

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 Tuesday, 28th March, 2023 at 7pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Dilbagh Parmar), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Akbar, Akram, Ali (until 8.32pm), Anderson, Bains, Basra, M. Bedi, P. Bedi, Brooker, Carter, Cheema, Dar, Gahir, Gill, Grewal, Hulme, Kaur, Kelly, M. Malik, S. Malik (until 7.30pm), Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Muvvala, Nazir, Pantelic, S. Parmar, Qaseem, Sabah, Sandhu, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Begum, J. Davis and R. Davis.

65. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

66. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 26th January 2023 and 9th March 2023

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 26th January 2023 and 9th March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

67. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor stated that it had been a busy and fulfilling year attending community events, including having had the privilege of meeting His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in Slough and attending the loyal address to His Majesty the King earlier in the month.

The Mayor thanked outgoing councillors and those not standing and wished them all the best in their future endeavours. In particular, thanks were given to Councillor Swindlehurst and Councillor Pantelic for proposing and seconding his mayoral nomination.

Thanks and appreciation were given to Democratic Services and Facilities for all their support and assistance to the Mayoral Office.

The Mayor also placed on record thanks to his wife and family for their support during his mayoral term.

68. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

Five elector questions had been received. Three electors were present and asked a supplementary question. A written reply to the electors would be sent after the meeting.

(The meeting adjourned at 7.30pm to allow those members observing Ramadan to break their fast. The meeting re-convened at 7.55pm)

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69. Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting held on 22nd March 2023

It was moved by Councillor Gahir,
Seconded by Councillor Qaseem,

“That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23 as attached at Appendix A be endorsed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried with 33 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved - That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23 as attached at Appendix A be endorsed.

70. Members Allowance Scheme - Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel

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

- (a) “Endorse the Independent Remuneration Panel appointments made under existing delegated authority by the Monitoring Officer on 7 March 2023;
- (b) That the Independent Remuneration Panel’s recommendations as set out in Appendix A to the report be agreed;
- (c) That the agreed recommendations be implemented from the date of the Council’s AGM in May 2023, with the exception of any recommendations relating to the index-linking of members’ basic allowance which should be implemented from 1 April 2023 to ensure there is no break in the council’s scheme.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 29 votes for, 2 against and 4 abstentions.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Independent Remuneration Panel appointments made under existing delegated authority by the Monitoring Officer on 7 March 2023 be endorsed;
- (b) That the Independent Remuneration Panel’s recommendations as set out in Appendix A to the report be agreed;
- (c) That the agreed recommendations be implemented from the date of the Council’s AGM in May 2023, with the exception of any recommendations relating to the index-linking of members’ basic allowance which should be implemented from 1 April 2023 to ensure there is no break in the council’s scheme.

71. Calendar of Meetings 2023/2024

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

- (a) "That the Calendar of Meetings for the period May 2023 to May 2024, as set out in Appendix A of this report, be approved.
- (b) That the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager be authorised to make amendments to the Calendar throughout the year, including from those resulting from any constitutional changes that may be agreed, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 32 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved -

- (a) That the Calendar of Meetings for the period May 2023 to May 2024, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.
- (b) That the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager be authorised to make amendments to the Calendar throughout the year, including from those resulting from any constitutional changes that may be agreed, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

72. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

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

"Anti-social behaviour is a scourge on too many residents' lives across the country and in parts of our town. Anti-social behaviour and environmental crime have negative impacts on an area and on perceptions about the safety of residential communities- this Council therefore reaffirms its commitment to working with local residents and partner organisations to help ensure Slough's neighbourhoods are strong, healthy and attractive places to live.

As part of its wider recovery work and community engagement, Slough Borough Council therefore resolves to:

- Work with and support victims of anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
- Strengthen partnerships between the police, the council and residents' groups and involve local people in designing solutions for their area
- Work to respond better and more quickly to anti-social behaviour complaints
- Work to keep public spaces clean and litter free, and to carry out core maintenance and repairs when required

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- Act promptly to clear dumped rubbish from public space and local parks
- Work with Neighbourhood Watch to grow the number of active local Neighbourhood Watch groups across the borough; and with residents and the police to establish Neighbourhood Action Groups for a joined-up approach in tackling ASB and local environmental problems where they impact our communities.”

The motion was put to the vote and carried with 30 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved -

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- Act promptly to clear dumped rubbish from public space and local parks
- Work with Neighbourhood Watch to grow the number of active local Neighbourhood Watch groups across the borough; and with residents and the police to establish Neighbourhood Action Groups for a joined-up approach in tackling ASB and local environmental problems where they impact our communities.

73. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

Two Member questions had been received within the relevant time period. The questions and replies were noted.

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74. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Councillor Swindlehurst moved and Councillor Pantelic seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor for his service during the past municipal year. A number of other Members also added their thanks to the Mayor.

75. Vote of thanks to the Retiring Deputy Mayor

Councillor Akram moved and Councillor Gahir seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Deputy Mayor for his service during the past municipal year. A number of other Members also added their thanks to the Deputy Mayor.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7pm and closed at 9pm)