

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 27 November 2013 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, 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, Patsy Foreman, Vicky Foxcroft, Helen Gibson, 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, Crada Onuegbu, Stephen Padmore, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Philip Peake, Alan Smith, Eva Stamirowski, Alan Till, Dan Whittle and Susan Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Duwayne Brooks, Councillor Madeliene Long and Councillor Sam Owolabi-Oluyole.

158. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Muldoon declared a personal interest in Item 8 as an elected governor of the SLAM Foundation Trust.

Councillor Onuegbu declared a personal interest in Item 8 as an appointed governor of the SLAM Foundation Trust.

Councillor Ingleby declared a personal interest in his question on Item 7 as a Friend of the Grove Park Nature Reserve.

Councillor Feakes declared a personal interest in Item 19 as a member of a Teaching Trade Union.

159. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 19 September 2013 and 8 November 2013 be signed as a correct record.

160. Announcements or Communications

(1) Mr John Collins

The Mayor reported on the 50 years of service given to the Council and predecessor authorities by lifelong resident Mr John Collins and he recorded his thanks for the contribution that had been made.

(2) Special Meetings of the Council

The Council noted the date of the special meeting of the Council to conduct a Freedom ceremony for Doreen Lawrence would now be January 31 2014 at 6pm.

(3) Councillor Sam Owolabi-Oluyole

The Chair proposed, and Councillor Jeffrey seconded, a proposal that the Council agrees a request from Councillor Owolabi-Oluyole for a six month leave of absence on ill health grounds.

RESOLVED that Councillor Sam Owolabi-Oluyole be granted a six month leave of absence from November 28 2013 to May 25 2014.

161. Petitions

Councillor Maines, presented a petition bearing 14 names asking the Council to address road safety issues in Baizdon Road and Southvale Road as part of the expansion of John Ball Primary School.

Mr Clive Baulch and Mr John Hamilton presented a public petition bearing 1505 names calling on the Council to refrain from starting possession proceedings against council tenants who fall behind with their rent as a direct result of the bedroom tax.

162. Young Mayor

The Chair introduced the new Young Mayor, Emmanuel Olaniyan and Deputy Young Mayor, Titanya Murdock. The Chair noted it was Emmanuel's birthday and extended birthday greetings to him. The Mayor spoke to the item and congratulated the successful candidates on their success at the polls He noted this would be the tenth year of the scheme and he pointed to the enduring success of the Young Mayoralty which he continued to believe had been established as a permanent and valued feature of the Lewisham landscape and had attracted a consistently high calibre of successful candidates and interest. He thanked the outgoing Young Mayor, Jamel Higgins, for his service in what was regarded as another very successful year.

The new Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor then signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and an undertaking to abide by the Code of Practice for their respective roles which were witnessed by the Chief Executive.

The outgoing Young Mayor, addressed the meeting and thanked the Council for the opportunities given to him during his year of office which he believed had changed his life for ever, and for the help and support he had received from their Young Advisers, the Mayor and officers in the Mayor's Office.

163. Public questions

35 questions were received from the following member of the public

which was answered by the Cabinet Member indicated. A copy of the questions and answers will be circulated separately.

| | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Ray Woolford | Cllr Maslin |
| 2. | John Hamilton | Cllr Smith |
| 3. | Dermot McKibbin | Cllr Wise |
| 4. | Mr Ambrose | Cllr Wise |
| 5. | Mrs P Richardson | Cllr Best |
| 6. | Dave Edgerton | Cllr Klier |
| 7. | Kenneth Maxton | Cllr Wise |
| 8. | Mr P Richardson | Cllr Best |
| 9. | Steven Mills | Cllr Wise |
| 10. | Mr Nundy | Cllr Maslin |
| 11. | Ray Woolford | Cllr Best |
| 12. | Dermot McKibbin | Cllr Wise |
| 13. | Mr Ambrose | Cllr Daby |
| 14. | Mrs P Richardson | Cllr Wise |
| 15. | Dave Edgerton | Cllr Wise |
| 16. | Kenneth Maxton | Cllr Smith |
| 17. | Mr P Richardson | Cllr Best |
| 18. | Steven Mills | Cllr Wise |
| 19. | Ray Woolford | Cllr Wise |
| 20. | Dermot McKibbin | Cllr Wise |
| 21. | Dave Edgerton | Cllr Smith |
| 22. | Mrs P Richardson | Cllr Best |
| 23. | Mr P Richardson | Cllr Best |
| 24. | Steven Mills | Cllr Wise |
| 25. | Ray Woolford | The Mayor |
| 26. | Dermot McKibbin | Cllr Wise |
| 27. | Mrs P Richardson | Cllr Smith |
| 28. | Steven Mills | Cllr Wise |
| 29. | Ray Woolford | Cllr Klier |
| 30. | Dermot McKibbin | Cllr Wise |
| 31. | Steven Mills | Cllr Wise |
| 32. | Ray Woolford | Cllr Smith |
| 33. | Steven Mills | Cllr Wise |
| 34. | Ray Woolford | Cllr Wise |
| 35. | Ray Woolford | Cllr Wise |

164. Member questions

45 questions were asked from Members of the Council and written answers were provided by the Members indicated.

| | | |
|----|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | Cllr.Harris | Cllr.Maslin |
| 2. | Cllr.Brooks | Mayor |
| 3. | Cllr.Ingleby | Cllr.Smith |
| 4. | Cllr.Hall | Mayor |
| 5. | Cllr.Johnson | Cllr.Smith |

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 6. | Cllr.Curran | Mayor |
| 7. | Cllr.De Ryk | Mayor |
| 8. | Cllr.Ibitson | Cllr.Smith |
| 9. | Cllr.Maines | Cllr.Smith |
| 10. | Cllr.Foreman | Cllr.Daby |
| 11. | Cllr.Bonavia | Cllr.Best |
| 12. | Cllr.Jacq Paschoud | Cllr.Klier |
| 13. | Cllr.Peake | Cllr.Smith |
| 14. | Cllr.Feakes | Cllr.Maslin |
| 15. | Cllr.Fletcher | Cllr.Wise |
| 16. | Cllr.Harris | Cllr.Wise |
| 17. | Cllr.Brooks | Cllr.Klier |
| 18. | Cllr.Ingleby | Cllr.Egan |
| 19. | Cllr.Johnson | Cllr.Smith |
| 20. | Cllr.Ibitson | Cllr.Best |
| 21. | Cllr.Maines | Cllr.Klier |
| 22. | Cllr.Foreman | Cllr.Wise |
| 23. | Cllr.Bonavia | Cllr.Smith |
| 24. | Cllr.Peake | Cllr.Best |
| 25. | Cllr.Feakes | Cllr.Maslin |
| 26. | Cllr.Fletcher | Cllr.Wise |
| 27. | Cllr.Ingleby | Cllr.Smith |
| 28. | Cllr.Johnson | Mayor |
| 29. | Cllr.Ibitson | Cllr.Smith |
| 30. | Cllr.Maines | Cllr.Wise |
| 31. | Cllr.Foreman | Cllr.Wise |
| 32. | Cllr.Peake | Cllr.Wise |
| 33. | Cllr.Feakes | Cllr.Smith |
| 34. | Cllr.Fletcher | Cllr.Best |
| 35. | Cllr.Johnson | Cllr.Best |
| 36. | Cllr.Ibitson | Cllr.Best |
| 37. | Cllr.Maines | Cllr.Best |
| 38. | Cllr.Feakes | Cllr.Klier |
| 39. | Cllr.Fletcher | Cllr.Best |
| 40. | Cllr.Feakes | Cllr.Klier |
| 41. | Cllr.Feakes | Cllr.Smith |
| 42. | Cllr.Feakes | Cllr.Wise |
| 43. | Cllr.Feakes | Cllr.Wise |
| WRITTEN QUESTIONS | | |
| 44. | Cllr.Maines | Cllr.Wise |
| 45. | Cllr.Maines | Cllr.Smith |

165. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Referral Emergency Services Review

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Alan Hall moved that the recommendations be approved, and this was seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Kevin Bonavia. Following a contribution from Councillor Maines, there was a reply by Councillor Hall and it was:

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received.

166. Extension to Council Calendar

The Chair moved that the recommendations be approved, and this was seconded by the Vice-Chair, Councillor Jackie Addison and it was:

RESOLVED that

(1) the date of the Council AGM in 2014 be changed to June 11 2014.

(2) the attached schedule of additional meetings in the current municipal year 2013 -14 be approved.

167. Appointments

The Chair invited nominations for a vacancy on the Lewisham Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee and Councillor De Ryk was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Jeffrey. There being no other nominations, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Amanda De Ryk be appointed to the Lewisham Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee.

**Lewisham Schools for the Future Holdings Limited
Lewisham Schools for the Future Holdings 2 Limited
Lewisham Schools for the Future Holdings 3 Limited
Lewisham Schools for the Future Holdings 4 Limited
Lewisham Schools for the Future SPV Limited
Lewisham Schools for the Future SPV 2 Limited
Lewisham Schools for the Future SPV 3 Limited
Lewisham Schools for the Future SPV 4 Limited**

The Chair of Council moved that the eight appointments made by the Mayor be noted, and this was seconded by the Vice Chair, Councillor Jackie Addison.

RESOLVED that the appointments made by the Mayor be noted.

168. Action by Chair of Council

The Chair of Council moved that the recommendation be approved, and this was seconded by the Vice Chair, Councillor Jackie Addison.

RESOLVED that the action taken by the Chair of Council be noted.

169. Action by Chair of OSC

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Councillor Alan Hall, moved that the recommendation be approved, and this was seconded by the Vice Chair, Councillor Kevin Bonavia.

RESOLVED that the action taken by the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted.

170. Motion 1 Proposed by Councillor Fletcher and Seconded by Councillor Maines

The motion was not debated prior to the end of the meeting.

171. Motion 2 Proposed by Councillor Maines and Seconded by Councillor Fletcher

The motion was not debated prior to the end of the meeting.

172. Motion 3 Proposed by Councillor Brooks and Seconded by Councillor Peake

The motion was not debated prior to the end of the meeting.

173. Motion 4 Proposed by Councillor Feakes and Seconded by Councillor Bowen

The motion was not debated prior to the end of the meeting.

174. Motion 5 Proposed by Councillor Hall and Seconded by Councillor Foxcroft

The motion was moved by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Foxcroft.

There was then a debate to which the Councillors Harris, Johnson, Feakes, Curran, Allison, Bonavia and Maines contributed. There was a reply by Councillor Hall and the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“Council applauds the decision of the Judges in throwing out Jeremy Hunt’s appeal in relation to the downgrading of services at Lewisham Hospital. This clearly vindicates the Council in challenging this decision and the communities who joined our fight to save this much loved Hospital through the “Save Lewisham Hospital” campaign.

Council notes that the Government put forward an amendment to the Care Bill designed to make it easier for the Government and Trust Special

Administrators to close or make changes to the services provided at other hospitals, no matter how good they are or what support they have in the local community.

Furthermore, Council is disappointed that an attempt, in the Lords, to stop this amendment was defeated. The proposed amendment to the legislation, prior to the outcome of the Appeal, suggests that the grounds of appeal were shaky, which raises questions about the use of public money to fight this appeal.

Our victory over Lewisham Hospital is a testament to the great community spirit and sheer hard work and dedication of all those Lewisham residents and health workers who were prepared to join us in challenging the Government and Council pays tribute to them.”

175. Motion 6 Proposed by Councillor Egan and Seconded by Councillor Curran

The motion was moved by Councillor Egan, who was given permission by the Chair to play an LGA video at the conclusion of his speech, and seconded by Councillor Curran.

There was then a debate to which the Councillors Maines, Bell, Mallory, Feakes, Ingleby and Harris contributed. There was a reply by Councillor Egan and the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“Council notes:

- That England is now widely recognised to be the country with the most centralised system of government in Europe;
- That devolution has brought decisions about tax and spending, and the quality of public services, closer to voters in Scotland and Wales, while English voters have not gained comparably greater influence over decision-making that affects their taxes and services; and

Council considers:

- That the likely scale of change in how public services are funded and provided makes it democratically unsustainable for those changes to be decided within the existing over-centralised model;
- That services need to be reformed and integrated across local agencies to enable them to prevent problems rather than picking up the pieces;
- That voters should be given back a meaningful say on a wider range of tax and spending decisions, through place-based budgetary arrangements and the reinstatement of fair financial distribution agreed among English councils, the re-creation of a municipal bond market, and the certainty of multi-year

funding settlements for the life of a Parliament;

- That central government should enable that local decision-making by joining up and reducing in size Whitehall departments in order to facilitate local place-based budgets, by reducing Ministers' powers to intervene in local decisions, and replacing bureaucratic tick-box inspection regimes with local service users champions; and

- That such a new more mature settlement between central and local government should be put beyond future revision by giving formal constitutional protection to local democracy; and

Resolves:

- To support the Local Government Association's Rewiring Public Services campaign, which embodies these objectives;

- To ask the borough's Members of Parliament to support the Rewiring Public Services campaign to improve local voters' influence over services, tax and spending; and

- To make the council's position clear to the Secretary of State."

176. Motion 7 Proposed by Councillor Britton and Seconded by Councillor Bell

The motion was moved by Councillor Britton and seconded by Councillor Bell.

Following a contribution from Councillor Feakes the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

"This Council notes the illegal practice of blacklisting of employees within the construction industry which has been highlighted by UNITE, UCATT & GMB, the trade unions in that industry, a campaign which has resulted in claims for compensation from those kept out of work as a result of this activity.

This Council further notes that this only came to light when the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) seized a Consulting Association database used by 44 companies to vet new recruits and that as a result the ICO confirmed that 224 construction workers around the UK had been victims of blacklisting.

This Council believes this incident shows the importance of regulation and scrutiny of business activity and notes that Government cuts including the dismantling and weakening of some public oversight bodies will limit our ability to control bad business practice.

This Council deplores this illegal practice within the construction industry and urges all companies who have been involved in it to take all necessary action to compensate victims affected and to comply with the regulations which have been introduced to prevent any recurrence of this abhorrent practice."

177. Motion 8 Proposed by Councillor Daby and Seconded by Councillor Morrison

The motion was moved by Councillor Daby and seconded by Councillor Morrison. Following a contribution from Councillor Maines, Councillor Smith then successfully proposed and Councillor Jeffrey seconded a motion without notice that the question be now put. The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be clearly carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“Council notes that the Coalition Government plans to privatise the majority of probation services including handing community supervision of 200,000 serious and violent offenders to private companies, such as, G4S and SERCO.

Council notes that a growing number of experts, probation staff and management have raised serious concerns about these proposals, as probation services have good performances in public protection, reducing reoffending and are a valued partner in community safety by their management of offenders.

Council further notes that when the Council’s Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee considered this at their meeting in July they were also opposed to the privatisation of these services as they were not based on any sound evidence, scrutiny or piloting. The Safer Lewisham Partnership also raised the same concerns at its meeting in September.”