

CROYDON COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the Annual Council meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2015 at 6.30pm

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MANJU SHAHUL-HAMEED - PRESIDING.

Councillors Ali, Avis, Bains, Bashford, Benn, Bird, Bonner, Brew, Butler, Buttinger, Chatterjee, Chowdhury, 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, Mohan, Neal, Newman, O'Connell, Pelling, Perry, Pollard H, Pollard T, Prince, Quadir, Rendle, Ryan P, Scott, Selva, Speakman, Stranack, Thomas, Watson, Wentworth, Winborn, Wood, Woodley, Wright

Absent: Councillors Audsley, Bee, Bennett, Canning, Clancy, Clouder, D Mead, M Mead and Thompson.

The Mayor as Returning Officer for the London Borough of Croydon confirmed the results of the Parliamentary Election held on Thursday 7th May 2015:

Steve Reed OBE for Croydon North Constituency

Gavin Barwell for Croydon Central Constituency

Chris Philp for Croydon South Constituency

1 VOTE OF THANKS

The Mayor made her farewell address.

The Mayor opened her speech by saying that she had been thrilled and honoured to have represented Croydon as its First Citizen.

The Mayor spoke of the numerous engagements she had undertaken during the year, including opening businesses, new nurseries, stores and restaurants. She had also visited a number of schools to present awards to the young people and hosted and attended a number of cultural celebrations. The many events and photos of the events were posted on the Mayor's Facebook page and on her website. She went on

to say that during her Mayoral year every day had been memorable as it had been different, exciting and at times challenging.

She went on to speak about some of the most significant and challenging engagements she had attended during her term. The most difficult and emotionally engagements were attending the funerals of Councillor Gerry Ryan and Honorary Alderman Brenda Kirby. The trip to Arnhem with her Consort, for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem was another memorable event.

The Mayor spoke about the work being undertaken to introduce initiatives to get young people into work placements, including in the Mayor's Office so that they could learn about the Mayor's role.

During the course of the year a number of receptions had been organised for volunteer groups to give them the opportunity to visit the Town Hall and be recognised for their valuable work in the community.

The Mayor speaking about her two charities Age UK and Macmillan Cancer Support said that events had been held throughout the year to raise funds and local schools were also encouraged to take part in the fund raising. Whilst the final figure was still to be confirmed a magnificent £35,000 has been raised and the Mayor thanked all those that had sponsored events or donated funds.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice and her husband Mark for their hard work throughout the year.

The Mayor thanked Councillors on both sides of the Chamber for their support throughout the year; Community and voluntary organisations for their hard work throughout the year, Col McRobbie and all faith leaders for their assistance.

The Mayor thanked the Mayoral staff for their hard work and organisation throughout the year. She also thanked the Chief Executive and the director and staff of Legal and Democratic Services.

In concluding the Mayor thanked her husband and Consort who despite having a full time job had accompanied her at every opportunity, her two sons for standing in when the Consort was not available, including attending many volunteer receptions and to all of her family for their support.

Councillor Newman moved a motion of thanks for the Mayor, which was seconded by Councillor Tim Pollard as follows,

Motion of Thanks

- (a) The Council tender their grateful thanks to The Worshipful, The Mayor, Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed, for the courteous and efficient manner in which she presided over the Council's deliberations during the past year;

- (b) The Council record their sincere appreciation of the dignified manner in which Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed has carried out the traditional duties of the office of Mayor, of the support and encouragement which she and her Consort Mr Mohammed Raffi Shahul-Hameed, have given to the local organisations and of the prominent part which they have taken in the social life of the Borough during the Mayor's period of office; and
- (c) That this resolution be engrossed and sealed and presented to the Mayor in a suitable form.

The Motion was passed unanimously.

2. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

The motion to elect Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/16 was moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Tony Newman and seconded by Councillor Tim Pollard.

The motion was put to the vote and

RESOLVED unanimously that Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice be elected Mayor for the Council Year 2015/2016.

3. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice made the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Mayor, as required by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972, and assumed the Chair.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR PATRICIA HAY-JUSTICE - PRESIDING

The Mayor in making her acceptance speech spoke of the great honour and privilege it was to be elected to the office of the Mayor of Croydon. She went on to say that her key theme for the year was 'Inclusivity', to promote Croydon through its people and its history, its legacy and its future.

She went on to speak about hard working people of Croydon both past and present, the historic and beautiful architecture to be celebrated in Croydon and the many green spaces for residents to enjoy. The Mayor also spoke about the major developments that are due to come to the Town.

The Mayor gave a brief introduction of her charities for the year would be Mind in Croydon, which promotes 'Parity of Esteem' and CAYSH – Croydon Action for Young Single Homeless that supports local young people by providing a range of safe and secure accommodation, helps to develop their independence and living skills and offers advice and training to gain employment.

The Mayor announced that she had asked Councillor Wayne Trakas-Lawlor to be the Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor thanked the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed and her Consort and two sons for their hard throughout the year in promoting Croydon.

The Mayor announced that her husband Mark would be her Consort for the Year and thanked her family and friends who had travelled from Birmingham for their support.

In conclusion the Mayor reminded Members that the Council Chamber was for respectful, lively constructive debates and thanked them in advance for their support in this.

4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor reported that she had appointed Councillor Wayne Trakas-Lawlor as the Deputy Mayor for 2015/16.

(NOTE: Following the meeting, Councillor Wayne Trakas-Lawlor made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor, as required by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972).

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Audsley, Bee, Bennett, Canning, Clancy, Clouder, D Mead, M Mead and Thompson.

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 April 2015 be approved. .

8. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no business under this item

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND STATUTORY DEPUTY LEADER

The Mayor advised Council that this was a standing item and these posts were appointed for 4 years in June 2014.

10. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION AND RELATED CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

The Council received a report from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Head of Corporate Law and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the changes to Part 4A of the Constitution detailed within the report in respect of petitions and poll votes;
2. Approve the amendment to the Members Scheme of Allowances as set out in Appendix 1 of the report ;
3. Approve the changes to Part 4K of the Constitution as detailed within the report and set out more fully at Appendix 2 or the report;
4. Note the implications of the Local Government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015 and support the proposals set out in section 3 of the report by consenting to receive summonses by electronic means;
5. Note the new provisions of the Transparency Code 2015;
6. Note the provisions of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and
 - 6.1 Approve the procedure set out within the body of the report, the changes to Part 4J of the Constitution as set out at Appendix 3 of the report and the additional wording to Article 4.01 as detailed within the body of the report;
 - 6.2 Update the Membership details for Appointments Committee within Article 8 of Part 2 and the Appointments Committee Terms of Reference in Part 3 of the Constitution and to take account of the legislative changes, as set out in Appendix 4 and 5 of the report respectively;
 - 6.3 Invite Mrs Anne Smith and Mr Ashok Kumar to sit as Independent Persons on the Appointments Committee for the specified purposes and if they agree, appoint them as co-opted voting Independent Members of the Committee as required by the provisions of the revised Part 4J of the Constitution and instruct the Council Solicitor to update their current letters of appointment accordingly;
 - 6.4 Delegate authority to the Ethics Committee to agree the processes and procedures for the Appointments Committee for the consideration of disciplinary action and suspension pursuant to Part 4J;
 - 6.5 Delegate authority to the Ethics Committee to make future invitations for appointment of Independent Persons in accordance with and for purposes of the Staff Employment Procedure Rules ;

- 6.6 Note that with the increase in the scope of the Appointments Committee role and the sensitive nature of the employment matters and legal issues which it may hereafter be called upon to consider, all Members and reserve Members of the Appointments Committee will be invited to undertake Equalities and Diversity training prior to sitting on the Appointments Committee.
- 6.7 That Part 4F of the Constitution be updated as set out in paragraph 3.38 of the report.
7. Note that the Departmental references and officer titles have been updated to reflect the revised organisational structure;
8. Note that the references to Strategic Scrutiny and Overview Committee within the Constitution will be amended throughout to reference Scrutiny and Overview Committee only;
9. Note and Approve the Changes to Article 8 Part 2, set out at Appendix 5 of the report, which will be incorporated by virtue of the Proportionality report which is presented to Members at this meeting.

11. POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council received a report from the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and **RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 That having reviewed the representation of the political groups on the Council, that it has 40 Labour Group Members and 30 Conservative Group Members (as set out in Para 3.1.1 of the report); and
- 1.2 The appointment and composition of Committees as set out in paragraph 3.2.3. be approved.

12. APPOINTMENTS

The Council received a report from the Director of Democratic and Legal Services and **RESOLVED:**

1. To agree (or receive for information as applicable) the following appointments where the number of nominations is equal to the number of available positions:
 - 1.1 To agree the appointments to Committees of the Council (Blue Schedule); and
 - 1.2 To agree the appointments to all other Panels, Working Groups and Outside Bodies (Pink Schedule) and agree that during the remainder of the Council year any vacancies be filled by the decision of the relevant Committee or by the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

on the recommendation of the appropriate Group Secretary in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

And in consequence.

- 1.3 To authorise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.
- 2 To receive for information the appointments of Cabinet Members, Cabinet Committees and Deputy Cabinet Members (Blue Schedule);
 - 2.1 To receive for information the appointments of Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Cabinet (Blue Schedule);
 - 2.2 To receive for information the appointments of political party group officers (Blue Schedule);
 - 2.3 To receive for information the appointments to Joint Committees (Blue Schedule);
 - 2.4 To receive for information the appointments to London Councils Committees and Panels and Local Government Association bodies (Blue Schedule);
 - 2.5 To receive for information the appointment of Councillors to the Health & Wellbeing Board by the Leader of the Council.

13. PRESENTATION TO MR IAN AUSTEN

The Mayor congratulated Mr Ian Austen on his 46 years' service with the Croydon Advertiser and presented him with a gift and citation.

Councillor Tony Newman, the Leader of the Council said that he was pleased that the Borough was recognising Mr Austen's 46 years' service which was an unparalleled and unique achievement. He believed that Mr Austen had probably attended more Council and Scrutiny meetings than most in the Council. He had written articles that actively campaigned for the Town and put Croydon forward in some of the tougher times and often held the Council to account. In summing up the Leader said he was pleased that the Council could celebrate the service Mr Austen had given and put forward a recommendation that Freedom of the Borough should be bestowed on him.

Councillor Tim Pollard, Leader of the Opposition, said he was pleased to endorse the comments made by the Leader and supported the recommendation to bestow Freedom of the Borough. He went on to say that Mr Austen had always given a sensible perceptive on events in the Town and thanked him for his contribution to the Town.

Mr Austen thanked the Council for his gifts. He went on to say he would be sad to leave Croydon and that the honour bestowed on him was wonderful. He said he had always tried to be honest when reporting events and had enjoyed working with everyone in the Council.

Mr Austen received a standing ovation from the Council.

14. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 19:50 and was to be followed by a Civic reception

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