

Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
held at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, on 1 November 2022

PRESENT:-

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

Councillors:

Ernest Ambe	Shuey Gordon	Ammar Naqvi
Richard Barnes	Eva Greenspan	Alex Prager
Zahra Beg	Jennifer Grocock	Simon Radford
Andrea Bilbow OBE	Rohit Grover	Barry Rawlings
Rishikesh Chakraborty	Kamal Gurung	Tim Roberts
Anne Clarke	Lachhya Gurung	Gill Sargeant
Pauline Coakley Webb	Marianne Haylett	Alan Schneiderman
Dean Cohen	Ross Houston	Mark Shooter
Melvin Cohen	Anne Hutton	Elliot Simberg
Philip Cohen	Giulia Innocenti	Caroline Stock
Joshua Conway	Andreas Ioannidis	Daniel Thomas
Sara Conway	Laithe Jajeh	Liron Velleman
Geof Cooke	Humayune Khalick	Lucy Wakeley
Alison Cornelius	Paul Lemon	Sarah Wardle
Richard Cornelius	David Longstaff	Emma Whysall
Edith David	Linda Lusingu	Nigel Young
Val Duschinsky	Kath McGuirk	Zakia Zubairi
Paul Edwards	Michael Mire	
Claire Farrier	Arjun Mittra	

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Nick Mearing-Smith	Councillor Danny Rich
Councillor Giulia Monasterio	Councillor Ella Rose
Councillor Matthew Perlberg	Councillor Tony Vourou

1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ella Rose, Councillor Tony Vourou, Councillor Matthew Perlberg, Councillor Danny Rich, Councillor Giulia Monasterio and Councillor Nick Mearing-Smith.

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 Jonah Howe, a member of the My Say Matters project to say a few words.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Council noted a correction to the minutes that Councillor Lemon left the meeting at minute item 14.4 and not Councillor Naqvi as recorded in the minutes. Subject to that correction it was **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting on 26 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.**

6. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful the Mayor sadly acknowledged the passing of former Councillor, Laurie Williams and expressed her condolences to Laurie's widow, Sally and family who were in the public gallery.

The Worshipful the Mayor invited tributes from Councillors Phil Cohen, Caroline Stock, Marianne Haylett, Jennifer Grocock, Tim Roberts and Alison Cornelius.

The Worshipful the Mayor then asked the Council to stand for a minute's silence.

The Worshipful the Mayor on behalf of the Council, extended her warmest congratulations to Councillor Dan Thomas and Victoria on the birth of their son Noah.

The Worshipful the Mayor informed Council that we had recently received the Defence Employer Recognition Silver award and were now going for Gold.

The Worshipful the Mayor commended the wonderful events that had taken place across the borough to mark Black History Month which had been a huge success.

The Worshipful the Mayor noted that last month she had held a reception to mark the 50th anniversary of Ugandan Asians in Barnet.

The Worshipful the Mayor informed Council that at the beginning of October, she had visited Morphou for the annual rally.

The Worshipful the Mayor reminded Council that Remembrance Sunday was on 13 November 2022 and encouraged Councillors to attend services in their wards. She extended her thanks to those Councillors who would be representing the Mayoralty, Councillors and burgesses by laying a wreath on her behalf this year.

The Worshipful the Mayor reminded Councillors that the Civic awards nominations were now open and would close on 31 December 2022.

The Worshipful the Mayor also reminded Council that Holocaust Memorial Day will be held on 29 January 2023 with an event held at Middlesex University organised by the Council.

The Worshipful the Mayor informed Council that Barnet officially celebrated Diwali which fell on 24 October this year at Hendon Town Hall by lighting of Diwa with traditional prayers and dance led by children from a local temple.

7. ANY BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING

None.

8. QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER (AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS IF HE/SHE HAS DELEGATED)

Council were asked to note that the answers to questions 24 and 46 were amended as follows:

Question 24 amended so that it reads "None-we're not increasing the charge."

Question 46 amended so that it reads "There won't be an increase."

A proposed increase had incorrectly been included in a report to Policy & Resources Committee on 29 September 2022.

9. PETITIONS FOR DEBATE (20 MINUTES)

None.

10. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER

None.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

11.1 REFERRAL FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2021/22

Councillor Mitra, Chair of the Audit Committee, moved the reception and adoption of the recommendations in the report.

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

For: 57
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 6

Total: 63

RESOLVED that Council note and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2021/22 as an accurate record of the outcomes and work programme for the year.

11.2 REFERRAL FROM COMMUNITIES, LEADERSHIP & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE - SAFER COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2022-27

Councillor Sara Conway, Chair of the Communities, Leadership & Libraries Committee, moved reception and adoption of the recommendations in the report.

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

For: 57
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 6
Total: 63

RESOLVED that Council to note and approve the Barnet Safety Communities Strategy 2022-2027.

11.3 REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - CONSTITUTION REVIEW

Councillor Rawlings, Chair of the Constitution and General Purposes Committee moved reception and adoption of the recommendations in the report.

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

For: 36
Against: 21
Abstain: 0
Absent: 6
Total: 63

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Council note the report of the Constitution & General Purposes Committee held on 6 October 2022 (Annex 1i) and note that the Committee approved the amendments.**
- 2. Council approve the Constitution amendments as set out in Appendices A to D.**
- 3. Council authorise the Monitoring Officer to implement these revisions and publish a revised Constitution.**

11.4 **REFERRAL REPORT OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE- FEES AND CHARGES 2022/23 & 2023/24**

Council noted that an addendum report had been published on the Fees and Charges consultation findings and Equalities Impact Assessment.

Councillor Rawlings, Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee moved reception and adoption of the recommendations in the report.

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

For: 36
Against: 21
Abstain: 0
Absent: 6
Total: 63

RESOLVED that Council approve the proposed fees and charges for 2023/24 set out in Appendix A having taken into account the consultation responses and Equality Impact Assessment.

12. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

12.1 **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE**

The Head of Governance introduced the report, outlining the various administrative matters for Council's agreement.

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

For: 57
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 6
Total: 63

RESOLVED that:

- 1. That Council note and approve the appointments to Outside Bodies in Appendix A.**
- 2. That Council approve the appointments of the Other Appointments outlined in Appendix B.**
- 3. That Council approve the changes to appointments of Committees outlined in Appendix C.**

*Councillor Mark Shooter left the meeting at 8.55pm.

13. QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

14. MOTIONS (45 MINUTES)

14.1 ADMINISTRATION MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR SIMON RADFORD - IMPACT OF THE MINI-BUDGET ON THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

Councillor Radford moved the motion in his name. Councillor Thomas moved an amendment in his name. Councillor Whysall moved an amendment in her name. Debate ensued.

Votes on the amendment in the name of Councillor Thomas were recorded as follows:

For: 20
Against: 36
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The amendment in the name of Councillor Thomas was LOST.

Votes on the amendment in the name of Councillor Whysall were recorded as follows:

For: 36
Against: 20
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The amendment in the name of Councillor Whysall was CARRIED.

Votes on the motion as amended by Councillor Whysall were recorded as follows:

For: 36
Against: 20
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The motion as amended by Councillor Whysall was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

This Council notes:-

- 1. The disastrous lasting impact of the Government's 'mini-budget' on the markets, inflation, interest rates, the economy, and the cost-of-living crisis.**
- 2. The sacking of the Chancellor of the Exchequer after only 38 days and the reversal of the 'mini-budget' following the financial turmoil.**

- 3. The resignation of the Prime Minister, Liz Truss, after only 44 days in office.**
- 4. The decisions of “eye-watering difficulty” that the new Chancellor has said are now required, including brutal real terms cuts to public services to repair the destruction caused by the ill-advised ‘mini-budget’.**
- 5. The delay of the fiscal statement until 17 November, which falls after the Bank of England’s next interest rate decision and causes further uncertainty.**
- 6. The detrimental impact the inevitable cuts are likely to have on frontline public services that are already experiencing a funding and recruitment/retention/pay crisis.**
- 7. The devastating consequential impact this will have on the users of these services in Barnet and on the Council’s ability to respond to support the growing number of people in need.**

Council also notes that:

- 1. Many people in Barnet are already struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, with around 9,500 families known to have debts to the Council of more than £1,000.**
- 2. There will be more people with other debts not known to the Council, meaning the total number of households in Barnet in need of support is in fact much higher.**
- 3. LB Barnet’s new administration is doing all it can to help, and has agreed a package of support totalling £9m for those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis including:**
 - a. Launching a cost-of-living hub and a public awareness campaign to support residents by giving them quick access to advice, information and financial support**
 - b. Setting up a £2m Residents’ Support Fund to provide financial support to residents in crisis (equivalent to 1% of council tax)**
 - c. Agreeing to refund this year’s 1% Council Tax increase in 2023/24 to keep bills lower next year**
 - d. Providing additional funding to the cross-sector partnership, Barnet Together Alliance, who are doing so much good work to support our communities**
 - e. Providing other targeted interventions to mitigate food and fuel poverty challenges to our residents.**

However, Council believes that this will not be sufficient to help all those in need as the cost-of-living crisis continues into next year.

Council therefore resolves to:

- 1. Ask the Leader of the Council to urgently write to the latest Prime Minister outlining:**
 - i. The strain that the Government’s poor political choices has placed on the local economy and the residents of Barnet.**

- ii. **The need for more help from the Government to support those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis through the winter and beyond, including ensuring ongoing support for energy bills and that benefits are updated by inflation not earnings.**
 - iii. **The need to protect frontline public services from further cuts and provide sufficient funding to local councils as set out in the London Councils Key Priorities document, including funding to help us insulate and retrofit homes and reach our Net Zero targets.**
- 2. Ask Barnet's three Conservative MPs to also write to the Government in support of these needs, and to seek assurances that the former Prime Minister's comments made about the 'North London anti-growth coalition' don't lead to further levelling-down in Barnet and London.**

14.2 OPPOSITION MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR DAN THOMAS- COUNCIL PLEDGES TO NOT RAISE PARKING CHARGES UNTIL THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS HAS BEEN ALLEVIATED

Votes on the motion in the name of Councillor Thomas were recorded as follows:

For: 20
Against: 36
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The motion in the name of Councillor Thomas was LOST.

14.3 ADMINISTRATION MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR PAUL LEMON- STANDING UP FOR RESPONSIBLE TAX CONDUCT

Votes on the motion in the name of Councillor Lemon were recorded as follows:

For: 36
Against: 20
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The motion in the name of Councillor Lemon was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

Council notes that:

- 1. The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.**
- 2. Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.**
- 3. Two thirds of people (66%) believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.**
- 4. Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.**
- 5. It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.**

6. The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.

Council believes that:

1. Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be.
2. Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.
3. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.
4. Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.
5. More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.
6. UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.

Council also notes that:

1. LB Barnet's compliance in ensuring contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes (IR35) is robust, following a positive audit by HMRC.
2. LB Barnet is developing a new procurement strategy to see how the Council can work proactively with its supply chain, contractors and partners to set out wider ethical procurement practices, including on environmental sustainability and fair tax.

Council resolves subject to complying legislative and regulatory requirements to:

1. Request that Policy & Resources Committee consider the 'Councils for Fair Tax Declaration' in the context of LB Barnet's developing procurement strategy with a view to ensure the Council:
2. Leads by example and demonstrates good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.
3. Continues to robustly implement IR35.

4. Does not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
5. Undertakes due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.
6. Demands clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.
7. Promotes Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
8. Supports Fair Tax Week events in the area and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.
9. Supports calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

14.4 OPPOSITION MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR DAN THOMAS- COUNCIL WILL NOT RAISE THE PRICE OF GARDEN WASTE FROM £70 COLLECTIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO HELP WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

Council was asked to note that the amendment in the name of Councillor Alan Schneiderman has been withdrawn.

Votes on the motion in the name of Councillor Thomas were recorded as follows:

For: 56
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The motion in the name of Councillor Thomas was carried.

RESOLVED that:

Council notes that:

1. Residents across the borough are suffering from a cost-of-living crisis
2. The London Borough of Barnet currently charges £70 a year for garden waste collections

Council believes that:

It would be wrong to increase the price of the garden waste collection service when so many in Barnet are suffering from the increasing costs of living

Council resolves to:

Not raise the price of the garden waste collection service in Barnet for the remainder of the administration

14.5 ADMINISTRATION MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR ERNEST AMBE- BECOMING A LIVING WAGE EMPLOYER: ACCREDITATION

Votes on the motion in the name of Councillor Ambe were recorded as follows:

For: 36
Against: 20
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The motion in the name of Councillor Ambe was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

Council believes that:

- 1. Everyone should be paid a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.**
- 2. The real Living Wage (in London, the London Living Wage), set annually by the Living Wage Foundation, is the minimum rate of pay that covers the cost of living.**

Council notes that:

- 1. LB Barnet currently pays at least the London Living Wage to all permanent directly employed staff, but not all contracted-out staff or those working for commissioned providers and in the Council's wider supply chain are currently paid the relevant real Living Wage.**
- 2. Working towards becoming a London Living Wage Borough is a manifesto commitment of the Council's new administration, and this requires the Council to achieve Living Wage accreditation as the next step.**

Council resolves to:

Request that Policy & Resources Committee considers the steps necessary for the Council to become a Living Wage Employer, including instructing officers to bring options to achieve accreditation to a future meeting.

14.6 OPPOSITION MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR DAVID LONGSTAFF- A REDUCTION IS NOT A REBATE - LABOUR MUST FULFIL THEIR MANIFESTO PLEDGE TO REBATE THE SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT WITHIN THE 2022/23

FINANCIAL YEAR

Councillor Longstaff moved the motion in his name. Councillor Rawlings moved an amendment in his name. Councillor Longstaff moved an amendment in his name. Debate ensued.

The votes on the amendment in Councillor Rawlings name were recorded as follows:

For: 36
Against: 20
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The amendment in the name of Councillor Rawlings was CARRIED.

The votes on the amendment in the name of Councillor Longstaff were recorded as follows:

For: 20
Against: 36
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The amendment in the name of Councillor Longstaff was LOST.

Votes on the motion as amended by Councillor Rawlings were recorded as follows:

For: 36
Against: 20
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The motion as amended by Councillor Rawlings was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

Council notes that:

- 1. Barnet Labour promised to “freeze council tax and refund residents this year's 1% council tax increase”.**

This Council also notes that:

- 1. General council tax in 2022/23 has been frozen.**
- 2. LB Barnet’s Labour administration has refunded residents the 1% council tax increase through a targeted £2m Resident Support Fund in 2022/23**

3. LB Barnet's Labour administration has also agreed to refund residents a further £2m through a universal 1% council tax refund in council tax bills in 2023/24

Council resolves to:

- 1. Continue to freeze general council tax in 2022/23**
- 2. Refund residents, as Labour promised, within the 2022/23 financial year by implementing the targeted 1% refund made available through the £2m Resident Support Fund**
- 3. And in addition, effect the universal 1% refund in 2023/24 as set out in the Policy & Resources Report in September.**

14.7 OPPOSITION MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR DAN THOMAS- COUNCIL COMMITS TO NOT JOINING NEIGHBOURING LABOUR-CONTROLLED CAMDEN COUNCIL IN RESTRICTING ALL COUNCIL-OPERATED ROADS TO A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

Votes on the motion as amended by Councillor Schneiderman were recorded as follows:

For: 36
Against:20
Abstain: 0
Absent: 7
Total: 63

The amendment in the name of Councillor Schneiderman was CARRIED.

Votes on the motion as amended by Councillor Schneiderman were recorded as follows:

For: 36
Against: 20
Abstain:0
Absent:7
Total: 63

RESOLVED that:

Council notes that:

- 1. The LB Barnet Labour administration has a policy of agreeing 20mph zones on roads where a majority of residents support this.**

Council believes that:

- 1. Varied speed limits should be left in where residents want them.**
- 2. 20mph zones can serve a good purpose in certain localities, for example, outside schools.**

3. Speed limits should be based on evidence.

Council resolves to:

Commit to listening to residents and only introduce 20 mph zones where residents want them.

15. MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

None.

The meeting finished at 9.26 pm