

## **Annual Council and Special Council Meetings**

Meeting held on Monday, 20 May 2019 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

### **MINUTES**

- Present:** Councillor Bernadette Khan (Chair - until 18:55pm);  
Councillor Humayun Kabir (Chair - from 19:05pm);  
Councillors Hamida Ali, Muhammad Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Sue Bennett, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttinger, Janet Campbell, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Sherwan Chowdhury, Chris Clark, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Mary Croos, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Mario Creatura, Nina Degrads, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Sean Fitzsimons, Alisa Flemming, Felicity Flynn, Clive Fraser, Maria Gatland, Lynne Hale, Simon Hall, Patricia Hay-Justice, Maddie Henson, Simon Hoar, Steve Hollands, Yvette Hopley, Karen Jewitt, Shafi Khan, Stuart King, Toni Letts, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann, Stuart Millson, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Badsha Quadir, Helen Redfern, Scott Roche, Pat Ryan, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Niroshan Sirisena, Andy Stranack, Gareth Streeter, Robert Ward, David Wood, Louisa Woodley and Callton Young
- Apologies:** Councillor Jeet Bains, Luke Clancy, Steve O'Connell, Oni Oviri, Ian Parker and Paul Scott

### **PART A**

#### **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**32/19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

**33/19 Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests. Members confirmed their disclosure of interest forms were accurate and up-to-date.

**34/19 Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

**Vote of Thanks**

Madame Mayor, Councillor Bernadette Khan, passed the Chair to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Humayun Kabir, who presided over the vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor of Croydon.

The Deputy Mayor invited Madame Mayor to give her farewell address. Madame Mayor opened her address by describing how Croydon was a loving and giving place to be and that during her Mayoral year she had undertaken numerous attendances, meetings and visits during which she had focused on the inclusivity of the young and wider communities. Madame Mayor noted how during her term she had visited all the departments of the Council and had been overwhelmed by their achievements specifically highlighting the new Youth Zone and refurbished Fairfield Halls as jewels in Croydon's crown. It was described how Croydon's emergency services, officers and young people had been hosted at Mayoral events during the year and how a visit to China had been undertaken. In working with Croydon's young people, Madame Mayor had experienced their desire for a greater involvement in shaping their futures and the economic development of their town. Madame Mayor expressed her desire to continue to campaign on the opening of schools after hours and the issue of exclusions. Thanks were expressed to all those who had been involved in supporting the Mayoral Year. Madame Mayor concluded her address by wishing the new Mayor, his consort and the new Deputy Mayor the very best wishes for their year in office.

The motion for the vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor was moved by the Leader, Councillor Newman. In moving the motion, the Leader took the opportunity to express his own thanks to the outgoing Mayor. He noted that Madame Mayor had gone ahead with the role at a time of great personal loss but that this had been the right decision with Madame Mayor having done so much to honour the memory of her late son. The Leader highlighted how Madame Mayor had done much through her work to bring together Croydon's diverse communities. Madame Mayor's fundraising success and support for services was stressed as well as her viral impact through her YouTube fame. The Leader particularly stressed Madame Mayor's success in engaging and empowering Croydon's young people.

The motion for the vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Tim Pollard. In seconding the motion, Councillor Pollard also took the opportunity to express his thanks. Councillor Pollard noted how Madame Mayor's passion for young people was well known and that it had been good to see her bring this to her role over the past year. He expressed thanks on behalf of the Opposition Group and the people of Croydon to Madame Mayor for how she had conducted her role.

The Deputy Mayor put the motion to the vote which was unanimously passed.

**Election of the Mayor**

Madame Mayor, Councillor Bernadette Khan, resumed the Chair and called on the Leader, Councillor Newman, to propose Councillor Humayun Kabir as the new Mayor of Croydon.

The Leader propose the motion and took the opportunity to emphasise Councillor Kabir's suitability for the role as Mayor. Particular mention was made of Councillor Kabir's dedication as a community activist, the huge role he had played in the Asian Resource Centre and his experience in empowering communities. The Leader welcomed Councillor Kabir's creative ideas for ambassadorial roles and charitable engagement and acknowledged the support that would be provided by the new Mayor's consort, Mrs Rahena Chowdhury Kabir.

The Leader of the Opposition Group, Councillor Tim Pollard, seconded the motion noting his own support for the charities already selected by the new Mayor. Councillor Pollard welcomed the new Mayor and stated his belief that he would be very successful in the role.

Madame Mayor put the motion to the vote which was unanimously passed.

The Mayoral procession left the Council Chamber (18:55pm). There followed a short pause in the meeting to allow the new Mayor to change into his robes. The Mayoral procession then re-entered the Council Chamber (19:05pm).

The Mayor, Councillor Humayun Kabir, read out the declaration of office:

*I, Councillor Humayun Kabir, having been elected to the Office of Mayor of the Council of the London Borough of Croydon, hereby declare that I take the said office upon myself, and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability. I undertake to observe the Code of Conduct which is expected of Members of the London Borough of Croydon.*

The Mayor signed the acceptance of office witnessed by the Head of the Paid Service. Councillor Henson was announced as the Deputy Mayor and also signed the acceptance of office witnessed by the Mayor and the Head of the Paid Service.

Mrs Rahena Chowdhury Kabir was formally announced at the Mayor's consort.

The Mayor presented Councillor Bernadette Khan with the past-Mayor's badge and citation. The past-consort's badge was presented to Mr Qaiyum Khan.

In his acceptance address the Mayor detailed his vision to connect grassroots communities with those who are newly settled in the borough, raise awareness of Council services and encourage confidence in civic rights. The Mayor expressed his desire to promote local businesses and welcomed the support of past-Mayor, Councillor Toni Letts in this endeavour.

The charities chosen by the Mayor to benefit from his fundraising activities during his year in post were announced. Those were:

- i. Mind;
- ii. Croydon Vision;
- iii. Croydon Day Refugee Centre;
- iv. Ashdown Jazz Academy; and
- v. Apasen Croydon

The Mayor also noted his desire to reduce the length of Council meetings in order that they become more family and age friendly.

The sad passing of Councillor Maggie Mansell was noted and welcome was made to Councillor Ben-Hassel who had been elected to the seat in Norbury.

The Mayor expressed his personal thanks to his wife, Mrs Rahena Chowdhury Kabir and their three children: Kuhinoor, Mista and Sumaiya. The Mayor's brother Jubayer, sister Sauda and daughter-in-law Kajoi were thanked for their support.

It was noted that the Mayor was particularly looking forward to working with Deputy Mayor, Councillor Henson. He welcomed the support of both sides of the Chamber as well as the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, members of the democratic services team, the communities department, communications team and last but not least, his own Mayoral team lead by Stephanie Cope.

## 37/19 **Admission of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen**

### **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor announced a break from the agenda of the Ordinary Council Meeting to hold a Special Council Meeting and admit Valerie Shawcross CBE and Donald Speakman to the Honorary Roll of Alderwomen and Aldermen for the London Borough of Croydon.

The motion to move the recommendation from the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee was moved by the Leader, Councillor Newman and seconded by Councillor Tim Pollard. The motion was put to the vote and unanimously agreed.

The Leader paid tribute to Valerie Shawcross. He noted his amazement that it was 19 years ago that she had last sat in the Chamber as Leader; her admission as an Honorary Alderwoman was in recognition of her contribution to Croydon which had seen her oversee the transformation of the borough into a modern Council. Particular mention was made of her focus on policy development and education. The Leader highlighted that Ms Shawcross had gone on to be elected to the Greater London Assembly, where she became a Deputy Mayor and made a significant impact on the capital's transportation.

The Leader described how her example would encourage other women to get involved.

Councillor Pollard, expressed his delight in speaking in support of Donald Speakman. It was noted that he had been part of the cohort of 2002 and had served the people of Purley with passion for over 16 years. Mr Speakman was described as a very kind man who could be relied on for his support. His involvement with and contribution to tribunals was specifically noted and his admission to the roll of Honorary Alderman was described as entirely appropriate.

The Mayor then presented Valerie Shawcross CBE and Donald Speakman with their citations and gifts.

This brought the Special Council Meeting to a close.

## **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

### **38/19 Political Balance of the Council and Composition of Committees**

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** Council **AGREED** the recommendations in the report:

- i. There are 41 Labour Group Members and 29 Conservative Group Members; and
- ii. Approved the appointment and composition of Committees as set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report.

### **39/19 Appointments**

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** Council **AGREED** the recommendations in the report:

- i. Agreed (or received for information as applicable) the following appointments where the number of nominations was equal to the number of available positions:
  - a. The appointments to Committees of the Council (Blue Schedule); and
  - b. The appointments to all other Panels, Working Groups and Outside Bodies (Pink Schedule).
- ii. Received for information executive appointments made under the Leader and Cabinet decision making framework:
  - a. The appointments of Cabinet Members, Cabinet Committees and Deputy Cabinet Members (Blue Schedule);
  - b. The appointments to Joint Committees (Blue Schedule);

- c. The appointments to London Councils Committees and Panels and Local Government Association bodies (Blue Schedule); and
    - d. The appointment of Councillors to the Health & Wellbeing Board (Blue Schedule).
  - iii. Noted that the Leader has confirmed his intention to continue to devolve decision making powers to Cabinet or relevant Cabinet Members
  - iv. Received for information:
    - a. The appointments of Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Cabinet (Blue Schedule); and
    - b. The appointments of political party group officers (Blue Schedule).

40/19      **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

This motion was not required.

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**

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