

# CROYDON COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.05 p.m. in the Council Chamber

**THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MANJU SHAHUL-HAMEED - PRESIDING.**

Councillors Audsley, Ali, Avis, Bains, Bashford, Bee, Benn, Bird, Bonner, Brew, Butler, Buttinger, Canning, Chatterjee, Chowdhury, Clancy, Clouder, Collins, Creatura, Cummings, Fisher, Fitzsimons, Flemming, Gatland, Godfrey, Hale, Hall, Hay-Justice, Henson, Hollands, Hopley, Jewitt, Kabir, Khan B, Khan S, King Kyeremeh, Lawlor, Letts, Lewis, Mann, Mansell, Mead D, Mead M, Mohan, Neal, Newman, O'Connell, Pelling, Perry, Pollard H, Pollard T, Prince, Quadir, Rendle, Ryan G, Ryan P, Scott, Selva, Speakman, Stranack, Thomas, Thompson, Wentworth, Winborn, Woodley, Wright

**ABSENT:** Councillors Bennett and Watson

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The Mayor announced the sad news that Honorary Alderman, Past Mayor Brenda Kirby had passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> September following a long battle with illness. She had served as a Councillor for New Addington Ward from 1986 to 1994 and again from 200 until 2010. She was mayor in 2004/5.

Councillor Tony Newman described Hon Alderman, Brenda Kirby as a true champion of the community, who had been a long time resident of New Addington and had been proud a representative for everyone that lived there. He went on to say that she had been a brilliant ambassador for the Borough when she was Mayor. She had been a supporter of young people and the youth services and had been a school governor. In summing up he said that she would be sorely missed and had given politics a good name.

Councillor Tim Pollard said there had been no doubt that Honorary Alderman Brenda Kirby had been committed to the residents of New Addington. She has set up a local cancer charity to help support others going through the same experience as her. He went on to say that New Addington had lost a champion and that Councillors had lost a respected former colleague. In summing up he said that his thoughts were for Brenda's family and friends and that she would be greatly missed.

The Council stood and observed a minutes silence in tribute to Honorary Alderman, Past Mayor Brenda Kirby.

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologises were received from Councillors Sue Bennett and Mark Watson.

## **2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 15 July 2014 be signed as a correct record.

## **3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

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**

None

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised Council that her next charity event would be a fund raising dinner at Lanfranc School on Saturday 11th October in the evening.

The Mayor announced that following changes to the leadership of the Conservative Group a number of amendments had been made to the 'Blue Schedule' (Council appointments list) to reflect the changes to the Shadow Cabinet and consequential changes to committees. These had been circulated and Council approved the changes.

Councillor Tony Newman, Leader of the Council spoke about the Black History month event he had attended and urged everyone to take part in the various events that were being organised.

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – questions from the people of Croydon**

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:

PQ53-14 – Mr Martin  
PQ60-14 - Mr Cartwright  
PQ66-14- Mr Creighton  
PQ67-14 – Mr Hunter  
PQ70-14 – Dr Latham  
PQ71-14 – Ms Davies  
PQ73-14 - Mr Samuel  
PQ75-14 – Miss Kiss

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

## **7. PETITIONS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF CROYDON**

Petitions were presented formally by Councillors as follows in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

- 1) A petition presented by **Councillor Vidhi Mohan** on behalf of residents of Carolina Road and surrounding roads.
- 2) A petition presented by **Councillor John Wentworth** on behalf of residents of Queen Mary Road.
- 3) A petition presented by **Councillor Mark Watson** on behalf of residents of Davidson Road.

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.

## **8. RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF CROYDON**

In accordance with the Council procedure rules, the printed responses were open to questions from Councillors. The following Councillors asked questions:

Councillor Mohan  
Councillor P Ryan  
Councillor Thomas

## **9. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE**

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

The first motion

Proposed: Cllr Vidhi Mohan

Seconded: Cllr Steve O'Connell

'Following the decision of the new Labour administration to withdraw from the sale of the former Ashburton Library to the His Grace Evangelical Church, this Council agrees that it will compensate the church for all reasonable costs incurred in their abortive purchase and that it will swiftly assist the church in sourcing an alternative site. Further, it should commit to a timetable for bringing the library site back into public use and make access available to the church when the site re-opens.'

Councillor Mohan in moving the motion said that the problem with the site goes back many years when a poor PFI deal was signed that was not financially sound. It delivered a new building for the Ashburton School but did not secure the future for the library. Because of the complex nature of the PFI deal and the fact that the contractor went out of business it took the Council nearly 6 years to get it back under Council control. The local community were asked for ideas about how to bring the building back into use. An agreement was made with the Church Group who would have invested around £1million to bring it back into community use that would have benefited the wider community in Ashburton. Following the election the Council cancelled the agreement with the Church group. In summing up Cllr Mohan urged the Council to reconsider the decision to cancel the agreement with the church group or help them find an alternative site.

Councillor Godfrey speaking against the motion said that gifting a building worth in excess of £500k was not a good way to dispose of public assets. He said that the Labour Council would look after its public assets carefully and properly and not put at risk the integrity of it parts. He went on to say that he had meet the Church Group To try to put together a package of support to help the church group move on but that this offer had been refused. He went on to say that it was not possible for him to provide a building valued at £500k for £84K or less. It was not possible to gift public money and assets as compensation for a deal not completed. He went on to say that the Labour administration would deliver a fully refurbished and impressive community asset and park and that local ward councillors would work with local community group to get what they wanted on the site.

Councillor Bashford speaking for the motion said that the previous Conservative group worked with community groups to allow them the benefit of using community asset. She went on to say that Stanley Halls and Selsdon Hall would still be managed by the Council. She said that it was a political motive to end the agreement with the Church Group for Ashburton library. In summing up she asked when would the refurbishment take place and where would the Council find the money to carry out the works.

Councillor Rendle speaking against the motion said that over the previous 3 years he had attended many meetings with local residents and they had stated that they wanted this historic building and park to remain in public hands. They wanted to see a multi-use facility run by the residents and supported by the Council.

Councillor Mann speaking against the motion said he was delighted to speak on this item and spoke of growing up using the library and park. He, with his other Ward colleagues, had spoken to many local residents and the overwhelming feeling was that the library and park should stay in public hands and to be used as a community facility.

Councillor O'Connell congratulated Councillors Rendle and Mann on their maiden speeches. In seconding the motion said that the debate should be about fairness and the council reputation. The Council had encouraged the local church to go forward with their plans for the library and now that the agreement has been cancelled the Council will need to find in excess of £1m to bring back into public use.

In summing up he urged Labour to support the motion to restore the reputation of the Council.

The motion was **put and lost**.

The Second motion

Proposed: Cllr Tony Newman

Seconded: Cllr Alison Butler

'This Council welcomes 'The Croydon Promise Growth for All' document, and its commitment to deliver jobs, training, affordable housing, improved leisure facilities and transport for local people.'

Councillor Newman opened the debate saying that at the heart of the Labour manifesto 'Ambitious for Croydon' was a key theme - how do we ensure that the people of Croydon benefit from the investment and growth coming to Croydon. How do we work in partnership with investors, developers, public and the private sector to secure best deal for people of Croydon. This Administration has a commitment of 30% level of affordable housing, to deliver the London Living wage and has renewed the commitment to work with Westfield/Hammerson and others to ensure Croydon residents get the first opportunity for training and employment chances. The Private Landlord Scheme will ensure residents live in properties that are of the decent home standard. This is a once in a generation opportunity for growth in Croydon that will deliver jobs, training , education, improved transport and much needed new homes for the people of Croydon.

Councillor Creatura spoke of the closure of a long established butchers in Coulsdon Town but went on to speak of a new local butchers that would be opening on the same site. He said that this typified the energy of entrepreneurs that are to be found in Croydon. Economic development is a complex and every evolving process, the residents of Croydon are looking at all Members to push in the same general direction to achieve the best results for the town and borough as a whole. He went on to say that it was projected that the population in Croydon will increase every year until at least 2041. It is important to get housing, schools and hospitals right over the coming years.

Councillor Lawlor opened saying that he had recently attended the London Council Apprentice awards and was particularly proud of Croydon's nominee in the category of best performer - Charlie Lawrence - to make it to the short list is an achievement in itself.

Speaking for the motion he said it was about the future of Croydon, the economic development of district centres, jobs, growth and prosperity for every citizen of the borough. He went on to say that the borough was on the cusp of biggest regeneration project that Croydon had seen for generations. The Croydon growth document outlines how ambitious the Council are. By 2020 16,000 new jobs will be created, district centre will provide local jobs for local people and community facilities. Croydon will be the place to start and grow a business.

Councillor Winborn said that with the excellent transport links to London and Gatwick companies were keen to relocate in Croydon. She went on to say it was not just regeneration but also the preservation of our heritage which can be seen in the Old Town Masterplan and refurbishment of Fairfield Halls. The Croydon partnership plans to redevelop the Whitgift Centre will provide retail and leisure units, new homes and many new jobs for local people. This will bring numerous benefits to local residents and businesses and was started under the previous Conservative administration. No longer is the centre of the town devoid of residential development. In summing up Cllr Winborn said that 'Growth for all' had many excellent proposals but asked if they were all realistic and wanted by all residents. Was the target for new homes achievable with the requirement for affordable housing? She welcomed the report.

Councillor Perry said that all Members support growth in the town and borough. Croydon is on the crest on a regeneration wave. Investments are due to come into the town over the coming years and it is vital the Council plays an important role in facilitating and directing investment. The Local Plan and various Masterplans provide the confidence to investors to come to the town. It is that planning policy that provides a flexible affordable housing approach that continues to deliver houses when the economy and markets are flat. He went on to say that he had read the Croydon promise with interest and recognised much of it from documents the Conservative administration had put forward for growth. He said that the 'Croydon promise' is a good document and pulled together the various strands that should provide the levers of delivery for the town. The work had already started and he hoped that the Labour administration would continue to deliver. He supported the motion.

Councillor Butler congratulated Cllr Creatura on his thoughtful speech. In seconding the motion Cllr Butler said that the 'Croydon Promise' was a document about delivery. Delivery for the people of our town and how we can make a difference. Making a difference to young people looking for work, for young people evicted from their homes, a young university graduate who needs a hand to start their own business, or shop keepers asking 'where does this leave me? These people are at the heart of this document. This is a plan put forward by a Labour administration transforming ambition into delivery and shows how we can improve Croydon for the better. A Council committed to building affordable homes, believes that a London living wage should be paid, a Council working in partnership to improve the prosperity of the town, a Council that believes Croydon is a great place full of opportunity, open for business, ready to deliver. A Council that believes every neighbourhood should benefit from the growth of the town. A Council that is ambitious for Croydon and transforming that ambition into delivery.

The motion was **put** and **carried unanimously**.

## **10. BUSINESS REPORT OF THE LEADER AND CABINET AND COUNCILLORS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS**

The Leader presented the Business Report summarising the proceedings of the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council.

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 Pollard T, Thomas, K Khan, H Pollard, Rendle, D Mead, Thompson and Creatura.

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey:** Councillors Hale, H Pollard and Henson.

**Councillor Toni Letts:** Councillors Perry and Creatura.

**Councillor Hamida Ali:** Councillors Mohan, O'Connell and Cummings

**Councillor Kathy Bee:** Councillors Mohan, Thompson, Mann and Thomas.

**Councillor Alisa Flemming:** Councillor Gatland, Neal and King.

**Councillor Louisa Woodley:** Councillor M Mead.

**Councillor Simon Hall:** Councillor Cummings.

At 21.26 Councillor Newman moved a procedure motion 1.11.9 to move to the next item of business. This was seconded by Councillor Butler and agreed by Council.

## **11. CHILDREN AT RISK OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.**

Council considered a report from the Executive Director for Children, Families and Learning that had been requested following the publication of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, published in August 2014. The report would be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

## **12. BUSINESS REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY & STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

Councillor Sean Fitzsimons, 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. There were no questions.

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

### **13. COUNCILLORS' OPEN SESSION ON WARD MATTERS**

Councillor Maddie Henson said that she was honoured to serve Ashburton and paid tribute to her predecessors Eddy Arram and Avril Slipper on being made Honorary Alderman. She spoke about her young son and said the decisions that Council made now would affect him. They lived in Ashburton so wondered what sort of ward would her son to grow up in. An area of potential, close knit communities and shopping centres had been neglected for too long. With Ward colleagues she has worked tirelessly with local residents to make decision that will benefit local residents, keeping the library, measures to prevent fly tipping, a new university. There will be affordable housing in the ward and borough so that local residents had the opportunity to live in the borough.

Councillor Michael Neal said that he was proud to have been re-elected in Croham Ward. He thanked Cllr Gatland and the Friends of Croham Hurst for work they do in their woodlands. He thanked Cllr Perry for work that had been undertaken in South End Public realm area. He praised the residents of Birdhurst Community Gardening Group who won an outstanding award from London in Bloom for their garden project. He went on to speak about the election results in May and the consequences for resident of Croham for policies they did not vote for; backland developments, 20 mph speed limits being introduced and the 'tenant tax'.

Councillor Jamie Audsley said he was grateful to the residents for electing him in Bensham Manor. He went on to say that he saw his role as not only someone who speaks for Bensham Manor but also as someone that works with the community for a common approach. He said that his experience of the ward was that many people felt disconnected and disempowered by the barriers that they perceive, that the Council has ignored them. To get people better connected and get involved in local politics and community engagement was his target. He gave examples of work being undertaken by local residents, this included street champions, a local church were working with young people to gain work experience placement and getting local communities, business and groups to help young people.

Councillor Andy Stranack said that it was an honour and privilege to serve Heathfield Ward. Every Member wants the best for the people of Croydon and their ward. He had previously worked as a council officer writing policies and whilst working with young people on Monks Hill he realised that these policies had little effect on the young people. When he left the Council he moved to Monks Hill and worked with the community, a community that felt cut off from politicians and had become tired and weary of policies that made no or little difference to them. He spoke of policies that were being introduced now and described some of them as Fool's gold, shiny on the outside but not containing much for the local communities.

Councillor Joy Prince said she was proud to have been elected as one of the three Labour Councillors for Waddon. She paid tribute to the previous councillors and wished them well for the future. She went on to speak about the wards green spaces, within its boundaries there is Waddon Ponds, Purley Way playing fields and

Duppas Hill just beyond the boundary is Haling Grove and the newly renovated Wandle Park. The ward also has many historic buildings, a medieval barn and a cluster of Art Deco building including the Croydon airport building. There is an industrial estate, a variety of homes and schools, youth centres, leisure centres and hotels. There are issues in the ward, inadequate housing, childcare is hard to find or too expensive, shortage of school places, demand for pre and after school clubs. Fiveways is a major junction and accident black spot and difficult for cyclist and pedestrians. The residents are pleased that the Council's 'Clean and Green' campaign which will mean cleaner streets and its policies to address other issues like housing supplies and the traffic along Purley Way. She went on to say that Waddon residents wanted to help, the Propeller site could be used for more housing and St Andrews School wanted to expand. Waddon had potential.

#### **14. AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL LIST OF BUILDINGS OF ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT SPD (2006) – APPENDIX 3**

The Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest SPD was adopted at the UDP Cabinet Committee on 6th December 2006. One of the reasons behind removing the Local List from the UDP itself was to allow for more regular updates to be made to the Local List. This approach was explained in the UDP Cabinet Committee Report of 6th December 2006, which was endorsed. The recommendations in this report request amendments to the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest SPD in accordance with the 2006 UDP Cabinet Committee Report 2006.

The Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest SPD (2006) UDP Cabinet Committee Report (December 2006) allows for amendments to the Local List and the recommended amendments accord with these powers.

It is important to note the recommendations in the report do not represent a comprehensive review of the Local List. Consultation on the draft Old Town Masterplan and the draft Church Street and Central Croydon Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plans (CAAMPs) has triggered the necessity to review the Local List will be reflected in thin the Old Town Masterplan area prior to the final masterplan being considered for adoption. This review of the Local List will be reflected in the final Old Town Masterplan and the final Church Street and Central Croydon CAAMPs. Paragraphs 3.1-3.14 of the report set out the justification for the amendments to the Local List and state why local listing of the buildings is appropriate against the assessment criteria.

Council considered the report and **RESOLVED** to agree:

- 1.1 The addition of 47 Tamworth Road to the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest SPD (2006)
- 1.2 The addition of 11 Surrey Street to the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest SPD (2006)

- 1.3 The removal of 12 Surrey Street from the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest SPD (2006)
- 1.4 The addition of 109 and 109A Church Street to the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest SPD (2006)

**15. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES DEFERRED FOR DEBATE**

There was no business under this item

**16. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 21:50

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](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/minutes/committees)

The webcast of this meeting can be found at

[www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/broadcasts](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/broadcasts)