

CROYDON COUNCIL

MINUTES

SECOND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON

**Monday, 24th February 2014 at 8.52pm in the
Council Chamber, Town Hall.**

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, 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.

Absent: Councillor Kyeremeh

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (agenda item 2)

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

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL (agenda item 3)

The Extraordinary Council Meeting had been requisitioned to debate a motion proposed by Councillor Stuart Collins and seconded by Councillor Paul Smith, who reserved his right to speak.

The wording of the requisition was as follows:

“Following the publication of the Independent Streets Commission report, this Council agrees that after seven years of Tory failure to properly clean all of Croydon's streets, only a Labour Council elected in May will work to deliver the recommendations of the Commission.”

Councillor Collins opened the debate saying that the Independent Street Commission highlighted the anguish felt by Croydon residents over the dirty streets, lack of first class street cleaning and response on fly-tipping. The launch of the app to report fly tipping and funding £100k to combat fly tipping is too little, too late. He went on to say that the Conservatives had no intention on implementing any of the recommendations contained in the report. The Labour group, when elected in May will embrace the 19 recommendations in the report. They will launch a ‘Don’t mess with Croydon, take pride in Croydon’ campaign. Three new cleaning teams to patrol streets and react to fly tipping report, prosecute those that fly tip and 10 new enforcement officers, CCTV coverage will increase and be used in fly tipping hot spots.

Councillor Thomas speaking against the motion said that it was not an independent commission, it only covered the north of the borough was led by the Labour Croydon North MP, staffed by his office and chaired by a person from Bromley not Croydon. He asked why the commission had not spoken to council officers or any Member of the Conservative Cabinet until after the report had been produced. He went on to say that Members opposite did not report fly tipping. When Labour were previously in power they cut street cleaning in the south of the borough to every 8 weeks, that shows they are not interested in that part of the borough. Most of the recommendations in the report this council are already doing, what it does show that the Labour party are only interested in the north of the borough. He went on to say that to introduce weekly bin collections across the borough would cost £1million. In summing up he said that the current Conservative administration looks after all parts of the borough not just the north.

Councillor Shahul-Hameed speaking for the motion spoke about bulky waste collection charges, lack of bins for flats and shops, reduction in services and officers to save money and planning permission that took no account of local services. She pointed out that spending on street cleaning under Labour was lower because the streets were cleaner. She went on to say that fly tipping had doubled since 2006 and the streets were dirtier. If Labour were elected in May they would increase the number of enforcement officers to tackle fly tipping and increase street cleaning in areas where the need is greatest and make more use of CCTV to catch fly tippers.

Councillor Kellett speaking against the motion said that the report had some common sense and some interesting ideas. He said he lived in the north of the borough and might have put his name to the report if Cllr Newman had not already told us what the findings of the report would be. The terms of reference calls for comparisons between Croydon North with areas both inside and outside the borough. The report is totally devoid of any comparisons. The report says there will be differential rates of collection around the borough, so not one Croydon Labour party, people in the south will pay more.

Councillor Smith in seconding the motion said that the key issue was how the Council deals with fly tipping, refuse and street cleaning and waste management. The report is what the residents of Croydon are saying. When Labour comes to power we will tackle fly tipping and street cleaning and improve waste management costs.

Councillor Hoar speaking against the motion asked how it could be an independent report as no one in the Council was asked any questions until after the report was issued. Out of 80,000 electors in the north of the borough only 240 responded. Many of the recommendations are already being carried out by this Council, Community AEO have been increased, the Council is working with landlords to ensure there are sufficient bins, more that £200k has been put into enforcement, 70 officers on the street and £40k on mobile CCTV, £500k on upgrading the Council CCTV control room and access to another 127 cameras across the borough. The anti-littering pilot which Labour opposed. The Conservative administration take fly tipping seriously, more funding has been made available to tackle this, greater enforcement, more CCTV and our councillors report incidents of fly tipping.

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

4. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 21.22.