

CROYDON COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2013 at 6.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR YVETTE HOPLEY - PRESIDING.

Councillors Arram, Avis, Ayres, Bains, Bashford, Bass, Bee, Bonner, Butler, Buttinger, Chatterjee, Chowdhury, Clouder, Collins, Cromie, Cummings, Fisher, Fitze, Fitzsimons, Flemming, Gatland, George-Hilley, Godfrey, Gray, Hale, Hall, Harris, Hay-Justice, Hoar, Hollands, Jewitt, Kabir, Kellett, B Khan, S Khan, Kyeremeh, Lawlor, Lenton, Letts, Mansell, Marshall, D Mead, M Mead, Mohan, Neal, Newman, O'Connell, Osland, Parker, Pearson, Perry, H Pollard, T Pollard, Quadir, Rajendran, G Ryan, P Ryan, Selva, Scott, Shahul-Hameed, Slipper, Smith, Speakman, Thomas, Watson, Wentworth, Winborn, Woodley and Wright.

The Mayor announced the sad news that Honorary Alderman Roy Grantham CBE passed away on the 25th October 2013. First elected to the Council in May 1994, Honorary Alderman Grantham served as a Councillor for Beulah Ward until he stood down in 2002.

The Mayor also announced the sad news that Honorary Alderman Wally Garratt passed away on the 26th November 2013. First elected to the Council in May 1986, Honorary Alderman Garratt served as a Councillor for Thornton Heath Ward until he stood down in 2002. He was the first Mayor under Labour in 1994/95 and was awarded the title Honorary Alderman in 2002.

Councillor Mike Fisher, Leader of the Council, passed on condolences to the families and friends of both Honorary Aldermen. He described Honorary Grantham as a man of great foresight who had been a leading trade unionist in the 1970's and 1980's, being general secretary for a large trade union.

The Leader said he had fond memories of Honorary Alderman Garratt, saying that he had been well respected by both sides of the Chamber and had a real affinity for the Ward (Beulah/Thornton Heath) he represented and lived in. The Leader said that Hon Alderman Garratt had been seen as a fair Mayor who had done a lot of work around the town to raise money for his charities.

Councillor Tony Newman said that Honorary Alderman Grantham had been a national figure; he had been general secretary of his union APEX for two decades and on the TUC council for 11 years. He had been a leading member of the

Temperance Alliance. Played a part in driving out the militant eliminates of the Labour party in the 1980s rose to national prominence as a leading figure in the Grunwick dispute.

The Council stood and observed a moments silence in respect of Honorary Alderman Grantham and Honorary Alderman Garratt.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 1)

None

2 MINUTES (agenda item 2)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th October 2013 be signed as a correct record.

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST (agenda item 3)

All Members of the Council confirmed that their interests as listed in their Declaration of Interests Forms were accurate and up-to-date.

4 URGENT BUSINESS (agenda item 4)

None

5. EXEMPT ITEMS (agenda item 5)

RESOLVED – that the allocation of items between Part A and Part B of the agenda be confirmed.

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS (agenda item 6)

The Mayor announced that her Charity Dinner was fully booked. She also thanked Councillor Tony Harris for his offer to abseil down Taberner House for the Mayor's Charity.

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (agenda item 7)

Under the provisions of the Council Procedure Rules (Croydon Constitution, Part 4A), written questions had been submitted and written replies were given by the relevant Cabinet Member. These were placed in the Chamber and Public Gallery, oral supplementary questions were asked by members of the public. Oral replies were provided by the relevant Cabinet Members.

Oral Supplementary questions were asked by:

- PQ81-13 - Mr Crawley
- PQ82-13 – Mr Canning
- PQ88-13– Mr Samuel
- PQ89-13 – Mr Weaving
- PQ91-13 – Ms Prince
- PQ97-13 - Mr Paterson
- PQ99-13 – Mr Sowan

PQ100-13 – Mr Cartwright

In each case there was an oral reply from the relevant Cabinet Member. In particular Councillor Thomas offered to invite Mr Paterson to visit Foxley Wood with officers.

[Note the written Public Questions and written replies can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/agenda]

8 PETITIONS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS TO COUNCIL (agenda item 8)

Petitions were presented formally by the following Councillors in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

1. A petition presented by **Councillor Susan Winborn** on behalf of residents regarding no drinking zones. :
2. A petition presented by **Councillor Gerry Ryan** on behalf of residents regarding traffic congestion in and around the Lodge Road area.

These petitions were referred to the relevant Cabinet Member. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the reply to this petition will be included in the agenda for the next Council meeting.

9 RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL (agenda item 9)

In accordance with the Council procedure rules, the printed responses were open to questions from Councillors. There were no questions.

10 BUSINESS REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY & STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (agenda item 10)

Councillor Steve Hollands, Chair of Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee, presented a written report to Council summarising the proceedings of that Committee since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, including matters considered by the Scrutiny Sub-Committees.

The following Councillors asked questions

Councillor Arram - Employers organisations and non-attendance at a recent Scrutiny Sub Committee meeting.

Councillor Buttinger – Flood prevention measures along the A22 between Purley & Whyteleafe.

Councillor Marshall - District centres and shop vacancies.

Councillor Neal – South Croydon restaurant area and free parking being available.

Councillor Bains – When will Environment Agency Surplus Water flood maps be available.

Councillor Lenton – Following announcement that Surrey Downs were leaving the South West London Joint Health Scrutiny and Overview Committee and opposing Better Service Better value programme affect Croydon University Hospital.

In each case the Chair of the relevant committee gave an oral reply.

Council **RESOLVED** that the report of the Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee be received.

11 COUNCILLORS' OPEN SESSION ON WARD MATTERS (agenda item 11)

Following each Ward matter the Cabinet Members replied orally to matters raised.

Councillor Eddy Arram spoke of the privilege and honour of serving his ward for a number of years during which time he had seen the highs and lows of how the Council had treated the Ward. He outlined the position between 1994 -2006, increased council tax, withdrawal of traffic management schemes, neglect of parks and shopping centre. Since 2006 recycling has improved, there is a £1m regeneration of Lower Addiscombe Road shopping area, free parking, improved safety with new street lighting and improved schools.

Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed speaking about Broad Green Ward opened by saying that some residents and businesses were still waiting for compensation payments following the riots in 2011 which was regrettable. She also spoke about the lack on police and the need for a police station on London Road. The area has been in gradual decline in recent years and she welcomed the Hammerson/Westfield regeneration of the Town Centre which would benefit the Ward and asked that the scheme also include London Road.

Councillor Chatterjee said that Shirley ward, is a part of a larger area and that the boundary looked like a 'scotty' dog. He went on to say that it was an honour and privilege to serve as one of the Ward councillors, together with Cllr Fisher and Cllr Marshall. Shirley has its own character and neighbourhood is of course determined by its neighbours and the people of Shirley tend to be good neighbours. He went on to say that there were many locally based voluntary groups, residents associations, Boy Brigade, Guides and Scouts, dance and youth groups, together with many churches and many local schools. These groups organise many events that benefit the area and encourage the enterprise within the area.

Councillor Sean Fitzsimons spoke about Addiscombe Ward that he had represented, on and off, since 1994. He spoke about the various projects that had been implemented by the previous Labour administration including the introduction of the trams, the Philip Game Centre, knocked down tower blocks and build family homes, financing and planning for Fellows Courts and set up the Addiscombe railway park. He also spoke about road safety for cyclists and pedestrians and that the number of accidents in the Ward have increased since 2006 and asked for more investment in cycling initiatives.

Councillor Tony Pearson spoke about the community attending the annual switch on of Christmas lights in New Addington Ward and of a house that had been decorated to raise funds for St Christopher's Hospice. He also mentioned a number of other events that would be happening during the Christmas period in the Ward. None of these would happen without organisation and support, in terms of the street events some of the support comes from the police and safer neighbourhood teams. He spoke about the number of officers that were in New Addington and this have increased over recent months. In summing up Cllr Pearson said he was proud to represent and live in New Addington.

Cabinet Members replied orally to matters raised.

12 LICENSING ACT 2003 – REVIEW OF LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY (agenda item 12)

Councillor Gatland, Chair of the Licensing Committee presented a written report that detailed the outcomes of a review of the council licensing policy.

Council **agreed** the revisions to and re-publication of the Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 as detailed in the Appendix to the report circulated to the Council.

13 BUSINESS REPORT OF THE LEADER INCORPORATING COUNCILLORS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS (agenda item 13)

The Leader presented the Business Report summarising the proceedings of the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council, including matters considered by Cabinet Committees.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, written questions had been submitted in advance by Council Members and written replies had been given by the relevant Cabinet Members. The questions and answers had been placed in the Chamber. Supplementary questions were asked by Members of the Council and replies were given by the relevant Cabinet Members.

Each Cabinet Member was asked in turn if they had anything to add to their report. Questions were then invited from the Chamber for each Cabinet Member who replied orally to the questions on specific paragraphs or submitted questions.

The following Members asked questions on the Business Report

Cabinet Member

Leader: Councillors Newman, Parker, Letts, Wright, Hall, H Pollard, G Ryan, Kellett and Neal.

Councillor Hoar: Councillors Letts, Cummings and Watson.

The following Cabinet Members made announcements

Councillor Bashford: Congratulated all the nominees and winners of the Croydon Council awards. She drew particular attention to the winners of the Peter Hayward-Brewer special recognition award, The Bernard Weatherill House project team and thanked them for their hard work (especially Aiden McManus and Amanda Riggall) in completing the move from Taberner House to BWH.

She also wished Rough Copy well for the X Factor final.

Councillor Dudley Mead referred to page 194 of the agenda plans to build 9500 homes over the next 5 years about a third would be affordable homes. Now extending to cover ward of New Addington, Shirley, Fieldway and Selsdon and Ballards that the HMO in all wards have to be licensed.

Councillor Margaret Mead: announced that Garmit Wright, Manager at Heavers Resource Centre who was awarded Care UK Manager of the Year award, nominated by a resident's daughter.

Heart Town went to Cabinet on 18th November that Selsdon Education Partnership School are planning a healthy heart event next summer.

Added her congratulations to all Croydon Award nominees, finalists and winners especially DASHH staff.

At 20.24 the Leader moved a procedural motion 1.11.9 to move to the next item of business. This was seconded and agreed by Council.

The recommendations contained in the business report were put and it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the business report of the Leader and Cabinet; and
2. Approve the Cabinet recommendations set out in the Leaders Business Report to the Housing Delivery Plan 2013/18.

14 RECOMMENDATIONS DEFERRED FOR DEBATE

There was no business under this item

15 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

Two motions were submitted for debate in accordance with Council Procedure Rules as follows:

1. Motion for Debate

**Proposed by Councillor Vidhi Mohan
Seconded by Councillor Jason Perry**

This Council welcomes the recently approved £1.5 billion Westfield/Hammerson scheme, which will bring jobs and homes to the centre of Croydon. When combined with the many other schemes planned for the town, this Conservative Administration will have created 16,400 new jobs, built 9,400 new homes and re-established Croydon as the leading economic hub of the South East. Croydon is on the crest of a regeneration wave, the like of which has not been seen for a generation. This Council recognises the achievements of the Conservative Administration in creating the right conditions to allow such investment to flow into our town.

Councillor Mohan in opening the debate said that he was pleased that the Westfield Hammerson development had been given (outline) planning permission and thanked everyone involved in bringing that to the Town. He went on to say that the Conservative administration had created the conditions for developers to invest in Croydon. This development would bring regeneration of the area, jobs in construction and the retail industry, training for young people, new homes and investment in the public realm. The development would mean that there would be an active community in the town centre, improvements in public realm, transport and roads. In summing up Cllr Mohan said that the development would do wonders for the image of Croydon.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor Stuart Collins and seconded by Councillor Paul Scott

Delete everything after 'Croydon'.

The amended motion read

'This Council welcomes the recently approved £1.5 billion Westfield/Hammerson scheme, which will bring jobs and homes to the centre of Croydon.'

In moving the amendment Councillor Collins said that the Labour group were delighted that the development would bring jobs, affordable housing and regenerate the town centre but that the Conservative administration could not take the credit for every job created or the overall development. Redevelopment was still needed, the tram extension and more affordable homes were needed, a clause should ensure that Croydon jobs are for Croydon people. The town had already lost Alders and Nestles, London Road was still waiting for riot compensation and investment and it was essential that the correct decisions were made, the community needed to be involved ensure a reflection of Croydon diversity, decisions made now would affected Croydon for years to come.

Councillor Scott in seconding the amendment welcomed the Westfield/Hammerson Development and that Croydon labour had ambitions for Croydon to ensure that the London living wage was paid, that the community were involved in the development and that there were affordable home and a review of the road and general infrastructure would be needed. The district centres need to be protected and celebrated so that people have an option to shop in the town centre or areas like the London Road, small firms and businesses in the area would be wealth creators.

Councillor Pearson speaking to the original motion said he was delighted to speak and celebrate that (outline) planning permission had been granted, he quoted Gavin Barwell MP who had said that this development "was one of the most exciting things to happen to Croydon in his lifetime". The granting of (outline) planning permission had been reported positively in the national media and people's perception of Croydon would change as a result of this development and that would only be a benefit to the town.

Councillor Letts speaking to the amended motion spoke of meetings held in Stratford with Westfield and local councillors to see what the development had done in Newham and had meet employees of all types of retail outlets. A further visit had been made to Hammersons in Bristol, meeting director, local councillors, retailers and employees. A further meeting with Ross McGowan, now chief Executive of RBS had taken place to show how. Councillor Letts expressed her disappointment that the Conservatives had not thanked the Director of Planning and his officers, The Mayors office, TfL and all the other organisations in bringing this development to Croydon.

Councillor Perry in seconding the original motion said that the 25th November had been an historic night in Croydon when the (outline) planning permission had been granted for the development; it was exciting times for Croydon and the people of Croydon and would have a lasting impact. This would bring £1.5b of investment to the town, 5000 jobs with an emphasis on jobs for Croydon people, over 400 new homes with over 15% affordable homes, new retail and leisure facilities. This is a result of hard work since 2006 to create an environment in the town where people wish to invest and do business.

The amendment to the motion was **put and lost**.

The original motion as amended was **put** and **carried**.

2. Motion for Debate:

**Proposed by Councillor Maggie Mansell
Seconded by Councillor Jane Avis**

Despite the pressure and growing crisis in A&E services in Croydon and across the country, this Council notes the recent Care Quality Commission report for Croydon University Hospital (CUH) and the hard work of staff to seek further improvements.

However, the Council also notes with concern the failure of Croydon Conservatives to support the community, local residents and Labour's campaign opposing any closure or reduction of services at Croydon's A & E, particularly given the steep rise in winter deaths last year.

Councillor Mansell opening the debate saying that the NHS deals with the most vulnerable and difficult times of people lives and is a complex people based service. She went on to say that government funding had not kept pace with either inflation or need. She welcomed the balanced report of the CQC, and detailed the positive comments. However there was still much to be done around staffing levels in older people's wards, arrangements between A&E and the urgent care centre, improve discharged in the evening, especially in older people. She went on to say that the building (CUH) is cramped, poorly maintained and has too many staff vacancies. The BSBV option 1 would invest in a new A&E department with new staff recruitment and she called for a new A&E department irrespective of BSBV.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor Adam Kellett and seconded by Councillor Margaret Mead

Delete everything highlighted above in the original motion above

The amended motion to read:

Despite the pressure on A&E services in Croydon and across the country, this Council notes the recent Care Quality Commission inspection report for Croydon University Hospital recognising the hard work of staff to seek further improvements.

However, the Council also notes with concern the fact that, as the third and 'non-preferred' option in 'Better Services, Better Value', there remains a small possibility of closure or reduction of services at Croydon's A & E. This is particularly significant in the light of the regrettable rise in winter deaths across the Country last year. This council supports the view of local practitioners and GPs that a strong Croydon University Hospital, with investment for a full suite of A&E and Maternity services, is vital to serve Croydon residents."

Councillor Kellett in moving the amendment to the motion said that the present system in A&E in South West London is costing lives. There is a need for a

consultant lead service 24/7, by reduction A&E units a critical size is reached where such a service becomes viable. Highly trained paramedics can save lives before transfer (to a hospital) and changes after arrival by a consultant lead service will also change and save lives. The NHS does much to be proud of but it also has its problems. By 2010 the Labour government were spending record amount on the NHS it had become an institution above criticism.

Councillor Butler speaking to the original motion said that the amendment to water down the motion was a reflection of the Tories view of the NHS. She went on to say that the crisis in A&E had been developing for months. The current crisis had not just happened but had been allowed to deteriorate by the lack of government funding. The previous Labour government had eliminated the NHS winter crisis but under the present coalition government over 24000 people had dies during last winter. Waiting times in A&E were up, trolley wait up, ambulance wait up and over 6000 nurses lost from the NHS. The Governments top down reorganisation has wasted money for something that nobody wanted or voted for. Cuts to funding for care for the elderly are a major cause for concern. She went on to say that the labour group were supporting the calls for a fully supported A&E department that met the needs of the local community and she called on the conservative Group to support that call.

Councillor Cummings speaking in favour of the amendment said that the Conservatives were not ignoring the crisis and that a joint Scrutiny committee had reviewed Better Service, Better Value (BSBV). Cllr Cummings said that he would have supported the case against any proposed closure of the A&E at CUH had anything been put forward. At no point has the BSBV programme ever put forward a favoured case for services to be cut in Croydon, every time they have come forward with an favoured option it has included increased investments in Croydon A&E and maternity unit.

Councillor Margaret Mead said that the CQC inspection had promoted a lot of good outcomes and recognised the good work of the staff; there were a lot of positive comments from people about the care they received. She acknowledged that there were staff shortages but there was a recruitment drive to address those. Many of the problems are due to too small premises (at CUH) and what was needed was a purpose built A&E hospital. There is support from local residents, GPs and clinicians who all want a first class service and A&E. In summing up Cllr Mead said that the Conservatives did not want a reduction or closure in service but wanted a new purpose build A&E suite to support the people of Croydon.

Councillor Avis in seconding the original motion said that the Conservatives had not spoken about Option 3 from the BSBV report which is to close the CUH maternity and A&E unit and that Steve Reed MP for Croydon North had said that he wanted that Option removed. The CQC report had suggested that the privatisation of services and put Croydon lives at risk. She spoke of the 6000 fewer nurses across the NHS with some wards for the elderly not having a qualified nurse. There had been a 32% increase in visits to the A&E last year whilst asking the CUH to continue to improve under government cuts to services.

Following the debate the amendment to the motion was **put and carried**.
The amended motion was **put and carried** with no vote against.

16. CAMERA RESOLUTION

RESOLVED – That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

SUMMARY OF PART B DISCUSSION

The remainder of the meeting included disclosure of exempt information (as defined by paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A in Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972: 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)'. The minutes of the discussion are therefore also exempt and not available to the public. A summary of the discussion is below, as required by section 100C(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

17 Part B MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Part B Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th October 2013 be signed as a correct record.

18 TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 21:15.

Full copies of the Council agenda, reports and appendices are available in the Members Library and on the Council website at www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/minutes/committees