Agenda Item 2

CROYDON COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting held on Monday 1st December 2014 at 6.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MANJU SHAHUL-HAMEED - PRESIDING.

Councillors Audsley, Ali, Avis, Bains, Bashford, Bee, Benn, Bennett, Bird, Bonner, 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, King Kyeremeh, Lawlor, Lewis, Mann, Mansell, Mead D, Mead M, Mohan, Neal, Newman, O'Connell, Pelling, Perry, Pollard H, Pollard T, Prince, Quadir, Rendle, Ryan P, Scott, Selva, Speakman, Stranack, Thomas, Thompson, Watson, Wentworth, Winborn, Woodley, Wright

ABSENT: Councillors Brew, S Khan, Letts, G Ryan

The Mayor announced the sad news that Honorary Alderman Denis Perry had passed away on 26th November. Honorary Alderman Perry had been a councillor for Spring Park Ward from 1974 until 1998.

The Council stood and observed a minutes silence in tribute to Honorary Alderman, Denis Perry.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologises were received from Councillors Simon Brew, Shafi Khan, Toni Letts and Gerry Ryan.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of **a)** The Special Council Meeting and **b)** The Ordinary Council meeting
Both held 6th October 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 events would be the Christmas Fayre on 5th December and the Christmas Dinner on 12th December. All events are published on the Mayors website.

The Mayor advised Council that she had received a request from the Leader of the Council to change the order that Cabinet Members would take questions under agenda item 10 and that Councillor Hall would be moved up the order to take questions after Councillor Flemming.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that the Council had recently won a number of awards and presented them to officers:

- 1) Highways Magazine Excellence Awards Croydon Council, EM Highways and the supply chain partners Team of the Year 2014 for their joint efforts in dealing with the flooding earlier in the year.
- 2) MIPIM UK Awards Planning Authority of the Year.
- 3) Planning Awards Planning Policy Team of the Year.

The Mayor announced that Hannah Miller, Executive Director Adult Service Health & Housing would be retiring after 25 years' service with Croydon Council and 40 years' service in total in local government. The Mayor congratulated her on her service to the borough and its residents and wished her well for her retirement and presented a memento to her.

Councillor Tony Newman, Leader of the Council, said that Hannah's commitment to safeguarding adults and children and promoting their welfare had undoubtedly benefited many people. She had worked for Croydon on two occasions being with the Council for over 25 years. He went on to say that she had worked in many other important areas raising professional and public awareness of the most vulnerable. She has also made an exceptional contribution in areas of child trafficking, cultural ritual abuse and forced marriages. Cllr Newman added his personal thanks to Hannah for her support over many years and for everything she has done for Croydon and its residents and for her work in public service.

Councillor Tim Pollard said it had been a huge pleasure to work with Hannah who was able to offer a remarkable degree of insight and wisdom not just in her own services but across a wide range of services. He went on to say that she would be sorely missed by everyone in Croydon. He wished her well for her retirement.

Councillor Tony Newman announced that he was able to confirm that there would be no increase in Council Tax for the 2015/16 tax year, another Labour manifesto promise kept.

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:

PQ081-14 - Mr Cartwright PQ082-14 - Mr Dick PQ086-14 - Mr Bigglestone PQ090-14 - Mr Baker PQ091-14 - Mr Hickman PQ092-14 - Ms Senna (for Mrs Onabolu) PQ098-14 - Mr Kennedy PQ103-14 - Ms Adu PQ104-14 - Pastor Thomas

[Note the written Public Questions and written replies can be found at <u>www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/council-questions</u>]

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 Yvette Hopley** on behalf of residents regarding the 359 bus service.
- 2) A petition presented by **Councillor Maggie Mansell** on behalf of residents of Norbury regarding Oakhill Road and Abingdon Road.
- A petition presented by Councillor John Wentworth on behalf of the residents association of Beaumont Road regarding the introduction of 20mph.

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 Wentworth

9. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

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

1. The first motion for debate: Proposed: Councillor Tony Newman Seconded: Councillor Alison Butler

"This Council fully supports the Croydon 'Our Time is Now' ask to central government on behalf of the people of Croydon. Croydon is set to create thousands of new jobs and homes and the time has come for central government to truly devolve more powers to local people and allow Councils with ambitions such as Croydon, to keep more of the money generated from economic growth to reinvest in our borough."

Councillor Newman opened the debate with a quote from the Mayor of London, "we are in agreement that Croydon has a fantastic future ahead and both myself and my senior team look forward to working with you to ensure we are able to deliver the huge potential for jobs and growth throughout the borough. Thank you for the meeting". Cllr Newman went on the say that the regeneration of the borough was a once in a generation opportunity and there was strong cross party support for the actions being taking. The business community have come together with the Council to support the case for greater democratic and fiscal devolution for Croydon. He said that Croydon was on the edge of creating economic growth that would transform the town and alter life chances for residents. The bid to treasury with the 'Our time is now' is bold and ambitious but is the right moment to make the case. A simple case; thousands of new homes, new infrastructure and new jobs, with a simple request to the Government, that the people of Croydon through the Council be allowed to have a greater stake and share in the prosperity that this growth will bring. Croydon knows best not Whitehall, growth is values based, this is why this Labour administration has changed the housing policies to ensure there is more affordable housing and created a London living wage.

Councillor Perry opened by saying that this motion was similar to the previous Council meeting Labour motion and had all Member support. Regeneration has been a buzz word in the town for the last few years. Croydon has been set on the regeneration path the like of which has not been seen before. There are billions of pounds of investment that will be coming to the Town as can be seen by the Westfield/ Hammerson proposals; they have seen that the Town has a drive to deliver. Investors must have the confidence to invest and the Government and GLA must have the confidence to support the project and schemes. This motion seeks that support from government so that the Council can keep the money generated from the economic growth to reinvest in the borough's infrastructure. The previous Conservative administration had set polices in place to deliver this, the targets for homes and jobs. He supported the motion.

Councillor Benn opened saying that the document highlighted opportunity through locally lead funding and investment to ensure Croydon can offer world class housing, leisure facilities, commercial infrastructure and cultural offering all in one place. She went on to say that this was an exciting time to be in Croydon with change in the air. With £5 billion regeneration the Town needed to keep some of the benefits to sustain the energy for years to come. More new houses are needed for our children and their children. Croydon is best placed to know what the opportunities are for the Town not the government. In summing up she said the Town would be a brilliant place to live and work in.

Councillor Creatura said he was pleased to support the 'Our time is now' bid. Through lobbying for a better funding formula Croydon has more money for school places to cater for the growing population. The Met police funding formula was changed to benefit Croydon which has meant more police on the streets. However more could be done, 'damping' is the vital area of reform needed but was missing from the document. The Government sets the amount of grants each Council receives. Damping limits the effects of demographic change and this directly affects the amounts of council tax we pay. Inner London boroughs have benefited more than outer London borough and this is not fair.

Councillor Tim Pollard opened by saying that everyone, local MPs and GLA Members supported the motion that Croydon should have the final say in how to reinvest funds from the regeneration of the town. He went on to ask what the public would think of a motion for debate at Council where there was no disagreement across the Chamber. Fly tipping in the borough had increased since Labour had come to power, when in opposition Labour thought that everything was easy to solve, they were now finding out it is more difficult to solve the problem. It was a curious time to announce the Council Tax freeze but no doubt this was an effort to detract from the barrage of cuts that will be made in a few months. He asked for future debates to be put forward on some of the more difficult issues.

Councillor Butler said many will know of this document and the work that has gone on to support it, that's why is it so important? She went on to say that when growing up she learnt certain things; study hard, work hard, play by the rules, don't spend what you don't have and you will reap the benefits. Sadly today this does not always apply. Croydon has many things that are great about it, lots are covered in this document but the greatest asset is the people of Croydon. She went on to say that too many children are working hard to get an education but then find there are no jobs for them. People are working hard but find there is no increase in pay and yet rent, mortgage and cost of living are all going up. Young people are unable to find homes and for the first time since the beginning of the 20th Century they have a lower standard of living than their parents. This document is about adjusting the balance in favour of the people of Croydon. We have a Town that is working hard and determined to deliver the jobs and homes that are needed. Our message to the government is that everyone is doing their bit in making Croydon a better place. We will deliver on that promise and our only ask is that we get some of the money back, generated from our economic growth comes back to the people of Croydon. Devolving more power and income to the people of Croydon will change lives and outcomes.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

2. The Second motion for debate: Proposed: Cllr Maria Gatland Seconded: Cllr Jason Cummings

"At Cabinet on 17 November 2014 the Labour Cabinet agreed the Council's Asset Strategy including the policy that (quote) "A number of school sites have very large playing fields and ancillary land that may be considered excessive for the number of students that attend the school. Where this may be the case the schools will be identified and opportunities considered for development of affordable housing". This Council believes that at a time when more and more children aren't getting enough exercise, the Council should not be planning to build on their playing fields. This Council calls upon the administration to do a U- TURN on this ill-advised policy and take a paper through the next Cabinet to revise its asset strategy accordingly."

Note: Before the debate started Councillor Stuart Collins declared an interest as a member of the Croydon Playing Fields Association.

Councillor Gatland opened the debate saying that at the Cabinet meeting Labour had opened the door to building on school playing fields. It was approved by every Cabinet Member without a word of protest or comment. We have heard a great many word from this Labour administration, however actions speak louder than words. This was the same old Labour; they sold off the car parks, now the school playing fields. Why are school playing fields important? We know there is a problem with obesity in young people and we know the serious effects this will have in their lives going forward, this will have ongoing costs to the Council and the NHS. Yet this administration wants to build on playing fields. The beneficial effect of exercise and being in green spaces can help with the mental health of children. She went on to acknowledge that the town needed new homes but not at the expense of the loss of the school playing field. In summing up she suggested that the paper was bought back to Cabinet to be revised.

Councillor Alisa Flemming, speaking against the motion said there were no plans to build on school playing fields and that the opposition were scare mongering on the issue. She went on to say that the Labour administration valued the boroughs green spaces and was looking forward to attending her children's sports day for years to come, like many other Croydon parents. She went on to say that Edward Hanley a leading figure in the Croydon Playing Field Association has worked for many years to highlight the value open spaces and sporting activities for children in a safe environment. Councillor Pat Ryan and Stuart Collins made sure that the playing fields had been actively used. In summing up she said that key on her agenda was encouraging our communities to utilise their open spaces. She said there was no need to vote on a motion for something that never existed and dismissed the motion.

Councillor Yvette Hopley speaking in support of the motion said she was astounded that the Labour front bench had no recollection of the Cabinet paper where they had all attended the meeting. She went on to speak about the Health and Wellbeing Board, of which she is a member, and said that a key priority was obesity in children. I in 5 children leave school obese and 22% leave primary school obese. Croydon is in the 10% worse Local authorities in the country for child obesity. This is a growing problem and it is imperative that children have the opportunity to play and take part in sports at school. Some schools, especially in the North of the borough, don't have playing field and their children attend out of borough facilities. By selling playing fields you will take away the opportunity for our future sportsman/women.

Councillor Hall speaking against, said the motion reiterated that the Labour administration had no plans to sell or build on school playing fields. He spoke of the legacy inherited from the Conservatives; funding cuts from Tory led government, £100m black hole in Council finances. He asked if the Conservatives had looked at the Councils asset base to help to close the gap. He spoke of the £145m for luxury HQ and that they had sold the Riesco Collection. He went on to say that the labour administration had revisited the Education Estate Strategy to reduce the overall net spend. This administration has been left to clear up the mess left by the Conservatives and they would continue to make progress.

Councillor John Wentworth opposing the motion spoke of the hypocrisy of the opposition. Campaigning on an issue whilst ignoring their past record both locally and nationally on selling off playing fields. He spoke of the Thatcher government that had passed an Act that allowed education authorities to sell playing field. Over 5000 playing fields were sold in the decade that followed with Labour campaigning to stop it. He went on to say that the previous Conservative administration got rid of the Council Sports Development Team and abolished the Croydon Sports Link. In summing up he reiterated that the Labour administration were not selling playing fields.

Councillor Jason Cummings in seconding the motion said he was confused by the debate as he had attended the recent Cabinet meeting and had read the papers. He quoted from Project 3 'review of use of existing school estate'. It read that some schools have large playing fields and ancillary land that may be considered excessive. He asked by whom? One would presume Cllr Hall as it was his paper. (at this point Cllr Hall raised a point of order and after much shouting from both sides explained that the Labour administration had no plans to sell playing fields.) Cabinet passed the paper and this still exists as the Councils asset strategy unless the paper goes back to Cabinet. In summing up he said that this motion asks that the report be taken back to Cabinet to clarify the position as currently it states that the administration do want to build on playing field.

Councillor Pollard requested a Poll Vote; this was seconded by Councillor Dudley Mead. It was explained that the Constitution (Part 4A 3.59) did not allow for a Poll Vote following a debate motion. The Mayor requested a show of hands.

The motion was **put** and **lost**. 36-27.

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 D Mead, Pelling, H Pollard, Audsley, Thomas, Rendle, Buttinger **Councillor Woodley**: Councillors M Mead and Hopley

Councillor Bee: Councillors Mohan, Mann, Thomas, O'Connell

Councillor Flemming: Gatland, Pelling, Stranack, Bird

Councillor Hall: Councillors Cummings, Hopley, T Pollard, Henson, Bashford

Councillor Lawlor (for Cllr Letts): Councillor Perry, Mann, Clancy, Rendle, Pelling, Audsley

Councillor Watson: Councillors O'Connell, Cummings

At 21.30 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.

The following Cabinet Members made announcements

Leader: Announced that Part B papers would be available to all Members on request.

Councillor Woodley: Thanked Hannah Miller for the contribution she has made to the people of Croydon (Councillor Margret Mead added her thanks to Hannah Miller and wished her a long and happy retirement).

Councillor Flemming: Thanked Hannah Miller for her support. The Council has been successful with two bids for funding for Children's Services, Department for Communities and Local Government Transformation Challenge Fund, the Council had been awarded £1.5m to help transform early intervention service for the under 5's into Croydon Best Start service model, the second award is for £710k for Special Educational Needs. Croydon will lead a consortium of 10 local authorities to commission services. [Councillor Gatland added her thanks to Hannah Miller and welcomed the announcement made by Cllr Flemming)

Councillor Watson: advised that his bulletin was now available online. He paid tribute to Hannah Miller especially for her work on human trafficking.

He spoke of the Launch of White ribbon campaign – re domestic violence and advised that there was a guide to female genital mutilation that was available to Councillors.

Councillor Butler: Announced that the Council had been presented with a certificate by the London Fire Brigade for the installation of sprinkler systems in Council properties.

Councillor Collins: Advised that the 'Don't Mess with Croydon' campaign had featured in a recent BBC programme that was available on the BBC iplayer.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the Cabinet recommendations set out the Cabinet report:

Old Town Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Central Croydon, Church Street and Croydon Minster (formerly Parish Church) Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Documents adoption

1.1 Adopt the draft Old Town Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix 1);

1.2 Endorse the Old Town Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 2).

1.3 Adopt the draft Central Croydon Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) Supplementary Planning Document. (Appendix 3);

1.4 Adopt the draft Church Street Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix 4);

1.5 Adopt the draft Croydon Minster (formerly Parish Church) Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix 5).

1.6 Agree that after the adoption of the Old Town Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration, be given delegated authority to make minor factual amendments to the adopted Old Town Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document and the Old Town Masterplan SPD Sustainability Appraisal subsequent to adoption but prior to publication of the documents.

1.7 Agree that after the adoption of the Old Town Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document, the Central Croydon CAAMP Supplementary Planning Document, the Church Street CAAMP Supplementary Planning Document and the Croydon Minster (formerly Parish Church) CAAMP Supplementary Planning Document, the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration be given delegated authority to make minor factual amendments to the adopted Central Croydon CAAMP Supplementary Planning Document, the Church Street CAAMP Supplementary Planning Document and the Croydon Minster (formerly Parish Church) CAAMP Supplementary Planning Document subsequent to adoption but prior to publication of the documents.

Council noted that Cabinet had agreed to:

1.8 Note that the Council has undertaken a screening exercise with the statutory bodies to confirm the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plans (CAAMP) Supplementary Planning Documents are not required to be supported by a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

11. 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. The following councillors asked questions which received an oral reply from the chair of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee:

Councillor Stranack – Child protection issues. Councillor Thompson – 20mph, how would police enforce.

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

12. COUNCILLORS' OPEN SESSION ON WARD MATTERS

Councillor Robert Canning spoke of the honour of being elected in Waddon Ward. He went on to say that fly-tipping was being moved quickly but that it needed to be stopped from happening in the first place. Education and enforcement was the way forward as many of the fly tipping spots were where there are large numbers of properties and rubbish is dumped as tenants come and go. The Landlord licencing scheme will put tenants first and hopefully look at ways to tackle this. He asked that when looking at the improvements to the A23 and Fiveways junction the scheme must include cyclist and pedestrians. Crime in Waddon is a problem and people do feel safer when they see 'bobbies on the beat' and he asked if this could be reviewed with the borough commander.

Councillor Margaret Bird opened by saying she was honoured to have been elected to Coulsdon East Ward in May. She spoke about how the local community rallied together when the funding was withdrawn for the Marlpit Lane Bowling Green and how the volunteers organised the equipment and upkeep of the bowling green. Grants were applied for and a grant of £1k was received to replace a bench at the edge of the green. A further £800 was received to buy children's bowls for the newly formed giant marbles clubs, advertising and posters. Fund raising events were held, cans were collected to raise money. Behind the bowling green there is a putting green and this has also been bought back into use and golfing equipment was organised by the bowling green committee. A children's playground area had been refurbished and in November 2013 the Poppy Café opened and provided home cooked food. The recent good weather has seen increased numbers attending the

bowling green and putting green. Marlpit Lane park has been revived into a thriving outdoor area, used by all ages and a varied array of sports.

Councillor Karen Jewitt opened by extending her thanks to Hannah Miller for her help over the years, and wished her will for the future. Cllr Jewitt said that Thornton Heath had been her home for 32 years; her children have grown up in the area, attended the local school and she used the local shops and facilities. She went on to speak of the children and youth of the ward, their experiences and ambitions reflected everyone's life under this government. She spoke about Sure Start, since 2010 across the country 500 units had closed, a valuable asset for the most vulnerable. SEN support is no longer ring fenced at a time when school budgets are being cut. She also spoke about teacher numbers and pupil/teacher ratios increasing and that some teachers were not fully qualified. There had been an increase in young people not in employment, training or further education since the EMA was removed in 2010. This allowance reduced the ability for those students to remain in education. Increased university fees put this higher education out of reach of many families. Benefit and child credit cuts have pushed more children into poverty. In summing up she said there was a direct link between poverty and poor education and to ignore this would put this and future generations in peril.

Councillor Sara Bashford opened by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked Hannah Miller for her help and assistance over the years. She went on to say that Selsdon & Ballards has many activity community groups and a monthly publication that is the envy of many residents associations. On 21 November there was a visit from Santa and she thanked everyone who was involved in that event. The Christmas lights were paid for by local residents and traders, not the Council. Refreshments were provided by the Baptist church, local school children sang and air cadets helped with the queue for Santa. She went on to say that the community felt that their streets should be clean and tidy and they should have an equal number of police on the streets. She asked the Cabinet Members not to ignore the Ward just because it was not one of their key areas and ensure the things that the community value, in particular green garden waste collections, were maintained.

Councillor Wayne Lawlor said he had the honour of representing South Norwood Ward since 2010. He spoke of pre-election Conservative campaign material saying that South Norwood library was under threat and if Labour won the election it would close. The campaign to save the local libraries arguably started in South Norwood. This campaign galvanised local people bringing them together for local issues. The South Norwood Tourist Board promotes the area; Tennison Road had been the home of Arthur Conan Doyle, South Norwood Lakes was an area of beauty and that Stanley Halls had been kept under community use. He went on to say that much of this links in with Labours plans to regenerate South Norwood. The loss of Barclays bank and the co-op were regretted but this created the opportunity for small business to occupy those premises. The town centres are the lifeblood of the community and the Croydon growth plans outlines their revival. In summing up he said that there had been a noticeable difference in the state of the streets, fly tipping was being cleared quicker than before the election.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES DEFERRED FOR DEBATE

There was no business under this item

14. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 21:55

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

The webcast of this meeting can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/broadcasts