

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday, 22nd September, 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor D Parmar), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bal, Bains, Basra, M. Bedi, P. Bedi (from 7.18pm), Begum, Brooker, Carter, J. Davis, Dar, Gahir, Grewal, Hulme, Kaur, Kelly, M. Malik, S. Malik, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Muvvala, Nazir, Pantelic (from 7.10pm), S. Parmar, Qaseem, Sabah, Sandhu, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright (from 8.12pm)

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Akbar, Cheema, R. Davis and Gill

25. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughters worked for the council. He remained and participated in the meeting.

26. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 21st July 2022

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

27. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

On behalf of the office of the Mayor, and of communities across Slough, the Mayor reiterated heartfelt condolences to His Majesty the King and the Royal Family as they continue their period of mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The extraordinary service that Her Majesty had given to the country over her 70 year reign was recognized.

The books of condolence placed in council buildings and community centres across the borough, reflected the deep affection and respect residents of Slough had for Her Majesty.

The Mayor thanked Members, past mayors, dignitaries and the public who came to the Reading of the Proclamation of the accession of King Charles III, and the Service of Remembrance. Tribute was also given to all of the public servants, both in Slough and across the country, for their dedication and professionalism in arranging all of ceremonial and state events that had taken place during the past two weeks.

Following remarks from the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition on the passing of the late sovereign, a minute silence was held in memory of Her Majesty.

28. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

One question had been received and in the absence of the questioner, his nominated representative asked a supplementary question. A written reply would be sent after the meeting.

29. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meetings held on 18th July 2022 and 21st September 2022

Recommendation of Cabinet from its meeting held on 18th July 2022 – Montem Site Appropriation

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That Council resolves to appropriate the Montem site to planning (shown edged red in the plan at Appendix 1 to the report) under section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 on the grounds that the acquisition will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment or improvement on or in relation to the land, and the proposed development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to achieving the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole, or any part, of their area.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed with 34 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved - That the Montem site be appropriated to planning (as shown edged red in the plan at Appendix 1 to the report) under section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 on the grounds that the acquisition will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment or improvement on or in relation to the land, and the proposed development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to achieving the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole, or any part, of their area.

Recommendation of Cabinet from its meeting held on 21st September 2022 – Financial Action Plan Update

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That the progress and issues arising from the continued work on the Financial Action Plan be noted.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed with 28 votes for, 1 against and 7 abstentions.

Resolved - That the progress and issues arising from the continued work on the Financial Action Plan be noted.

30. Appointment of Returning Officer and Monitoring Officer

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Mann,

- a) "Approve the designation of the statutory post of Returning Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer to the role of Chief Operating Officer;
- b) Note the decision by the commissioners to appoint and designate Stephen Taylor as Monitoring Officer from 1 October 2022."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 34 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved -

- a) That the designation of the statutory post of Returning Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer to the role of Chief Operating Officer be approved;
- b) That the decision by the commissioners to appoint and designate Stephen Taylor as Monitoring Officer from 1 October 2022 be noted.

31. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

A) Supporting Kinship Care in Slough

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Hulme

"This Council notes-

- Kinship Care (also known as family and friends care) is any circumstances where a child is being raised by a friend or family member other than their parent.

This Council believes that-

- That Kinship Care should always be considered as an option, when there are concerns about whether a child can remain at home.
- Central Government should ensure that Kinship households are adequately supported including financially and through properly resourced local authorities to deliver local support.

Slough Borough Council therefore resolves:

- To listen to the voices of Kinship Carers and the children that they are raising when developing new policies.
- To work with our local authority Children's Company (SCF) to ensure there is information for current and prospective Kinship Carers about the options available to them and any support that they may be eligible for, including access to benefits advice, therapeutic support via the Adoption

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Support Fund and where they can access specialist independent legal advice.

- To work with children and families and SCF to draw on best practice in formulating future local policy and practices relating to Kinship Care, including support services and financial support, ensuring these are consistent with legislation, statutory guidance, recent case law and Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman decisions.
- To ensure Kinship Carers are included in recognition and awareness activities, along with the children that they are raising.
- To write to the Secretary of State for Education to urge the government to implement the recommendations the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England has made for investment in early help for families and unlocking the power of family networks.”

The motion was put to the vote and carried with 34 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved -

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- To listen to the voices of Kinship Carers and the children that they are raising when developing new policies.
- To work with our local authority Children's Company (SCF) to ensure there is information for current and prospective Kinship Carers about the options available to them and any support that they may be eligible for, including access to benefits advice, therapeutic support via the Adoption Support Fund and where they can access specialist independent legal advice.
- To work with children and families and SCF to draw on best practice in formulating future local policy and practices relating to Kinship Care, including support services and financial support, ensuring these are consistent with legislation, statutory guidance, recent case law and Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman decisions.
- To ensure Kinship Carers are included in recognition and awareness activities, along with the children that they are raising.
- To write to the Secretary of State for Education to urge the government to implement the recommendations the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England has made for investment in early help for families and unlocking the power of family networks.

B) Awareness Suicide Prevention Month

It was moved by Councillor Akram,
Seconded by Councillor Kelly,

“This Council acknowledges the importance of Suicide Prevention Month and resolves to help to raise further awareness on suicide prevention.

We therefore resolve to:

- Encourage Council owned companies, contractors and partners to join the Council as members of the National Suicide Prevention Alliance; to improve awareness of mental health support, resilience networks and support offers to tackle the stigma associated with mental health issues and support suicide prevention across the borough for all ages ranges and communities;
- Write to the minister of State (Minister for Care and Mental Health) to ask that they review the national ambition of a 10% annual reduction in light of the current context for suicide prevention as set out by NCISH and others and aim for a "Zero Suicide" style approach focussed on the priority groups identified at national, Regional and local levels."

The motion was put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved –

This Council acknowledges the importance of Suicide Prevention Month and resolves to help to raise further awareness on suicide prevention.

We therefore resolve to:

- Encourage Council owned companies, contractors and partners to join the Council as members of the National Suicide Prevention Alliance; to improve awareness of mental health support, resilience networks and support offers to tackle the stigma associated with mental health issues and support suicide prevention across the borough for all ages ranges and communities;
- Write to the minister of State (Minister for Care and Mental Health) to ask that they review the national ambition of a 10% annual reduction in light of the current context for suicide prevention as set out by NCISH and others and aim for a "Zero Suicide" style approach focussed on the priority groups identified at national, Regional and local levels.

32. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

None received.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.25 pm)