary things. New Addington would continue to be a strong community.

Councillor Helen Pollard stated her disbelief and shock when the news of the incident unfolded. This was a proud community that had been hit hard and both sides of the Chamber worked together to support the community response. With any such event, lessons could be learnt. Councillor Pollard stated that there was no specific information for local residents and no briefings, which could have mobilised local people to help with the support efforts. Tribute was paid to the families who had lost loved ones and hope was expressed that they would come to terms with the tragedy.

Councillor Lewis stated that so many lives had been changed forever by the tram incident. Gratitude was expressed to the emergency services who had worked so hard in the cold and rain. The community had provided comfort and support to those affected and it was good that representatives from some of those community groups were present in the Chamber. The tragedy had brought everyone together, evidenced through the many donations for the victims’ families and the books of condolence that had been filled. In time, answers would be received for the reasons behind the tragedy. As a Councillor for New Addington, he was proud to represent that community which had shown such a strong and compassionate response to the tragedy.

Councillor Bashford described the realisation of how severe the incident had been as more information had been reported. Gavin Barwell MP cancelled all scheduled meetings to be there at the scene of the accident. Residents had expressed anger that news outlets were spending more time on reporting on the American Presidential election than the tram incident. Concern had been raised over the apparent lack of safety features on the tram. The street pastors were thanked for the help they provided and Councillor

Bashford described her privilege to live in a community like Croydon which demonstrated such support to victims in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy.

## **MINUTES - PART B**

None

The meeting finished at 7.04pm