

Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
held at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BG, on 22 January 2013

PRESENT:-

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Brian Schama)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kate Salinger B.Ed (Hons))

Councillors:

Maureen Braun	Ross Houston	Colin Rogers
Alex Brodtkin	Anne Hutton	Lisa Rutter
Anita Campbell	Andreas Ioannidis	Brian Salinger
Pauline Coakley Webb	Geoffrey Johnson	Gill Sargeant
Dean Cohen	Julie Johnson	Joan Scannell
Jack Cohen	Sury Khatri BSc (Hons) MSc	Alan Schneiderman
Melvin Cohen	David Longstaff	Daniel Seal
Brian Coleman FRSA	John Marshall MA	Mark Shooter
Geof Cooke	Arjun Mittra	Agnes Slocombe SRN, RM
Alison Cornelius	Alison Moore	Ansuya Sodha MBA
Richard Cornelius	Graham Old	(Middx) Cert Ed, DipM
Tom Davey	Charlie O-Macauley	(CIM) AMBA
Barry Evangeli	Lord Palmer OBE, BA, FCA	Andrew Strongolou
Claire Farrier	Susette Palmer MA	Andreas Tambourides
Anthony Finn BSc (Econ) FCA	Bridget Perry	Joanna Tambourides
Brian Gordon LLB	Wendy Prentice	Daniel Thomas
Eva Greenspan	Sachin Rajput	Reuben Thompstone
Andrew Harper	Robert Rams	Jim Tierney
Helena Hart	Barry Rawlings	Rowan Quigley Turner
John Hart BA MA	Hugh Rayner	Darrel Yawitch

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Kath McGuirk Councillor Zakia Zubairi
Councillor Stephen Sowerby

1. PRAYER - THE MAYOR'S CHAPLIN, RABBI SCHOCHET

The Mayor's Chaplin offered prayer.

2. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY AND ORDINARY MEETINGS HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2012

RESOLVED – That subject to the amendment set out in the Supplemental Report of the Head of Governance at Item 3, the minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary meetings of the Council held on 6 November 2013 were approved.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Member:	Subject:	Interest Declared:
Councillor Alison Cornelius	3.2 – Opposition Business – Barnet’s Emergency Service	Non pecuniary interest. As Chaplin’s Assistant, Councillor Alison Cornelius is part of the Chaplaincy team at Barnet & Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust. The position is voluntary and she does not receive any remuneration.

4. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful Mayor regretted to announce the death of former Mayoress Mrs. Lorna Dippel who passed away on Thursday 29th November 2012.

Mrs. Dippel was Mayoress to Councillor Dennis Dippel, who was mayor during the municipal year 1986-87.

Council’s thoughts are with her daughter Anne, at this sad time.

The Worshipful Mayor presented Vellums to Councillors Melvin Cohen and Agnes Slocombe expressing Council’s appreciation for their dedicated service to local government and to the residents of Barnet over a period of 30 years.

5. ANY BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING

There was none.

6. QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER AND 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 (to follow).

Council noted the correction to the response to Council question 34 as set at Item 4 in the Supplemental Report of the Head of Governance.

7. VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Alison Moore, duly seconded, moved under Council Procedure Rule 10.2.2, that the order of business relating to Part 4 on the agenda, be varied so that Item 4.1 - Petition for Debate, be heard immediately after Part 2 - Question Time. Councillor Joan Scannell also moved the same motion. Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – That the order of business be varied to allow agenda item 4.1, Petition for Debate to be heard immediately after Part 2 Question Time.

8. PETITION FOR DEBATE - ONE BARNET PROGRAMME

The Council heard representations from Dr Azi Khatiri. The petition with over 8,000 signatures called on Council put an immediate stop to the One Barnet Programme until the issue is put to the electorate in the form of a simple YES or NO referendum on the One Barnet Programme.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Daniel Thomas spoke in response to the petition. Further comments in support of the referendum were heard from the Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Alison Moore and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Jack Cohen.

Upon being put to the vote, the request for a referendum on the One Barnet Programme was declared lost.

At least ten Members rose in their places and called for a formal division on the voting on the referendum.

For	Against	Not voting	Absent
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Alex Brodtkin	Dean Cohen	Brian Coleman	Tom Davey
Anita Campbell	Melvin Cohen	Brian Schama	Sury Khatri
Pauline Coakley Webb	Alison Cornelius	Kate Salinger	Kath McGuirk
Jack Cohen	Richard Cornelius		Stephen Sowerby
Geof Cooke	Barry Evangeli		Zakia Zubairi
Claire Farrier	Anthony Finn		
Ross Houston	Brian Gordon		
Anne Hutton	Eva Greenspan		
Andreas Ioannidis	Andrew Harper		
Julie Johnson	Helena Hart		
Arjun Mittra	John Hart		
Alison Moore	David Longstaff		
Lord Palmer	John Marshall		
Susette Palmer	Graham Old		
Charlie O-Macauley	Bridget Perry		
Barry Rawlings	Wendy Prentice		
Colin Rogers	Sachin Rajput		
Gil Sargeant	Robert Rams		
Alan Schneiderman	Hugh Rayner		
Agnes Slocombe	Brian Salinger		
Ansuya Sodha	Joan Scannell		
Jim Tierney	Daniel Seal		
	Mark Shooter		
	Andrew Strongolou		
	Andreas Tambourides		
	Joanna Tambourides		
	Daniel Thomas		
	Rueben Thompstone		
	Daniel Yawitch		

For	23
Against	32
Not voting	3
Absent	5
TOTAL	63

RESOLVED - Upon being put to the vote the request for referendum on the One Barnet Programme was declared lost.

9. COMMITTEE SYSTEM - COUNCILLOR RICHARD CORNELIUS

Councillor Richard Cornelius moved the Administration Business Item in his name. Councillors Susette Palmer and Brian Coleman moved their amendments. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Susette Palmer was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the Administration Business Item in the name of Councillor Richard Cornelius was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council regrets the decision by Labour to enact the Local Government Act 2000 and to abolish a tried and tested system of governance moving to the Cabinet model of running the administration of the Council.

Council welcomes the Localism Act 2011 and its provisions permitting a return to the "Committee System" and resolves to call upon the Constitution, Probity and Ethics Committee to devise alterations to the Constitution of the Council to replace the Cabinet, Cabinet Resources Committee, Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee with suitable operating Committees to lead on policy, budgetary and operational matters, to further devise changes to full Council proceedings to ensure the involvement of all Members in the democratic control of the business of council.

Council appreciates that this will increase the workload and responsibilities of most Members but emphasises that at a time of budgetary restraint the changes must be cost neutral.

Council notes that the provisions of the Localism Act allow for changes to the system from an Annual meeting of the Council for a minimum of five years and asks officers and the Constitution Probity and Ethics Committee to bring forward proposals to enable early approval of such change to commence operationally from the Annual meeting 2014.

10. BARNET'S EMERGENCY SERVICES - COUNCILLOR ALEX BRODKIN

Councillor Alex Brodtkin moved the Opposition Business Item in his name. Councillors Barry Rawlings and Arjun Mittra moved their amendments. Debate ensued. Councillor Brodtkin accepted Councillor Kath McGuirk's amendment. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Barry Rawlings was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Arjun Mittra was declared lost.

At least ten Members rose in their places and called for a formal division on the voting on the amendment in the in the name of Councillor Arjun Mittra. Upon being taken the results of the Division were declared as follows:

For	Against	Not voting	Absent
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Alex Brodtkin	Dean Cohen	Brian Schama	Kath McGuirk
Anita Campbell	Melvin Cohen	Kate Salinger	Stephen Sowerby
Pauline Coakley Webb	Brian Coleman	Jack Cohen	Rueben Thompstone
Geof Cooke	Alison Cornelius	Lord Palmer	Zakia Zubairi
Claire Farrier	Richard Cornelius	Susette Palmer	
Ross Houston	Barry Evangeli		
Anne Hutton	Anthony Finn		
Andreas Ioannidis	Brian Gordon		
Julie Johnson	Eva Greenspan		
Arjun Mittra	Andrew Harper		
Alison Moore	Helena Hart		
Charlie O-Macauley	John Hart		
Barry Rawlings	David Longstaff		
Colin Rogers	John Marshall		
Gil Sargeant	Graham Old		
Alan Schneiderman	Bridget Perry		
Agnes Slocombe	Wendy Prentice		
Ansuya Sodha	Sachin Rajput		
Jim Tierney	Robert Rams		
	Hugh Rayner		
	Brian Salinger		
	Joan Scannell		
	Daniel Seal		
	Mark Shooter		
	Andrew Strongolou		
	Andreas Tambourides		
	Joanna Tambourides		
	Daniel Thomas		
	Daniel Yawitch		

For	20
Against	34
Not voting	5
Absent	4
TOTAL	63

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive Opposition Business Item as amended by Councillor Kath McGuirk was declared lost.

11. VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Joan Scannell, duly seconded, moved under Council Procedure Rule 10.2.2, that the order of business relating to Agenda Item 3 be varied so that Non-Executive Business Item 3.5 be heard first. Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – That the order of business be varied to allow Non-Executive Business Item 3.5 to be debated and voted upon in advance of votes being taken on the other Non-Executive Business Items on the Agenda.

12. ASIAN COMMUNITY IN BARNET - COUNCILLOR BRIAN SALINGER

Councillor Brian Salinger moved the Non-Executive Item in his name. Councillor Ansuya Sodha move the amendment in her name. Debate ensued. Councillor Brian Salinger accepted Councillor Sodha's amendment. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive Non-Executives Business Item as amended by Councillor Ansuya Sodha was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council recognises that it is 40 years since Idi Amin expelled the Ugandan Asian population from that country.

Council recognises that this has proved to be a major turning point in the life of Barnet and the United Kingdom.

Council recognises the importance of the wider Asian community to the life of Barnet and Council calls on the Leader and the Mayor to find an appropriate way to celebrate the beneficial contribution that the community have made to the Borough, in particular in the last 40 years.

Council also recognises that Barnet is twinned with Jinja in Uganda, and that in the aftermath of the terrible floods a few years ago LB Barnet organised a successful fundraising dinner to help support projects in Jinja and the surrounding areas.

Council asks that the Mayor to work with the High Commissioner and the local Ugandan Asian community, as well as the broader Asian community to bring forward proposals for this celebration.

13. COLINDALE AREA ACTION PLAN - COUNCILLOR GEOFF JOHNSON

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.5 Councillor Geoff Johnson requested that his item be referred directly to Cabinet.

14. BISHOP JUSTIN WELBY AND RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS - COUNCILLOR BRIAN GORDON

Councillor Brian Gordon moved the Non-Executive Business Item in his name. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.5, the item was voted on without discussion.

RESOLVED - Council sends its congratulations to Bishop Justin Welby on his appointment as the next Archbishop of Canterbury and Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis (a Minister within this Borough) on his appointment as the next Chief Rabbi.

Council declares its pride that Barnet is a harmonious multi ethnic Borough where religious identity, faith schools, inter-faith relations and institutions such as the Mayor's Chaplain play a major role in community life.

Council believes that the majority of Barnet's citizens will salute the appointment of the said eminent gentlemen to their respective distinguished posts and instructs the Chief Executive to send letters of congratulations to Bishop Welby and Rabbi Mirvis wishing them every success.

15. TIME EXTENSION

The Worshipful Mayor in accordance with the Constitution moved that the period for the transaction of business be extended to 10.30pm.

16. REPORT FROM CABINET - COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME (INCLUDING PROPOSALS TO REMOVE DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS)

Councillor Daniel Thomas moved adoption and reception of the report from Cabinet. Upon being put to the vote the recommendations set out in the Cabinet re were declared carried.

- 1.1 RESOLVED To note the results of the public consultation exercise undertaken from 1 August to 24 October 2012 on the principles and possible features of the new scheme;**
- 1.2 To note the range of possible options to address the shortfall in revenue from government and reflect the outcomes of consultation, together with the associated impacts on population segments and risks of each option;**
- 1.3 To endorse the adoption of the following features of the scheme for 2013/14, thereby enabling government transitional funding of £0.6m to be secured:**
 - Contribution of 8.5% of Council Tax liability from all working age claimants;**
 - Simplified system of non-dependent allowances;**
 - Protection from the impact of the scheme for war pensioners;**
- 1.4 To agree that technical changes to existing Council Tax discounts and exemptions in relation to Class A and C exemptions and second home discounts, and the introduction of an empty homes premium of 50% on those properties that have been empty for more than two years, should be adopted, to take effect from 1 April 2013;**
- 1.5 To endorse the proposal that any surplus generated by the above measures should be allocated to the Crisis Fund being set up to support those in exceptional hardship in the borough;**
- 1.6 To endorse the proposed implementation programme, including communications to the public;**

- 1.7 To agree that the chosen scheme option should be adopted by Barnet, in line with the Government's requirement for every local authority to adopt a new scheme by 31 January 2013.

17. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were none.

18. REPORT FROM THE LICENSING COMMITTEE: 26 NOVEMBER 2012 - GAMBLING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Councillor Andreas Tambourides moved adoption and reception of the report.

RESOLVED – Council approved the recommendations set out in report of the Licensing Committee dated 26 November 2012.

19. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

1. CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

An amendment to recommendations was moved by Councillor Brian Coleman. Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman was declared carried.

RESOLVED – That Council note;

- (1)
 1. Ms. Kate Kennally is appointed as the Director of People.
 2. Ms. Pam Wharfe is appointed as the Director of Place.
 3. Ms. Maryellen Salter is appointed as the Director of Assurance.
 4. Ms. Dawn Wakeling is appointed as the Director of Adults and Communities.

- (2) Council welcomes these appointments but instructs the Head of Governance to bring further recommendations to replace the daft and meaningless job titles with ones that are in plain English and understandable by the residents of this Borough.

2. STATUTORY PROPER OFFICER: HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

RESOLVED – That Council note Mr. Andrew Nathan has been appointed Head of Governance with effect from 1 April 2013. Council is asked to confirm Mr. Nathan as statutory proper officer for:

- All Head of Governance functions in the constitution.
- Members' declaration of acceptance of office.
- Members' notice of resignation.
- Giving notice of casual vacancies.
- Convening Council to fill Mayoral casual vacancy.
- Signing summonses for council meeting and receiving notices as to Members' addresses for summonses.
- Receiving notification of political groups for the calculation of political balance.
- Returning Officer for election of parent governor representatives to Committee
- Deposit of documents.

- **Certification and authentication of documents, byelaws and copy minutes and signing of other relevant formal notices and documents.**

3. POLITICAL BALANCE

RESOLVED –

- 1. That Council note the political balance of the Council is 37 Members of the Conservative Group; 22 Members of the Labour Group; 3 Members of the Liberal Democrat Group and 1 Independent (non-aligned) Member.**
- 2(b) That Council approve the allocation of seats on committees in accordance with the political balance regulations on the basis of seats being allocated to the political groups represented on Council and an allocation of a seat on such Overview and Scrutiny Committee (excluding Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee) as Council may determine.**
- 3. That Council approve the allocation of seats as set out in the tables in the report.**

20. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

There was none.

21. QUESTIONS TO REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

From Councillor Brian Coleman

Will the Leader report on discussions at London Councils Leaders Committee on Airport expansion and what line did he take on behalf of Barnet?

Response from Councillor Richard Cornelius

To follow

The meeting finished at 10.30 pm