

Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
held at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, on 5 March 2019

PRESENT:-

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Reuben Thompstone)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Caroline Stock)

Councillors:

Jess Brayne	Eva Greenspan	Barry Rawlings
Felix Byers	Jennifer Grocock	Danny Rich
Anne Clarke	Lachhya Gurung	Helene Richman
Alison Cornelius	John Hart	Gabriel Rozenberg
Pauline Coakley Webb	Ross Houston	Lisa Rutter
Dean Cohen	Anne Hutton	Shimon Ryde
Melvin Cohen	Laithe Jajeh	Gill Sargeant
Sara Conway	Kathy Levine	Alan Schneiderman
Jo Cooper	David Longstaff	Mark Shooter
Geof Cooke	John Marshall	Elliot Simberg
Richard Cornelius	Kath McGuirk	Thomas Smith
Saira Don	Arjun Mittra	Stephen Sowerby
Val Duschinsky	Alison Moore	Julian Teare
Paul Edwards	Ammar Naqvi	Daniel Thomas
Claire Farrier	Nagus Narenthira	Sarah Wardle
Anthony Finn	Charlie O-Macauley	Roberto Weeden-Sanz
Nizza Fluss	Reema Patel	Laurie Williams
Linda Freedman	Alex Prager	Peter Zinkin
Brian Gordon	Sachin Rajput	Zakia Zubairi

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Golnar Bokaei
Councillor Rohit Grover

Councillor Wendy Prentice

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wendy Prentice, Councillor Golnar Bokaei and Councillor Rohit Grover.

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

The Worshipful The Mayor was present.

3. PRAYER

Councillor Brian Gordon was called upon by The Worshipful the Mayor to speak to Council and say prayers.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Worshipful the Mayor advised that Councillor Fluss' first name, Nizza, would be noted in the attendance list. A Member requested that Councillor Weeden-Sanz's first name, Roberto, also be added. The Worshipful the Mayor noted a correction to the declarations of interests. The declaration made by Councillor Anne Hutton should have read that Councillor Hutton was the Trustee of "a Barnet Charity"

Subject to the inclusion of the amendments referred to above, the minutes of the Council meeting dated 29 January 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

6. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful the Mayor was delighted to announce the birth of Councillor Dean Cohen's fourth child, a son, called David.

The Worshipful the Mayor announced that he was very sad to report the passing who David Howard, who led the New Barnet Community Association. He noted that he was a very active figure locally and was well known and loved in the Chipping Barnet community as well as the wider Borough. At the invitation of The Worshipful the Mayor, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius, and Councillor Laurie Williams paid tribute to Mr. Howard. Council observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr. Howard.

The Worshipful the Mayor was sad to report on the passing of Teresa Goodall, the former Head of Catering at Barnet Council, who had recently retired. He noted that Teresa was an extremely well known member of staff who had worked at Barnet for many years.

7. REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader reported that the Council had received confirmation from the Chancellor that the Government would provide funding for a new station in Cricklewood. For the Council, this meant that the scheme had been de-risked and extensive borrowing would not be required. It was noted that the funding not been received yet, but was expected shortly.

8. ANY BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING

There was none.

9. 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 Reuben Thompstone, our appreciation of the excellent service he has rendered to the London Borough of Barnet as its Mayor during the period May 2018 to May 2019, and for the friendly and conscientious way in which he has performed the duties of that office.

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

We congratulate him on the success of his appeals for his charities Live Unlimited and Kisharon."

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.

10. THE MAYORALTY FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019-2020

The Worshipful the Mayor called for nominations for election of Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet for 2019/20. He noted that there was only one nomination for Mayor Designate.

Conservative Group Nomination

Councillor Richard Cornelius, duly seconded by Councillor Alison Cornelius, moved that Councillor Caroline Stock be proposed for the appointment of Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet at the Annual meeting of the Council on 21 May 2019.

Upon the nominations being put to the vote, the Conservative nomination was unanimously agreed.

Councillor Caroline Stock was nominated as Mayor Designate.

RESOLVED that Councillor Caroline Stock was nominated as Mayor Designate.

Councillor Caroline Stock thanked those present for her nomination and nominated Councillor Lachhya Gurung to be her Deputy Mayor Designate.

11. CORPORATE PLAN, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019/24 AND BUDGET FOR 2019/20

Councillor Richard Cornelius, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, moved reception and adoption of the recommendations in the report. Councillor Barry Rawlings moved his amendment. Debate ensued.

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 and Council Procedure Rule 12.4 requires that voting relating to the budget and Council tax be recorded.

In accordance with this requirement, voting on the budget decisions was as follows:

Upon being put to the vote, the Labour Alternative Budget was declared lost. Voting on the Labour Alternative Budget was as follows:

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Mayor Reuben Thompstone		✓		
Deputy Mayor Caroline Stock		✓		
Golnar Bokaei				✓
Jess Brayne	✓			
Felix Byers		✓		
Anne Clarke	✓			
Pauline Coakley Webb	✓			
Dean Cohen		✓		
Melvin Cohen		✓		
Geof Cooke	✓			
Jo Cooper	✓			
Sara Conway	✓			
Alison Cornelius		✓		
Richard Cornelius		✓		
Saria Don		✓		
Val Duschinsky		✓		

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Paul Edwards	✓			
Claire Farrier	✓			
Anthony Finn		✓		
Nizza Fluss		✓		
Linda Freedman		✓		
Brian Gordon		✓		
Eva Greenspan		✓		
Jennifer Grocock		✓		
Rohit Grover				✓
Lachhya Gurung		✓		
John Hart		✓		
Ross Houston	✓			
Anne Hutton	✓			
Laithe Jajeh		✓		
Kathy Levine	✓			
David Longstaff		✓		
John Marshall		✓		
Kath McGuirk	✓			
Arjun Mittra	✓			
Alison Moore	✓			
Ammar Naqvi	✓			
Nagas Narenthira	✓			
Charlie O'Macauley	✓			
Reema Patel	✓			✓
Alex Prager		✓		
Wendy Prentice				✓
Sachin Rajput		✓		
Barry Rawlings	✓			
Danny Rich	✓			
Helene Richman		✓		
Tim Roberts	✓			
Gabriel Rozenberg		✓		
Lisa Rutter		✓		
Shimon Ryde		✓		
Gill Sargeant	✓			
Alan Schneiderman	✓			
Mark Shooter		✓		
Elliot Simberg				✓
Thomas Smith		✓		
Stephen Sowerby		✓		
Julian Teare		✓		
Daniel Thomas		✓		
Sarah Wardle		✓		
Roberto Weeden-Sanz		✓		
Laurie Williams	✓			
Peter Zinkin		✓		
Zakia Zubairi	✓			

For: 25
Against: 34
Abstain: 0
Absent: 4
TOTAL: 63

Upon being put to the vote the recommendations in the report of the Policy and Resources Committee were declared carried, with voting being declared as follows:

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Mayor Reuben Thompson	✓			
Deputy Mayor Caroline Stock	✓			
Golnar Bokaei				✓
Jess Brayne		✓		
Felix Byers	✓			
Anne Clarke		✓		
Pauline Coakley Webb		✓		
Dean Cohen	✓			
Melvin Cohen	✓			
Geof Cooke		✓		
Jo Cooper		✓		
Sara Conway		✓		
Alison Cornelius	✓			
Richard Cornelius	✓			
Saria Don	✓			
Val Duschinsky	✓			
Paul Edwards		✓		
Claire Farrier		✓		
Anthony Finn	✓			
Nizza Fluss	✓			
Linda Freedman	✓			
Brian Gordon	✓			
Eva Greenspan	✓			
Jennifer Grocock	✓			
Rohit Grover				✓
Lachhya Gurung	✓			
John Hart	✓			
Ross Houston		✓		
Anne Hutton		✓		
Laithe Jajeh	✓			
Kathy Levine		✓		
David Longstaff	✓			
John Marshall	✓			
Kath McGuirk		✓		
Arjun Mittra		✓		
Alison Moore		✓		
Ammar Naqvi		✓		
Nagas Narenthira		✓		
Charlie O'Macauley		✓		
Reema Patel		✓		
Alex Prager	✓			
Wendy Prentice				✓
Sachin Rajput	✓			
Barry Rawlings		✓		
Danny Rich		✓		
Helene Richman	✓			
Tim Roberts		✓		
Gabriel Rozenberg	✓			
Lisa Rutter	✓			
Shimon Ryde	✓			

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Gill Sargeant		✓		
Alan Schneiderman		✓		
Mark Shooter	✓			
Elliot Simberg				✓
Thomas Smith	✓			
Stephen Sowerby	✓			
Julian Teare	✓			
Daniel Thomas	✓			
Sarah Wardle	✓			
Roberto Weeden-Sanz	✓			
Laurie Williams		✓		
Peter Zinkin	✓			
Zakia Zubairi		✓		

For: 34
Against: 25
Abstain: 0
Absent: 4
TOTAL: 63

RESOLVED – That Council:

1. **Approve the Corporate Plan 2019-2024, as attached at Appendix A;**
2. **Consider the issues that have emerged from the consultation when making their decisions. Council make the decisions below also being mindful of the equalities impact assessments including the cumulative equalities impact assessments;**
3. **Approve the MTFS attached as Appendix B and the detailed revenue budgets in Appendices D1 and D2. The MTFS sets out all of the budget changes over the period 2019-24, including assumptions around inflation, changes to levies, pressures, savings and grant funding. It is the model around which the council's financial strategy is based;**
4. **Approve that the budget for 2019/20 is prepared on the basis of an increase of 2.99% general Council Tax in 2019/20;**
5. **Approve the resolutions relating to Council Tax contained within Appendix C – Council Tax Resolutions;**
6. **Determine that the council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 as set out in Council Tax resolution (Appendix C) 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 2019/20.**
7. **Approve that 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;**
8. **Approve the capital programme as set out in Appendix F1 and F2, and that the Chief Officers be authorised to take all necessary actions for implementation;**
9. **Approve the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to slippage and deletions as set out in paragraph 1.5.98 and Appendix E;**

10. Approve the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions as set out in paragraphs 1.5.99 to 1.5.113;
11. Approve that the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to adjust capital project budgets and financing in 2019/20 throughout the capital programme after the 2018/19 accounts are closed and the amount of slippage and budget carry forward required are known;
12. Approve the Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix K;
13. Approve Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix L;
14. Approve the following in relation to the Housing Revenue Account:
 - a) The proposed rent decrease by 1% for council dwellings as set out in paragraph 1.7.3 to take effect from 1 April 2019;
 - b) The proposed increase to service charges for council dwellings as set out in paragraph 1.7.7 to take effect from 1 April 2019; and
 - c) The proposed rent increase of 3.1% for council garages as set out in paragraph 1.7.7 to take effect from 1 April 2019
15. Approve the draft Schools Budget of £335.395m for 2019-20 as per paragraph 1.5.56;
16. Approve draft Post 16 Funding of £5.417m;
17. Approve that any changes to the Schools Budget reasonably required as a result of the final 2019/20 DSG and Post-16 settlement are delegated for decisions to the Strategic Director – Children & Young People in consultation with the Director of Finance;
18. Note the fees and charges that were approved at their relevant Theme Committee as detailed in Appendix H;
19. Note the summary equality impact assessment (EIA) and cumulative assessment set out in section 5.6. Appendix J provides the cumulative impact and individual Delivery Unit assessments;
20. Approve the reserves and balances policy as set out in Appendix M and indicative amounts as set out in paragraph 1.5.73 and the Director of Finance's assessment of adequacy of General Fund Balances in section 1.5.81. Approve that the Director of Finance is authorised to adjust balances in 2019/20 after 2018/19 accounts are closed and the amount of balances required to be carried forward are known;
21. Note the underlying Financial Strategy of the Council as set out in the paragraph 1.5.1, and;
22. Note the corporate risk register set out in Appendix O.

12. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

12.1 REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER - MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019/20

The Worshipful the Mayor introduced the report and noted that a corrected version of Schedule 1, Appendix B had been circulated to Members.

Following consideration of the report the recommendations in the report were put to the vote and the votes were declared as follows:

For: 35
 Against: 25
 Abstain: 0
 Absent: 3
 TOTAL: 63

RESOLVED that:

1. Council have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London as attached as Appendix A.
2. Council approve the Members' Allowances Scheme 2019/20 attached as Appendix B with effect from 1 April 2019.

12.2 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

The Head of Governance introduced the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. Councillor Golnar Bokai be appointed to the Nicoll and Daniel Homes Charity for a period of four years;
2. Clair Green – Director of Assurance be appointed to The Inglis Consortium LLP until further notice;
3. Council agree the Calendar of Meetings 2019/20 as set out in Appendix Bi and Bii.
4. Council agree the following Labour Group committee changes:

Committee	Current Member	Replacement Member
Adults & Safeguarding Committee	Cllr Jess Brayne	Cllr Anne Hutton
Adults & Safeguarding Committee	Cllr Anne Hutton (substitute)	Cllr Alison Moore (substitute)
Chipping Barnet Area Committee	Cllr Jess Brayne	Cllr Paul Edwards
Chipping Barnet Area Committee	Cllr Paul Edwards (substitute)	Cllr Tim Roberts (substitute)
Financial Performance and Contracts Committee	Cllr Jess Brayne (substitute)	Cllr Ammar Naqvi (substitute)
Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee	Cllr Jess Brayne	Cllr Anne Clarke

5. Council note the political balance of the Council is:
 - 38 Members of the Conservative Group
 - 24 Members of the Labour Group
 - 1 Independent Member
6. Council note that the updated political balance calculation has resulted in the Labour seat calculation on the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee being 3.43 which could result in a revision to the number of seats on that committee, but that the Conservative Group have agreed for the seat allocations to remain unaltered.
7. Council note recommendation 2. above and agree the allocation of seats as set out in the tables above in order to comply with the political balance regulations requiring seats to be allocated proportionately to the political groups on Council.
8. Council agree the change to the Calendar of Meetings as set out in Appendix D.