

Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
held at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, on 28 February 2023

PRESENT:-

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Alison Moore)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Nagus Narenthira)

Councillors:

Richard Barnes	Rohit Grover	Simon Radford
Zahra Beg	Lachhya Gurung	Barry Rawlings
Andrea Bilbow OBE	Haylett	Danny Rich
Rishikesh Chakraborty	Ross Houston	Tim Roberts
Pauline Coakley Webb	Anne Hutton	Ella Rose
Dean Cohen	Giulia Innocenti	Gill Sargeant
Philip Cohen	Humayune Khalick	Alan Schneiderman
Joshua Conway	Paul Lemon	Mark Shooter
Sara Conway	David Longstaff	Elliot Simberg
Geof Cooke	Linda Lusingu	Caroline Stock
Alison Cornelius	Kath McGuirk	Daniel Thomas
Richard Cornelius	Nick Mearing-Smith	Liron Woodcock-
Edith David	Michael Mire	Velleman
Val Duschinsky	Arjun Mittra	Tony Vourou
Shuey Gordon	Ammar Naqvi	Emma Whysall
Eva Greenspan	Matthew Perlberg	Nigel Young
Jennifer Grocock	Alex Prager	Peter Zinkin

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Ernest Ambe	Councillor Laithe Jajeh
Councillor Anne Clarke	Councillor Giulia Monasterio
Councillor Paul Edwards	Councillor Lucy Wakeley
Councillor Claire Farrier	Councillor Sarah Wardle
Councillor Kamal Gurung	Councillor Zakia Zubairi
Councillor Andreas Ioannidis	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ambe, Clarke, Edwards, Farrier, K Gurung, Ioannidis, Laithe, Monasterio, Wakeley, Wardle, Whysall and Zubairi.

2. ELECT A MEMBER TO PRESIDE IF THE MAYOR IS ABSENT

The Worshipful the Mayor was present.

3. WORDS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE IN BARNET

The Worshipful the Mayor invited Miki Weisfish, Michal Faith, Rimona Jacobson and Rina Serfarty to say a few words.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Whysall declared a pecuniary interest in Item 11 – ‘Referral of Report from Policy & Resources Committee Business planning - Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-27’ by virtue of having provided advice to trade unions. She would leave the chamber for the duration of the debate.

Councillor Zinkin declared a pecuniary interest in Item 11.1 – ‘Referral of Report from Policy & Resources Committee Business Planning - Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-27’ by virtue of being a Director of London Energy. Councillor Zinkin had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

6. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful the Mayor invited officers and Councillors to attend the opening ceremony of the Civic Room in Hendon Town Hall for refreshments after the meeting.

7. ANY BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING

None.

8. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

The Deputy Mayor moved the following resolution:

‘That we the Members of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet, hereby express to The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Alison Moore, our appreciation of the excellent service she has rendered to the London Borough of Barnet as its Mayor during the period May 2022 to May 2023, and for the friendly and conscientious way in which she has performed the duties of that office.

We offer her our sincere gratitude for the concern that she has shown at all times in promoting the welfare of the Borough and its residents, particularly for her willingness to support the many organisations and individuals who called on her time and services during her Mayoralty.

We congratulate her on the success of her appeals for her charities Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB), the Barnet Food Hub and the Space2Grow Children and Young Peoples Fund’.

This was duly agreed, with the foregoing resolution to be engrossed over the Common Seal of the corporation and presented to the Worshipful Mayor at the Annual Meeting.

9. THE MAYORALTY FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

The Worshipful the Mayor called for nominations for election of Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet for the Municipal Year 2023/24. It was noted that there was one nomination for the Mayor Designate;

Councillor Sargeant, duly seconded by Councillor Khalick moved that Councillor Nagus Narenthira be proposed for the appointment of the Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet at the Annual meeting of the Council of the 23 May 2023.

On the nomination being put to the vote, the votes were recorded as follows:

For: 52
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 11

RESOLVED that Councillor Nagus Narenthira be nominated as the Mayor designate for the municipal year 2023/24.

The Mayor designate Councillor Nagus Narenthira thanked those present for her nomination and nominated Councillor Tony Vourou as the Deputy Mayor designate for the municipal year 2023/24.

RESOLVED that Council note Councillor Tony Vourou as Deputy Mayor Designate for the municipal year 2023/24.

10. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER

None.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

11.1 REPORT FROM POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNING - BUDGET 2023/24 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/27

Having declared an interest, Councillor Whysall left the chamber.

The Worshipful the Mayor moved suspension of Council Procedure Rule 17.7 to allow the initial speeches on the Budget to be up to the following lengths:
10 minutes for the Leader and 8 minutes for the Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor Rawlings, Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee moved the reception and adoption of the recommendations in the report. Councillor Thomas moved the Conservative Group alternative budget. Debate ensued.

The Head of Governance informed Council that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 and Council Procedure Rule 12.4 requires that voting decisions relating to the budget and Council Tax be recorded.

On the Conservative Group amendment being put to the vote, the votes were recorded as follows:

Councillor			For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
1	Ernest	AMBE				x
2	Richard	BARNES		x		
3	Zahra	BEG		x		
4	Andrea	BILBOW		x		
5	Rishikesh	CHAKRABORTY		x		
6	Anne	CLARKE				x
7	Pauline	COAKLEY WEBB		x		
8	Dean	COHEN	x			
9	Philip	COHEN		x		
10	Joshua	CONWAY	x			
11	Sara	CONWAY		x		
12	Geof	COOKE		x		
13	Alison	CORNELIUS	x			
14	Richard	CORNELIUS	x			
15	Edith	DAVID		x		
16	Val	DUSCHINSKY	x			
17	Paul	EDWARDS				x
18	Claire	FARRIER				x
19	Shuey	GORDON	x			
20	Eva	GREENSPAN	x			
21	Jennifer	GROCOCK	x			
22	Rohit	GROVER	x			
23	Kamal	GURUNG				x
24	Lachhya	GURUNG	x			
25	Marianne	HAYLETT		x		
26	Ross	HOUSTON		x		
27	Anne	HUTTON		x		
28	Giulia	INNOCENTI		x		
29	Andreas	IOANNIDIS				x
30	Laithe	JAJEH				x
31	Humayune	KHALICK		x		
32	Paul	LEMON		x		
33	David	LONGSTAFF	x			
34	Linda	LUSINGU		x		
35	Kath	MCGUIRK		x		
36	Nick	MEARING-SMITH	x			
37	Michael	MIRE	x			
38	Arjun	MITTRA		x		
39	Giulia	MONASTERIO				x
40	Ammar	NAQVI		x		
41	Matthew	PERLBERG		x		
42	Alex	PRAGER	x			
43	Simon	RADFORD		x		
44	Barry	RAWLINGS		x		
45	Danny	RICH		x		
46	Tim	ROBERTS		x		
47	Ella	ROSE		x		

48	Gill	SARGEANT		x		
49	Alan	SCHNEIDERMAN		x		
50	Mark	SHOOTER	x			
51	Elliot	SIMBERG	x			
52	Caroline	STOCK	x			
53	Daniel	THOMAS	x			
54	Liron	VELLEMAN- WOODCOCK		x		
55	Tony	VOUROU		x		
56	Lucy	WAKELEY				x
57	Sarah	WARDLE				x
58	Emma	WHYSALL				X
59	Nigel	YOUNG		x		
60	Peter	ZINKIN	x			
61	Zakia	ZUBAIRI				x
62	Deputy Mayor Nagus	NARENTHIRA		x		
63	Mayor Alison	MOORE		x		
Total			19	32	0	12

RESOLVED that the Conservative Group amendment in the name of Councillor Thomas is therefore LOST.

On the Labour Group proposal being put to the vote the votes were recorded as follows:

Councillor			For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
1	Ernest	AMBE				x
2	Richard	BARNES	x			
3	Zahra	BEG	x			
4	Andrea	BILBOW	x			
5	Rishikesh	CHAKRABORTY	x			
6	Anne	CLARKE				x
7	Pauline	COAKLEY WEBB	X			
8	Dean	COHEN		x		
9	Philip	COHEN	x			
10	Joshua	CONWAY		x		
11	Sara	CONWAY	x			
12	Geof	COOKE	x			
13	Alison	CORNELIUS		x		
14	Richard	CORNELIUS		x		
15	Edith	DAVID	x			
16	Val	DUSCHINSKY		x		
17	Paul	EDWARDS				x
18	Claire	FARRIER				x
19	Shuey	GORDON		x		
20	Eva	GREENSPAN		x		
21	Jennifer	GROCOCK		x		

22	Rohit	GROVER		x		
23	Kamal	GURUNG				x
24	Lachhya	GURUNG		x		
25	Marianne	HAYLETT	x			
26	Ross	HOUSTON	x			
27	Anne	HUTTON	x			
28	Giulia	INNOCENTI	x			
29	Andreas	IOANNIDIS				x
30	Laithe	JAJEH				x
31	Humayune	KHALICK	X			
32	Paul	LEMON	x			
33	David	LONGSTAFF		x		
34	Linda	LUSINGU	x	x		
35	Kath	MCGUIRK	x	x		
36	Nick	MEARING-SMITH		x		
37	Michael	MIRE		x		
38	Arjun	MITTRA	x			
39	Giulia	MONASTERIO				x
40	Ammar	NAQVI	x			
41	Matthew	PERLBERG	x			
42	Alex	PRAGER		x		
43	Simon	RADFORD	x			
44	Barry	RAWLINGS	x			
45	Danny	RICH	x			
46	Tim	ROBERTS	x			
47	Ella	ROSE	x			
48	Gill	SARGEANT	x			
49	Alan	SCHNEIDERMAN	x			
50	Mark	SHOOTER		x		
51	Elliot	SIMBERG		x		
52	Caroline	STOCK		x		
53	Daniel	THOMAS		x		
54	Liron	VELLEMAN- WOODCOCK	x			
55	Tony	VOUROU	x			
56	Lucy	WAKELEY				x
57	Sarah	WARDLE				x
58	Emma	WHYSALL				X
59	Nigel	YOUNG	x			
60	Peter	ZINKIN		x		
61	Zakia	ZUBAIRI				x
62	Deputy Mayor Nagus	NARENTHIRA	x			
63	Mayor Alison	MOORE	x			
Total			32	19	0	12

RESOLVED that Council:

In respect of the Budget and Council Tax for 2023/24 and the MTFS 2024-27, that Council:

- 1. Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), attached as Appendix A, and the detailed revenue budgets in Appendix C, including the proposed savings and funding for pressures in 2023/24;**
- 2. Approve that the budget 2023/24 is prepared on the basis of a 1.80% increase for the general element of Council Tax in 2023/24 as discussed in paragraph 1.3.12 to 1.3.19;**
- 3. Approve that the budget for 2023/24 is prepared on the basis of an increase of 2% for the Social Care Precept, to help fund social care as detailed in paragraph 1.3.12 to 1.3.19;**
- 4. Approve the resolutions relating to Council Tax contained within Appendix B;**
- 5. Approve, on the advice of the Chief Finance Officer, that it determines that the council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 as set out in Council Tax resolution Appendix B, 2(iv) is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, set out in the Referendums relating to Council Tax increases (Principles)(England) Report 2023/27;**
- 6. Approve in accordance with Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Chief Executive be instructed to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 5 above within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision; and**
- 7. Considers the issues that have emerged from the consultation discussed in Appendix G when making their decisions. That Council make the decisions outlined in this report being mindful of the consultation responses and equalities impact assessments including the cumulative equalities impact assessments; and**
- 8. Note and have due regard to the opinion of the Chief Finance Officer as set out in section 1.7 of this report.**

In respect of Capital Strategy and proposed capital expenditure that Council:

- 9. Approve of the Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix I1;**
- 10. Approve the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix I2 and set out in paragraph 1.8; and**
- 11. Approve delegation to Chief Finance Officer to adjust capital programme and financing in 2023/24 in line with the 2022/23 outturn position;**

In respect of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS):

12. Approve the TMSS for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix J.

In respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG):

13. Approve the Gross Schools Budget of £426.879m for 2023/24 as set out in Section 1.5; and

14. Approve that any changes to the Schools Budget reasonably required as a result of the final 2023/24 DSG and Post-16 settlement are delegated for decisions to the Executive Director – Children’s & Family Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Resources;

In respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA):

15. Approve Council dwelling rents increases as set out in paragraphs 1.6.3-1.6.8;

16. Approve Temporary accommodation rents increases in line with Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate as set out in paragraphs 1.6.9-1.6.13; and

17. Approve services charge and garages increases as set out in paragraph 1.6.14-1.6.28.

Councillor Whysall re-joined the meeting.

Councillor Grocock left the meeting.

11.2 REPORT FROM POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PLAN

The Worshipful the Mayor introduced the report. Councillor Rawlings moved the reception and adoption of the recommendations in the report. Debate ensued.

On the recommendations on the report being put to the vote, the votes were as follows:

For: 33
Against: 0
Abstain: 18
Absent: 12
Total: 63

RESOLVED that Council:

Notes and approves the Corporate Plan 2023-2026 ‘Caring for people, our places and the planet: our plan for Barnet 2023-2026’.

12. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

12.1 REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - BY-ELECTION RESULTS

The Worshipful the Mayor introduced the report.

On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote, the votes were recorded as follows:

For: 51
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 12
Total: 63

RESOLVED that:

Council notes the councillor elected at the Golders Green By Election held on Thursday 16 February as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

12.2 REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER - CONSTITUTION REVIEW

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report outlining changes following the Constitution Review. Debate ensued.

On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote, the votes were recorded as follows:

For: 33
Against: 18
Abstain: 0
Absent: 12
Total: 63

RESOLVED that Council:

- 1. Considers and approves the second tranche of the Constitution as set out in the Appendices A to M of the report.**
- 2. Agrees that the Constitution sections attached as Appendices A to M of the report will come into effect at Annual Council in May 2023.**
- 3. Authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make 'housekeeping changes' to the Constitution such as terminology to ensure consistency, numbering and formatting changes.**
- 4. Notes the Public Participation Consultation findings report and Equalities Impact Assessment as set out in Appendices N and O of the report.**

12.3 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2023/24

The Head of Governance introduced the report on the Members' Allowances Scheme 2023-24

On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote, the votes were recorded as follows:

For: 33

Against: 18
Abstain: 0
Absent:12
Total: 63

RESOLVED that Council:

- 1. Have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London as attached at Appendix A.**
- 2. Approve the Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24 attached at Appendix B, with effect from 1 April 2023.**
- 3. Notes that a revised Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 will need to be adopted at Annual Council on 23 May 2023 to reflect the new governance arrangements coming into effect at that meeting (i.e., move from a Committee System to an Executive system)**
- 4. Notes that following approval of the Scheme, a notice will be advertised pursuant to Regulation 16 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).**

12.4 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE - POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

The Head of Governance introduced the report on Political Proportionality.

On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote, the votes were recorded as follows:

For: 33
Against: 18
Abstain: 0
Absent:12
Total: 63

RESOLVED that Council:

- 1) Note the political balance of the Council is:
 - > 40 Members of the Labour Group;**
 - > 22 Members of the Conservative Group**
 - > 1 Independent Member****
- 2) Agreed the allocation of seats as set out in the tables in Appendix A of the report in order to comply with the political balance regulations requiring seats to be allocated proportionately to the political groups on Council.**

12.5 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Head of Governance introduced the report on Administrative Matters

On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote, the votes were recorded as follows:

For: 33
Against: 18
Abstain: 0
Absent: 12
Total: 63

RESOLVED that Council:

- 1. Notes and approves the appointments to Outside Bodies in Appendix A of the report.**
- 2. Notes and approves the calendar of meetings for 2023/24 in Appendix B of the report.**
- 3. Notes and approves the changes to committee memberships as detailed in Appendix C of the report.**

The meeting finished at 9.11pm

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