

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday 18th May, 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Parmar), in the chair; Councillors Abbasi, E. Ahmed, I. Ahmed, Akram, Anderson, Bedi, Carter, Chahal, Dar, Dauti, Dhillon, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Iftakhar, Instone, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Mohindra, Muvvala, Nazir, Naveed, O'Kelly, Qaseem, Rana, J. Sabah, W. Sabah, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Ajaib

1. To Elect the Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor O'Kelly seconded the nomination of Councillor Abbasi.

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the nomination:

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O'Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

There voted against the nomination:

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 15

There abstained from voting:

Councillors Dar and Parmar (The Worshipful The Mayor) 2

The Chief Executive declared Councillor Abbasi elected Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the 2023/24 municipal year. Councillor Abbasi, having made and signed the requisite declaration of acceptance of office, was thereupon installed in the Chair.

(The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Abbasi, in the Chair)

Resolved – That Councillor Abbasi be elected as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

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2. To Elect the Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Manku proposed and Councillor Chahal seconded the nomination of Councillor Dhillon.

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the nomination:

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O’Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

There voted against the nomination:

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Parmar, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 16

There abstained from voting:

Councillor Dar 1

The Chief Executive declared Councillor Dhillon elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Slough for the 2023/24 municipal year. Councillor Dhillon made and signed the requisite declaration of acceptance of office.

Resolved – That Councillor Dhillon be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

3. Return of Councillors Elected on 4th May 2023

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor I.Ahmed,

- (i) “Note and welcome the return of Councillors elected to Slough Borough Council on 4th May 2023, as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report.
- (ii) Thank retiring members for their public service.”

It was moved by Councillor Hulme, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Mann,

- (i) “Note and welcome the return of Councillors elected to Slough Borough Council on 4th May 2023, as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report.
- (ii) Thank retiring members for their public service.”
- (iii) **Instruct the Returning Officer to formally write to the Electoral Commission to raise this Council’s concerns with voter ID and the impact it has had on our residents.**

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- (iv) Instruct the Returning Officer to prepare a further detailed report on this matter, including a ward by ward breakdown, as well as analysis into residents who did not go to vote due to voter ID requirements by conducting interviews with candidates, community groups and other interested parties and report back to the next full council meeting.”

The amendments were put to the vote and a prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the amendments to the recommendations as tabled:

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Dar, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Parmar, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 17

There voted against the amendments to the recommendations:

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O’Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

The amendments to the recommendations were not carried.

The original recommendations were put to the vote and a prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the recommendations:

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O’Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

There abstained from voting on the recommendations:

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Dar, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Parmar, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 17

Resolved –

- (i) Note and welcome the return of Councillors elected to Slough Borough Council on 4th May 2023, as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report.
- (ii) Thank retiring members for their public service.

4. Declarations of Interest

None received.

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5. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 28th March 2023

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

6. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor thanked his predecessor, Councillor Dilbagh Parmar for being the First Citizen of Slough 2022/23 and Mrs Amarjit Parmar as Mayoress.

New and existing Members who were elected at the local elections were welcomed to the meeting.

The Mayor announced that former Leader and Councillor Richard Stokes had passed away on 22nd April 2023. Councillor Stokes was first elected to the council in 1983 and led the Liberal Group on the council from 1990 and from the early 2000s led the group of Britwellian, Independent, Liberal and Liberal Democrats (BILLD) group.

Following elections in 2004 where the council became No Overall Control, the BILLD group formed a joint administration with the Conservative group and Councillor Stokes became Leader of the council; a position he held until 2008. Councillor Stokes retired from the council in 2012 following 29 years of service.

(A minute silence was observed by the Council)

7. Election of Leader of the Council

It was moved by Councillor Bedi,
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

“That Councillor Smith be elected as Leader of the Council for a four-year term, expiring on the day of the post-election annual meeting which follows his election as Leader, unless the term ceases earlier in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution.”

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the recommendation:

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O’Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

There voted against the recommendation:

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Dar, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Parmar, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 17

Resolved - That Councillor Smith be elected as Leader of the Council for a four-year term, expiring on the day of the post-election annual

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meeting which follows his election as Leader, unless the term ceases earlier in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution.

8. Review of the Council's Constitution

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

“That Council

1. Consider and adopt the amendments set out in the appendices namely:
 - a. The Articles – changes to the Introduction and Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17.
 - b. Responsibility for Functions – Parts 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8.
 - c. Procedure Rules – Parts 4.2, 4.5, 4.7.
2. Note the intention to review those parts of the Constitution highlighted in Appendix 1 later in 2023, following consideration by the member working group on the constitution.
3. Agree that the amendments to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting.”

It was moved by Councillor Hulme, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Mann,

“That Council

1. Consider and adopt the amendments set out in the appendices namely:
 - a. The Articles – changes to the Introduction and Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17.
 - b. Responsibility for Functions – Parts 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8.
 - c. Procedure Rules – Parts 4.2, 4.5, 4.7.
2. Note the intention to review those parts of the Constitution highlighted in Appendix 1 later in 2023, following consideration by the member working group on the constitution.
3. Agree that the amendments to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting.
4. **Instruct the Member Working Group to consider and include a provision for emergency motions within the constitution.”**

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the amendment to the recommendations:

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Dar, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Parmar, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 17

There voted against the amendment to the recommendations:

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O’Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

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The amendment to the recommendation was not carried.

The original recommendations were put to the vote and a prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the recommendations:

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O'Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

There voted against the recommendations:

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Dar, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Parmar, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 17

Resolved -

That Council

1. Adopt the amendments set out in the appendices namely:
 - a. The Articles – changes to the Introduction and Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17.
 - b. Responsibility for Functions – Parts 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8.
 - c. Procedure Rules – Parts 4.2, 4.5, 4.7.
2. Note the intention to review those parts of the Constitution highlighted in Appendix 1 later in 2023, following consideration by the member working group on the constitution.
3. Agree that the amendments to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting.

9. James Elliman's Trust

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

- (a) “That Council agree to act as corporate trustee of the charity known as the James Elliman's Trust in place of the current named individuals trustees.
- (b) That Council appoint the Trustee Committee to discharge its responsibilities as corporate trustee of the James Elliman's Trust.
- (c) Subject to agreeing to (a) and (b) above, note that officers will amend the terms of reference of the Trustee Committee to include the James Elliman's Trust within the list of charities administered by that Committee, and update the register of trustees at the Charity Commission to record that Slough Borough Council is the sole corporate trustee of the charity.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

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Resolved –

- (a) That Council act as corporate trustee of the charity known as the James Elliman's Trust in place of the current named individuals trustees.
- (b) That Council appoint the Trustee Committee to discharge its responsibilities as corporate trustee of the James Elliman's Trust.
- (c) Note that officers will amend the terms of reference of the Trustee Committee to include the James Elliman's Trust within the list of charities administered by that Committee, and update the register of trustees at the Charity Commission to record that Slough Borough Council is the sole corporate trustee of the charity.

10. Appointment of Cabinet, Committees and Other Bodies and their Chairs and Allocation of Political Group Officer Support

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

- (a) “That Committees and other bodies be appointed, that their sizes be adjusted as necessary to facilitate proportionality, and seats thereon allocated to political groups in accordance with the rules of proportionality where applicable, all as per Appendix 1.
- (b) That appointments be made to Committees and other bodies in accordance with the nominations received from political groups as set out in Appendix 2.
- (c) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the above bodies be appointed as set out in Appendix 2.
- (d) That the report of the Leader on appointment of the Deputy Leader and Lead Members (the Cabinet) and their portfolios be received as set out in Appendix 2.
- (e) That Political Group Officer support to Political Groups is agreed for the 2023/24 municipal year – that a full time Political Group Officer be allocated to the Conservative Group and Labour Group respectively.
- (f) To approve the timetable of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2023/2024 as set out in the report.”

It was moved by Councillor Mann, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Anderson,

- (a) “That Committees and other bodies be appointed **as per previous municipal years**. ~~that their sizes be adjusted as necessary to facilitate proportionality, and seats thereon allocated to political groups in accordance with the rules of proportionality where applicable, all as per Appendix 1.~~”

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A prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the amendment to recommendation (a):

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Dar, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Parmar, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 17

There voted against the amendment to recommendation (a):

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O’Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

The amendment to the recommendation was not carried.

It was moved by Councillor Mann, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Hulme,

(c) “That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs **to be appointed by their respective committees at their first meetings.** ~~of the above bodies be appointed as set out in Appendix 2.~~”

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the amendment to recommendation (c):

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Dar, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Parmar, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 17

There voted against the amendment to recommendation (c):

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O’Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

The amendment to the recommendation was not carried.

The original recommendations were put to the vote and a prior request having been made for the record of the voting –

There voted for the recommendations:

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, I.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Iftakhar, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O’Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar, Wright and Zarait..... 24

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There voted against the recommendations:

Councillors Akram, Anderson, Carter, Dar, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Nazir, Parmar, Qaseem, J.Sabah and W.Sabah..... 17

Resolved -

- (a) That Committees and other bodies be appointed, that their sizes be adjusted as necessary to facilitate proportionality, and seats thereon allocated to political groups in accordance with the rules of proportionality where applicable, as per Appendix 1.
- (b) That appointments be made to Committees and other bodies in accordance with the nominations received from political groups as set out in Appendix 2.
- (c) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the above bodies be appointed as set out in Appendix 2.
- (d) That the report of the Leader on appointment of the Deputy Leader and Lead Members (the Cabinet) and their portfolios be received as set out in Appendix 2.
- (e) That Political Group Officer support to Political Groups is agreed for the 2023/24 municipal year – that a full time Political Group Officer be allocated to the Conservative Group and Labour Group respectively.
- (f) To approve the timetable of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2023/2024 as set out in the report.

11. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2023/24

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

“That the appointments and nominations to the outside bodies as set out in Appendices A and B to the report, for the Municipal year 2023/24, be agreed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the appointments and nominations to the outside bodies as set out in Appendices A and B to the report, for the Municipal year 2023/24, be agreed.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.45 pm)