

# MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 22 January 2014 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Olufunke Abidoye, Jackie Addison, Obajimi Adefiranye, Anne Affiku, Christine Allison, Abdeslam Amrani, Pauline Beck, Paul Bell, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, John Bowen, David Britton, Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Suzannah Clarke, Liam Curran, Janet Daby, Vincent Davis, Amanda De Ryk, Damien Egan, Alexander Feakes, Peggy Fitzsimmons, Julia Fletcher, Vicky Foxcroft, Sven Griesenbeck, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Michael Harris, Ami Ibitson, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Darren Johnson, Helen Klier, Chris Maines, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Marion Nisbet, Philip Peake, Alan Smith, Eva Stamirowski, Alan Till, Dan Whittle and Susan Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Duwayne Brooks, Councillor Patsy Foreman, Councillor Helen Gibson, Councillor Madeliene Long, Councillor Crada Onuegbu, Councillor Stephen Padmore, Councillor Jacq Paschoud and Councillor John Paschoud

## 178. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Muldoon declared a personal interest in Item 9 as an elected member of the SLAM Foundation Trust.

Councillor Allison declared a personal interest in Item 9 as a member of the Board of Quo Vadis.

Councillor Johnson declared a personal interest in Item 14 as a member of the LFEPA.

## 179. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on November 27 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 180. Announcements or Communications

### *Obituaries*

The Chair reported the deaths of Councillor Sam Owolabi-Oluyole, former Councillor Jim Stevenson, Nelson Mandela and Chris Chataway the MP for Lewisham North 1959-66.

The Chair welcomed members of Councillor Sam Owolabi-Oluyole's family who were in attendance at the meeting. The Chair paid a personal tribute to Sam Owolabi-Oluyole who he had known before they both became councillors, and he recounted him as a quintessential Yoruba man who embraced his cultural traditions and who was loyal, dependable, respectful and would be fondly remembered.

The Chair was joined in his comments by the Mayor who expressed shock

upon hearing the news of Sam's death and paid tribute to his record as a strong and conscientious advocate for Deptford who would be greatly missed.

Councillor Maines associated himself and his group with the views expressed and praised Sam as a polite gentleman with an iron will who was not afraid to express an independent view and had been the first member of the authority to issue a Councillor Call for Action.

Councillor Johnson expressed sadness that Sam had not recovered from his illness and stated they had both joined the authority in 2002 and served together on Planning and Housing Committees where he always found him to be a thoughtful and compassionate man.

Councillor Ingleby said he had known Sam since the mid 1990's and when he joined the Council in 2002 they had both served on several committees together. He said he appreciated Sam's keen Deptford focus and the kind encouragement he had been given when they had both served as Council members.

The Chair reported on efforts made in Lewisham to mark the death of Nelson Mandela which included the organisation of a well attended memorial service and his visit to South Africa House in Central London to sign the official book of condolence.

The Mayor paid individual tributes to Nelson Mandela, Chris Chataway and former Councillor Jim Stevenson.

All present observed a one minute silence in memory of those who had died.

#### *Freedom of the Borough Ceremony*

The Council noted the date for the Baroness Lawrence ceremony would now be March 14 2014

#### *Councillor Clutten*

The Chair, on behalf of the council, congratulated Councillor Jenni Clutten on the birth of a daughter, Evelina.

#### *New Year's Honours List*

The Council noted the awards made to persons with a Lewisham connection.

#### *Ekurhuleni*

The Chair welcomed to the meeting three visitors from Ekurhuleni, Ms Them bani Banda, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Mrs Khosi Dlamini, Whippyery Manager and Mr Edwin Mokgwatsana, Head of the Customer Services Department.

#### *Scheme of Delegation: Public Realm Works*

The Council noted an amendment to the Mayoral Scheme of Delegation that gave effect to a resolution that all Public Realm Works Contracts worth over £100,000 were to be reserved to the Mayor and Cabinet Contracts Committee for determination.

*Holocaust Memorial Day January 26 2014*

Councillor Pauline Morrison, Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Committee, paid tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and all genocides. She reminded members that since the creation of Holocaust Memorial Day in 2001, the Council marked the day with two events each year. One was the multi-faith service at the Catford and Bromley synagogue and the other was a production featuring young people from a range of Lewisham schools, performing poetry, drama, dance and singing at the Broadway Theatre.

Councillor Morrison then introduced the London Cantorial Choir directed by David Druce who performed for the Council. Minister at the synagogue, Reverend David Rome, then spoke to the Council, and read out a moving testimonial from an 85 year old Holocaust survivor who was to be present at the Broadway Theatre on January 26. He concluded by lighting a candle in memory of Holocaust victims. All present then observed a minute's silence to remember all those who perished in the Holocaust.

**181. Petitions**

Councillor Fletcher presented a petition bearing 22 names calling on the Council to repair the fence bordering Ambleside and the alleyway at the back of the gardens of Ashgrove Road, Bromley BR1.

Councillor Till presented a petition bearing 80 names calling on the Council to make Houston Road a no through road except for access and emergency vehicles.

**182. Public questions**

8 questions were received from the following member of the public which were answered by the Cabinet Member indicated. A copy of the questions and answers will be circulated separately.

1.	Ray Woolford	Cllr Wise
2.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Smith
3.	Peter Richardson	Mayor
4.	Ray Woolford	Cllr Wise
5.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Muldoon
6.	Peter Richardson	Cllr Smith
7.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Best
8.	Mary McKernan	Cllr Smith

**183. Member questions**

29 questions were asked from Members of the Council and written answers

were provided by the Members indicated.

1.	Cllr Johnson	Cllr Smith
2.	Cllr Feakes	Cllr Wise
3.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Wise
4.	Cllr Maines	Cllr Wise
5.	Cllr Fletcher	Cllr Maslin
6.	Cllr Feakes	Cllr Wise
7.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Smith
8.	Cllr Maines	Cllr Maslin
9.	Cllr Fletcher	Cllr Maslin
10.	Cllr Feakes	Cllr Smith
11.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Smith
12.	Cllr Maines	Cllr Smith
13.	Cllr Fletcher	Cllr Smith
14.	Cllr Feakes	Cllr Maslin
15.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Smith
16.	Cllr Maines	Mayor
17.	Cllr Fletcher	Cllr Maslin
18.	Cllr Feakes	Cllr Klier
19.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Wise
20.	Cllr Maines	Cllr Wise
21.	Cllr Fletcher	Cllr Klier
22.	Cllr Feakes	Cllr Wise
23.	Cllr Feakes	Cllr Smith
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b>		
24.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Klier
25.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Klier
26.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Klier
27.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Klier
28.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Klier
29.	Cllr Brooks	Cllr Klier

**184. Setting the Council Tax Base, the NNDR Base & Discounts for Second Homes and Empty Homes**

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Paul Maslin, moved that the recommendations in the main report and in the supplementary agenda relating to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme be approved and this was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Councillor Susan Wise and it was:

RESOLVED that

- 1) A Council Tax Base of 73,941.2 Band D equivalent properties be approved for 2014/15;
- 2) The Council Tax Base calculation for 2014/15, as set out in the annual Council Tax Base government return, be noted;

- 3) The budgeted Council Tax collection rate of 95.5% be approved;
- 4) A 0% discount for second homes for 2014/15 be continued;
- 5) A 0% discount for empty homes – Class A (an empty property undergoing structural alteration or major repair to make it habitable) be continued;
- 6) A 100% discount awarded for a period of four weeks and then a 0% discount thereafter, for empty homes – Class C (a substantially empty and unfurnished property) be continued;
- 7) An empty homes premium of 50% applied in respect of long term empty properties be continued;
- 8) The proposed National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) estimated net yield of £45.964m, based on the NNDR mid-year forecast for 2013/14, be noted; and
- 9) A local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2014/15 that passes on the government cut in grant in full be retained, as set out in the Mayor & Cabinet report on 4 December 2013.

#### **185. Independent Person Appointments**

The Chair of the Standards Committee, Councillor Jim Mallory, moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee, Councillor Pauline Morrison. Following a contribution from Councillor Maines who queried the appointment of a candidate from Newcastle, there was a response from Councillor Mallory who confirmed the appointments were both properly made and the most proximate appointee would be used primarily and it was:

RESOLVED that Erica Pienaar and Wendy Innes be appointed to act as the Independent Person for the London Borough of Lewisham until further notice.

#### **186. Health and Wellbeing Board Voluntary Sector Representative**

The Cabinet Member for Community Services, Councillor Chris Best, moved that the recommendation be approved and this was seconded by the Chair of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, Councillor John Muldoon and it was:

RESOLVED that Peter Ramrayka be appointed to the Health and Wellbeing Board as a voluntary sector representative.

#### **187. Appointments**

Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Jeffrey, moved that Councillor Morrison be appointed. Councillor Maines, seconded by Councillor Feakes, moved that Councillor Brooks be appointed. The Chair conducted a ballot and declared Councillor Morrison elected by 31 votes to 9 and it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Pauline Morrison be appointed to the Shadow

Safer Neighbourhood Board and to the Safer Neighborhood Board when established.

**188. Motion 1 Proposed by Councillor Fletcher and Seconded by Councillor Maines**

The Chair ruled that as motions 1 and 3 covered the same topic, there would be one debate in the round and then sequential votes.

Motion 1 was moved by Councillor Fletcher and seconded by Councillor Maines.

Motion 3 was moved by Councillor Morrison and seconded by Councillor Wise.

There was then a general debate to which Councillors Johnson, Peake, Allison, Smith, Hall, Bonavia, and Clarke contributed. There was then a reply by Councillor Fletcher and motion 1 was put to the vote and declared to be clearly lost.

**189. Motion 2 Proposed by Councillor Maines and Seconded by Councillor Feakes**

Motion 2 was moved by Councillor Maines and seconded by Councillor Bowen. The movers accepted in entirety an amendment offered by Councillors Stamirowski and Wise.

There was then a debate to which Councillors Smith, Egan, Harris, Stamirowski, Wise and Hall contributed. There was then a reply by Councillor Maines and the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that the following motion be approved:

““This Council recognizes the dangers of Fixed Odds Betting Machines and their proliferation throughout the borough, and fully supports action to give local communities powers to tackle the number of Fixed Odds Betting Machines in their areas.

Council is concerned that the clustering of betting shops in or close to deprived communities is being driven by increasing revenue from fixed odds betting terminals (FOBT) rather than traditional over the counter betting;

Council believes that this has encouraged betting shop operators to open more than one premises in close proximity to one another; is aware of the growing concern in many communities about the detrimental effect this is having on the diversity and character of UK high streets;

Council is alarmed that people can stake as much as £100 every 20 seconds on these machines and is further concerned that the practice of single staffing

in betting shops leaves staff vulnerable and deters them from intervening if customers suffer heavy losses thereby undermining efforts by the betting industry to protect vulnerable customers;

Council further believes that local authorities should be able to establish a separate planning class for betting shops and that they should be given additional licensing powers to determine the number of FOBT machines within existing and proposed shops and to require that the machines are modified to slow the rate of play and to interrupt when people play for long periods. Council calls on the Government to put local people before the interests of the betting shop operators and give local authorities the powers they need to respond to concerns from their local communities and stop the proliferation of FOBT machines and betting shops.”

#### **190. Motion 3 Proposed by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Wise**

The debate on Motion 3 took place together with that for Motion 1. Councillor Morrison waived her right to reply and it was:

RESOLVED that the following motion be approved;

“The Council notes with concern statistics released on 3rd September 2013 which placed Lewisham as the 12th worst borough affected by air pollution.

The Council notes that the coalition Government consulted on changes with the Local Air Quality Management Review which was widely criticised as an attempt to hide the facts about air pollution. The council did respond and this is noted.

The Council further notes that the Government have published a response to this consultation announcing that a further review is due in 2014.

The Council notes that nitrogen dioxide contributes to respiratory problems, particularly with regards to aggravating asthma and causing problems such as colds, flu and bronchitis. Children with asthma are particularly put at risk by these levels of pollution. Emergency hospital admissions in Lewisham for asthma for those aged under 19 are significantly higher than the UK average.

Council notes that most of the air pollution within an urban area such as London arises from emissions from motor vehicles.

Council notes that Mayor of London also has responsibility for the quality of air in London and that he has failed to address the issue since he was elected to office.

Council further notes that regular air quality monitoring takes place in the borough and that areas which fail to meet the Air Quality Objectives are designated as Air Quality Management Areas and an Air Quality Action Plan put in place with measures aimed at reducing the concentrations. Measures contained in the Air Quality Action Plan include encouraging cycling and

walking.

Council calls on the Mayor of London to take urgent action to tackle the levels of nitrogen dioxide in the air and focus on reducing the number of cars on our roads by reducing public transport fares.

Council urges the Mayor of London to take air quality into account when considering any further river crossings in East London.

Council commits to continuing to monitor the quality of air in the borough and will continue to implement the Air Quality Action Plans where appropriate and will respond to the forthcoming Government consultation likewise”.

**191. Motion 4 Proposed by Councillor Ingleby and Seconded by Councillor Britton**

Motion 4 was moved by Councillor Ingleby and seconded by Councillor Britton.

Councillor Hall then moved, and Councillor Daby seconded, a motion without notice that the question be now put which put to the vote without debate and declared to be carried.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried with one abstention.

RESOLVED that the following motion be approved;

“The Council condemns the closure of ten fire stations across London including Downham by Boris Johnson, Mayor of London on Thursday 9th January 2014.

The Council remains gravely concerned that the fire station closures together with the loss of 552 firefighters and significant service reductions will increase response times and reduce the fire service capacity throughout London.

This Council is committed to protecting the lives of Lewisham residents and will continue to monitor the impact of the reductions in fire cover and raise local concerns. Therefore, the Council calls upon the Mayor of Lewisham to write to Boris Johnson, Mayor of London with our condemnation and concerns.”

**192. Motion 5 Proposed by Councillor Bonavia and Seconded by Councillor Handley**

Motion 5 was moved by Councillor Bonavia and seconded by Councillor Handley.

There was then a debate to which Councillor Griesenbeck contributed. There was then a reply by Councillor Bonavia and the motion was put to the vote



and declared to be carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that the following motion be approved:

“Council condemns the above inflation fare increases being imposed by Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, at the same time that he is planning to cut 750 frontline station staff across the network.

The result will be that Londoners will be paying more money for a worse service with the price of a Zone 1 to 4 annual travelcard increasing by 3.2% to £1,800 and bus pay as you go services going up to £1.45, an annual increase of 4.8% but representing a 55p rise since 2008. Council notes that these are just 2 examples of the inflation busting increases coming in on 19th January. Council notes that despite his promises bus fares have now risen by over 60% since Boris Johnson became Mayor in 2008 and this comes at a time when Londoners are being hit by rising prices for food, fuel and other basic living costs ”