

## Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET held at Hendon Town Hall, NW4 4BG on Tuesday, 8 September 2009.

### PRESENT:

\*The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Brian Coleman, AM FRSA)

\*The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Hugh Rayner)

### Councillors:

* Fiona Bulmer	*Andrew Harper	*Wendy Prentice
* Maureen Braun	Christopher Harris BA BSc	*Sachin Rajput BA (Hons)
*Terry Burton	MPhil	PgD Law
*Anita Campbell	*Helena Hart	*Robert Rams
*Wayne Casey BA (Hons)	*John Hart BA MA	*Barry Rawlings
MIIA	*Lynne Hillan	*Colin Rogers
*Danish Chopra	*Ross Houston	*Lisa Rutter
*Dean Cohen BSc (Hons)	*Anne Hutton	*Brian Salinger
*Jack Cohen	*Julie Johnson	*Kate Salinger BEd (Hons)
*Melvin Cohen LLB	*Duncan Macdonald	Gill Sargeant
*Geof Cooke	* John Marshall	*Joan Scannell
*Alison Cornelius	Linda McFadyen	*Alan Schneiderman
Richard Cornelius	*Kath McGuirk	*Agnes Slocombe SRN RM
Jeremy Davies BA (Hons),	Andrew McNeil	*Ansuya Sodha MBA (Middx)
CPFA	*Alison Moore	Cert Ed, DipM (CIM), AMBA
*Tom Davey	*Jazmin Naghar	*Andreas Tambourides
*Mukesh Depala	*Matthew Offord	*Joanna Tambourides
*Claire Farrier	*Charlie O-Macauley	*Daniel Thomas BA (Hons)
*Anthony Finn BSc (Econ)	*Monroe Palmer OBE, BA,	*Jim Tierney
FCA	FCA	*Daniel Webb
*Mike Freer	*Susette Palmer MA	Marina Yannakoudakis BSc
*Brian Gordon, LL.B	*Bridget Perry	(Hons) MA, MEP
* Eva Greenspan		*Darrel Yawitch
		*Zakia Zubairi

\*denotes Member present

### 52. PRAYER (Agenda Item 1.1):

The Mayor's Chaplin offered prayer.

### 53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1.2):

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Cornelius, Jeremy Davies, Gill Sargeant, Christopher Harris and Marina Yannakoudakis.

**54. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2009 (Agenda Item 1.3)**

**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2009 be approved as a correct record.

**55. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 1.4)**

The Worshipful Mayor congratulated Councillor Matthew Offord on his recent engagement and Councillor Jazmin Naghar on her recent engagement.

**56. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Agenda Item 1.5)**

<b>Member:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Interest Declared:</b>
Councillor Melvin Cohen	Agenda Item 5.3.3, Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Proposed Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Special Committee (Constitution Review)	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as Councillor Melvin Cohen, is the Chairman of the Special Committee (Constitution Review). Councillor Melvin Cohen did not participate in the discussion nor the vote.

**57. BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING (Item 1.6)**

None.

**58. QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2.1)**

Questions were put to the Leader and Members of the Cabinet. These questions, together with the answers provided and the text of any supplementary questions and answers are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

**59. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Councillor Joan Scannell, duly seconded, moved under Council Procedure Rule, Section 1, paragraph 10.2.2, that the order of business relating to Agenda Item 3 be varied so that Motions 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4 be heard first.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – That the order of business be varied to allow Motions 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4 to be debated and voted upon in advance of votes being taken on the other Motions on the Agenda.**

**60. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR KATH McGUIRK AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR MONROE PALMER AND COUNCILLOR ANDREW HARPER (Agenda Item 3.1)**

Motion 3.1 in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk was moved. Amendments in the name of Councillors Monroe Palmer, Andrew Harper and Andrew McNeil were moved. Debate ensued. Councillor McGuirk accepted Councillor McNeil's amendment. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Monroe Palmer was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Andrew Harper was declared carried.

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion as amended was declared carried.

**RESOLVED –**

**That Council believes the local bus services in Barnet are vital to our local community.**

**That local bus services support the success of the local economy, and London, in a sustainable way by ensuring that people can get to work, businesses can operate and that residents and visitors can shop locally.**

**That local bus services are crucial orbital transport links, in a borough with no orbital rail links.**

**That local bus services should be part of an integrated transport system and in that regard deplores the removal of route 102 from Golders Green Station forecourt.**

**That Council welcomes the two additional afternoon peak journeys on Route 82, long pressed for by local campaigners.**

**That Council welcomes the extended route C2. Although this does not start in Barnet, many Barnet residents use it from Camden Town.**

**That Council regrets the failure of TfL to establish a through route between Golders Green and Stamford Hill, linking two of the largest Jewish communities in London.**

**That Council believes that there is a need for a night bus from Central London to Mill Hill.**

**That Council believes that there is a need for a bus connection to and from Cophall Stadium.**

**That Council asks the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to write to the Mayor of London expressing pleasure in the above improvements and drawing attention to the above suggested needs.**

**Council notes that the subsidy to London buses rose by 1493% between 1999/2000 and 2007/8 to £653m per annum. In the same period the cost of fares has fallen by 16% in real terms.**

**Council further notes that cost of running the bus network in the capital is anticipated to considerably outstrip combined income and subsidy over the next nine years.**

**Council believes that a responsible Mayor would not allow the cost of the bus network to become unsustainable.**

**Council notes that TfL are studying the report by KPMG and Steer Davies Gleave which looks at a range of options to control expenditure including vehicle procurement costs, for TfL to acquire more bus depots, reducing overheads, raising fares and reducing the scope and/or volume of the network.**

**Council believes that Ken Livingstone, like his colleagues in the Labour government, for years outspent the resources available to him, therefore leaving a financial mess that Conservatives will be forced to clean up.**

**Council asks that the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport work with the Mayor of London to ensure that our Borough has the best public transport that the finite resources allow.**

- 61. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR DANIEL WEBB (Agenda Item 3.3)**  
Motion 3.3 in the name of Councillor Daniel Webb was moved. An amendment in the name of Councillor Ansuya Sodha was moved. Debate ensued.  
Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Sodha was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried.  
**RESOLVED - Council notes that excellent progress has been made on the Primary School Capital Investment Programme (PSCIP).**  
**Council congratulates the Major Projects Team on their management of the programme which has ensured that the new Whittings Hill School is delivered on time and on budget. The new school has the latest environmentally friendly design, a swimming pool, outstanding educational facilities and has already become a local landmark.**  
**Council welcomes the government's acknowledgment that Barnet has the skills and expertise to deliver major education projects, demonstrated by the recent, if belated, award of some funding for the redevelopment of six secondary schools.**  
**Council calls on Cabinet to continue to develop the PSCIP programme and to continue to explore innovative ways of redeveloping Barnet's primary schools.**  
**Council further asks Cabinet to work with the DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) to ensure that Barnet has the freedom to apply its proven and successful approach to school building to the redevelopment of local secondary schools.**
- 62. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MATTHEW OFFORD (Agenda Items 3.4)**  
Motion 3.4 in the name of Councillor Matthew Offord was moved. Debate ensued.  
Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.  
**RESOLVED - Council notes that the original 2012 London Olympics Road Cycling event route was from Regents Park to Hampstead Heath, including a section in the Borough of Barnet. Council further notes that this route is now under threat after the International Cycling Union asked the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to re-examine it.**  
**Council believes that the original route is an essential part of bringing the 2012 Olympics to North London. Barnet's taxpayers are contributing an estimated £20 million to fund the Olympics and, if the International Cycling Union's request is met, will not have a single Olympic sport taking place in their Borough.**  
**Council notes that the route was successfully used during the 2006 Tour of Britain and has been upgraded, ready for the 2012 Road Cycling event.**  
**Council calls upon the Chief Executive to write to Lord Coe, Chairman of LOCOG, to demand that they retain the Olympic road cycling event route, including the portion in the Borough of Barnet.**
- 63. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MIKE FREER (Agenda Item 3.2)**  
Motion 3.2 in the name of Councillor Mike Freer was moved. An amendment in the name of Councillor Ross Houston was moved. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Houston was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried.  
**RESOLVED - Council notes the government's decision to cut the level of Growth Area Funding for Barnet in 2010/11 by 43% was made in order to reallocate funds to affordable housing provision.**

Council notes that in Barnet, these funds were allocated for use in regeneration schemes that would have provided thousands of affordable homes. The decision to cut Growth Area Funding has caused these plans to be reviewed or delayed.

Council notes significant investment has already been made planning for the use of these resources and believes that the last minute decision to drastically cut them will cause unnecessary waste.

Council believes that this last minute decision will cause a delay in the provision of affordable homes in the Borough of Barnet and is an unnecessary shuffling of resources.

Council believes this is another example of the Labour government's obsession with the failed model of central control and that local authorities are better placed to make decisions concerning local infrastructure and growth.

Council calls upon the Chief Executive to write to the Housing Minister requesting that the level of Growth Area Funding be reinstated in order that much needed new affordable housing is not subject to unnecessary delay.

**64. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.**

In accordance with the Agenda, the Mayor adjourned the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 8.39pm.

**65. ADMINISTRATION POLICY ITEM: PUBLIC DEBT (Agenda Item 4.1)**

Councillor Lynne Hillan proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. Debate ensued on the Policy Item.

Upon being put to the vote, the Policy Item was declared carried.

**RESOLVED - Council notes that the British economy faces an unprecedented level of debt which is continuing to grow rapidly as income from taxes fall and public spending rises. The UK government has, in the first seven months of 2009, borrowed an additional £50 billion, with an additional £8 billion borrowed in July alone. Public debt is at its highest rate since 1974 and rising £5,000 every second.**

**Council further notes that the Labour government ran a deficit in years of economic growth leaving the United Kingdom exposed to the economic downturn with one of the biggest budget deficits in the advanced world.**

Council believes that the priority for the incoming government will be to restore responsibility to the public finances and that this will require the reduction of the unsustainable level of public debt, and consequently public expenditure will have to be restrained.

Council notes that Barnet Council has moved ahead faster than most other local authorities in cutting out waste, reducing expenditure and developing the comprehensive future shape programme to address the expected reduction in the government grant.

Council believes the magnitude of the debt crisis facing the United Kingdom requires local authorities to act in order to prevent front-line services being affected. Accordingly, Council requests that Cabinet:

- Commission in-depth reviews into high expenditure areas
- Assess the best way to make use of powers to be devolved from the centre under a Conservative government
- Reviews revenue streams

**66. OPPOSITION POLICY ITEM: VIDEOING (WEBCAST) OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR DANIEL THOMAS (Agenda Item 4.2)**

Councillor Jack Cohen proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. Amendments in the names of Councillors Alan Schneiderman and Daniel Thomas were moved. Debate ensued on the Policy Item.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Alan Schneiderman was declared lost.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Daniel Thomas was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive policy item as amended was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council notes that other local authorities have begun webcasting meetings at considerable cost. In way of comparison, for the neighbouring Borough of Camden, the cost is £38,000 per annum with number of live audience viewings ranging from just 15 to 40 per meeting.**

**Council believes that the democratic process should be as open as possible, but that methods of communication must be justifiable in terms of reach in relation to cost.**

**Council therefore asks Cabinet to ensure that public attendance at, and participation in, meetings is encouraged through cost effective means.**

**67. REPORT OF CABINET (Agenda Item 5.1)**

None.

**68. REPORT FROM OTHER COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 5.2)**

None.

**69. REPORTS EXEMPTED FROM THE CALL-IN PROCESS BECAUSE THEY ARE URGENT (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 5.3.1 (1) & (9))**

These matters are reported to the Council to meet Constitutional requirements. No action is required by the Council and the decision has been implemented.

**RESOLVED – Council notes in the case listed below, the Chairman of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee agreed that the decisions proposed were reasonable in all the circumstances, were urgent and therefore had consented to the proposed decisions being exempted from call-in:**

- (i) Due to the recession and Government funding delays, the West Hendon Regeneration Scheme required an extension of time to the existing commercial agreement between the Council and its development partners. The report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources authorised a Deed of Variation which extended;**
  - a) the Principal Development Agreement (PDA) for a further six months up to 15 February 2010.**
  - b) the deadline date for finalising the TUPE agreement and the period for the development partners to provide information relating to the above expiry date.**

**The PDA is the legal contract between the Council and the development framework for the development and regeneration of the West Hendon Estate and associated areas.**

The PDA expired on Monday 10 August 2009 and the next meeting of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee was not until the 7 September 2009. Delay in sealing the Deed of Variation could cause the agreement to fall and seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interest.

- (ii) The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources authorised the applications to the Department of Culture Media and Sport for revenue funding to implement free swimming for under 16s and for capital funding to rebuild and refurbish suitable pools.

The capital bids recommend has to be submitted by Friday 4 September 2009 and the next meeting of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee was not until Monday 7 September 2009. The delay involved would clearly have precluded successful bidding for the funds in question.

70. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS AND THE OPERATION OF THE CALL-IN AND URGENCY PROCESS – REVIEW (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 5.3.1 (2))

RESOLVED – That the report of the Democratic Services Manager relating to Executive Decisions and the operation of the Call-In and Urgency Process - Review be noted.

71. PROPOSED SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE (CONSTITUTION REVIEW) (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 5.3.1 (3))

RESOLVED - That the 2009/10 Scheme of Members' Allowances be amended by the addition of a Special Responsibility Allowance at Scale 3 to the Chairman of the Special Committee (Constitutional Review).

72. CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENT PANELS – Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 5.3.1 (4)

1. COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATION

Nominations in the names of Councillors Joan Scannell, Barry Rawlings and Susette Palmer were moved.

RESOLVED – The Council appointed the following Chief Officers Appointment Panel to carry out the appointments of the Commercial Director and the Director for Environment and Operation.

Chairman: Councillor Mike Freer

Vice-Chairman Councillor Lynne Hillan

Councillors: Wendy Prentice, Andrew Harper, Alan Schneiderman, Kath McGuirk and Susette Palmer.

Substitute Councillors: Richard Cornelius, Joan Scannell, Geof Cooke, Julie Johnson, Jack Cohen and Monroe Palmer.

2. DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Nominations in the names of Councillors Joan Scannell, Barry Rawlings and Susette Palmer were moved.

**RESOLVED – The Council appointed the following Chief Officers Appointment Panel to carry out the appointments of the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Services.**

**Chairman: Councillor Mike Freer**

**Vice-Chairman: Councillor Lynne Hillan**

**Councillors: Wendy Prentice, Joan Scannell, Alison Moore, Barry Rawlings, Jack Cohen.**

**Substitutes Councillors: Richard Cornelius, Andrew Harper, Claire Farrier, Andrew McNeil, Monroe Palmer, Susette Palmer.**

**73. COMMENTS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CABINET (Agenda Item 6.1)**

**Comment: Councillor Alison Moore**

I thank Councillor Cornelius for the briefing he provided previously and raised in this issue last time at Council and I do appreciate the seriousness with which he took the issue. I pursue it further because I did have further questions in response to that briefing so I would be grateful if Councillor Freer could tell me how long it takes to complete a fire assessment, how much that costs, and what the schedule of those assessments for Council housing and other buildings was before and after the Southwark fire and how long that would take to complete. With the recent fire at Stonegrove that has accelerated the programme and weather that has changed the Council's Policy in terms of installation of fire alarms, further I believe there has been advice from the fire brigade and that has been upgraded. I would be grateful if you could tell me what the changes were and what Barnet response is to that. This is very much in terms of concern about fire safety.

**Response: Councillor Mike Freer**

If Councillor Moore has very detailed questions can of course write direct and get very detailed answers but I will try and give a very broad response. In terms of the change in advice from LFEPA - that has gone from where there was some confusion perhaps on the guidance – but the fundamental change is that Local Authorities have to move away from generic risk assessments to individual risk assessments for every single block. In terms of those 'At Risk' blocks, Barnet Homes has already completed its risk assessments for the 'Most At Risk' blocks and those blocks where people are most vulnerable. In terms of the wider risk assessments and the updating of them, I understand that they will be completed by March 2010 at a cost of £50 000, but if Councillor Moore would like to repeat her detailed question to the Officer, I am sure she will get a very detailed answer.

**Comment: Councillor Jazmin Naghar**

Can Councillor Harper confirm that the plan improvements encouraged by this Council can be welcomed by the Stakeholders which includes many residents of our ward to much relief as this project has been going on for quite some time and can he say when the work will begin at Henly's Corner? Many Thanks.

**Response: Councillor Andrew Harper**

Yes. I can confirm that the public engagement process has produced a very positive result. People have been in favour of action being taking at Henly's Corner, perhaps not surprisingly, and indeed have confirmed the position that this Council has adopted since 2002: that there is a need to improve the junction - the greatest need being improvements for vehicle movements to reduce congestion and also to improve things for right turning traffic, as well as to address the difficulties being experienced by pedestrians. TfL have



confirmed that they intend to press ahead with these proposals and the work is due to begin in 2011 and to be completed by the end of that year.

**Comment: Councillor Andrew McNeil**

At the meeting last week, the Cabinet decided to close the Welfare Rights Unit. This follows years of management neglect which has in turn contributed to the negation of the unit's proven worth and benefit to the vulnerable in the borough. What is particularly shameful about this decision is that it was taken before the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, examining welfare advice provision in the borough has finished its work. This decision shows contempt for the new Scrutiny process as well as tearing up the pledge of this Council to support the vulnerable.

**Response: Councillor Lynne Hillan**

Well I wouldn't agree with you at all, I think it shows respect for the budget decision that was taken some time ago. The Scrutiny committee is perfectly at liberty to carry on scrutinising the implementation of all the commissioning and all of the advice centres that we are using but not to reverse the decision that was made in this Council which was a budget decision.

**74. QUESTION TO REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 6.2)**

None.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm