

Annual Council

The Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 23 May 2018 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Toni Letts (Chair);
Deputy Mayor Mike Selva (Vice Chair);
Councillors Hamida Ali, Muhammad Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains, Sue Bennett, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttinger, Janet Campbell, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Sherwan Chowdhury, Luke Clancy, Chris Clark, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Mary Croos, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Mario Creatura, Nina Degrads, 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, Humayun Kabir, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, Stuart King, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann, Maggie Mansell, Stuart Millson, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman, Steve O'Connell, Oni Oviri, Ian Parker, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Badsha Quadir, Helen Redfern, Scott Roche, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Niroshan Sirisena, Andy Stranack, Gareth Streeter, Rob Ward, David Wood, Louisa Woodley and Callton Young

Apologies: Councillor Jerry Fitzpatrick

PART A

1/18 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Fitzpatrick.

2/18 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.

3/18 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

Vote of Thanks

The Mayor invited the Deputy Mayor to chair the item. The Deputy Mayor then invited the Mayor to deliver her farewell address.

The Mayor welcomed everyone present in the Council Chamber, including the newly elected Councillors and the returning Councillors. She explained that it was an exceptional honour and humbling to be the Mayor for a second time.

The Mayor noted that in her time as being Mayor she was able to witness the ongoing work within the voluntary sector and charities and the transition within the London Borough of Croydon through its ongoing regeneration. She noted that it was an honour to represent the Borough.

The Mayor explained that her most challenging time within the Mayoralty year had been attending the ceremonies for the tram incident victims' memorials and having the opportunity to remember and celebrate their lives.

The Mayor noted that the election of the first Young Mayor of Croydon had been extremely positive. The local schools had worked hard and the 28 candidates were vibrant and eager to learn about local democracy. She extended her congratulations to William Awomoyi who had been elected after receiving approximately 12,000 votes.

The Mayor thanked the local schools that had extraordinary teaching staff and the local organisations and clubs set up to educate the young children of the Borough. There had also been culture events organised to engage young people, which particularly focused on music. She noted that the young people of the Borough should be honoured and it would be positive to encourage more apprenticeships and business opportunities within the Borough.

The Mayor noted that it had been a pleasure to meet the Ambassadors and City Mayors of Budapest, Chile, China, Holland and Italy to discuss the opportunities for more businesses to be set up in Croydon.

The opening of Krepes & Kones restaurant with the music duo Krept and Konan, local musicians, was positive as it was their first business venture and was proving to be very popular.

The Mayor extended her thank you to the Deputy Mayor Mike Selva and the Deputy Mayoress for being kind and supportive throughout her mayoralty year. She also thanked her daughter, the Mayoress, the consorts, Mayoralty team, mace bearers, the former mayoral secretary, her friends and family and all the colleagues and officers working for Croydon Council. She noted that it was Lea Goddard's, Head of Elections and Civic Services, last Council meeting and thanked him for his hard

work at Croydon Council over the past 19 years and wished him well in his retirement.

The Leader, moving the vote of thanks, highlighted the amazing contribution the Mayor had made and had been committed and compassionate about the role for the Mayoralty year. The Mayor was thanked for supporting the young people in the Borough and it was noted that she had helped provide opportunities for them. The Mayor was a good orator and had been an inspiration, especially for the next generation who would do Croydon proud. The Leader noted that she had been dedicated to public services in Croydon for 40 years and thanked her for her hard work.

Councillor Pollard, seconding the motion, stated that not many Councillors had the honour of being the Mayor twice and that she had deserved it. He noted that he had attended many events with the Mayor and she had always approached these with great warmth and humanity. He thanked her for chairing the Council meetings and conducting the business effectively. Councillor Pollard thanked her for all her hard work and stated it was a pleasure to second the motion.

The Deputy Mayor put the motion to the vote.

RESOLVED –

- (i). the Council tendered its grateful thanks to The Worshipful, The Mayor, Councillor Toni Letts, for the courteous and efficient manner in which she had presided over the Council's deliberations during the past year;
- (ii). the Council recorded its sincere appreciation of the dignified manner in which Councillor Toni Letts OBE had carried out the traditional duties of the office of Mayor, of the support and encouragement which she and her Mayoress, Mrs Beverley Binstead had given to local organisations and of the prominent part which they had taken in the social life of the Borough during the Mayor's period of office; and
- (iii). that this Council resolution was engrossed and sealed and presented to the Mayor at the Annual Council Meeting in a suitable form.

5/18

Election of the Mayor

Councillor Newman proposed that Councillor Bernadette Khan be nominated as the Mayor of Croydon for the year 2018-19. He explained that it was an immense pleasure to propose her as the new Mayor and noted that she would be taking up the role in her most challenge time of her family's lives. Councillor Bernadette Khan had contributed a huge

amount of work to public services, various bodies and the voluntary sector and her work in West Thornton Ward was honourable; the constituents thought very highly of her. He was pleased she would be representing Croydon as the Mayor and it was a celebration for her and her family at a very difficult time. He noted that it was a pleasure to formally nominate Councillor Bernadette Khan as Mayor.

Councillor Pollard seconded the proposal that Councillor Bernadette Khan be nominated as the Mayor of Croydon for the year 2018-19. He stated that it was a delight to second the proposal and explained that her commitment to the Borough, especially her work with young people, was commendable. He sent his condolences from the Conservative Group and explained that they all wished to support her through the Mayoral year.

The motion was put to the vote and was **carried unanimously**. The Mayoral procession left the Chamber at 1909 hours.

The Mayoral procession returned at 1917 hours, with the new Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Bernadette Khan, in the Chair.

The Mayor read out the declaration of office and duly signed it. The Mayor then announced that she had requested Councillor Humayun Kabir to serve as her Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor signed the declaration of the office.

The Mayor, giving her acceptance speech, stated that it was a great pleasure to announce that her husband Mr Qaiyum Khan would be her consort during her Mayoral year. The Mayor then presented the past-Mayor's badge and citation to the previous Mayor, Councillor Toni Letts and presented the past-consort badge to her daughter, Mayoress Beverley Binstead.

The Mayor thanked her colleagues, family and friends and noted that it was exciting, honourable and humbling to be given the opportunity to become the Mayor of the Borough Croydon. She explained she had been a Councillor for 20 years and a local resident for over 40 years and was proud to live and work in the diverse Borough which was rich in culture. The Borough was growing and was expected to reach a population of 500,000 by 2021 which would create challenges; however, it would also become a home for even more talented and aspirational young people.

The Mayor noted that she wished to use her tenure to highlight equality, inclusiveness and community empowerment and would focus on these issues during her mayoral year.

The Mayor stated that communities must be supported to realise their visions and aspirations. A key component of any democracy was to support grassroots initiatives to help produce communities that were prosperous, diverse, dynamic and empowered. Recognising this, in 2015 the Cabinet had agreed the community Ward budget program to help

support initiatives and deliver projects for communities and local residents. The Mayor explained that communities within the Borough could be better supported if all parties worked collaboratively. There were nearly 2000 active community groups and she noted that the Borough should be proud of the huge resource and appreciate all of its committed volunteer workers.

The Mayor informed the Council that she would be committed as Madam Mayor to strengthen equality and social inclusion in partnership with the statutory and voluntary organisations on behalf of the residents of Croydon.

6/18 **Announcements of the Returning Officer**

The Chief Executive noted that following the local elections held on 3 May 2018, 70 Members had been successfully elected to serve on the Council. She congratulated the Councillors on their successful campaigns and noted, on behalf of all officers, how much they were looking forward to working with them over the next four years.

7/18 **Election of the Leader**

Council **NOTED:**

- 1) that Councillor Tony Newman had been elected Leader of the Council for a four year term on 3 May 2018;
- 2) that Councillor Alison Butler had been appointed as the Statutory Deputy Leader;
- 3) that Councillor Stuart King had been appointed as the Deputy Leader.

8/18 **Political Balance of the Council and Composition of Committees**

The Mayor introduced the report of the Director of Law and Monitoring Officer that had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED – That the Council agreed to:

- 1) Confirm that there were 41 Labour Group Members and 29 Conservative Group Members (as set out in Para 3.1 of the report); and
- 2) Approved the appointment and composition of Committees as set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report.

Appointments and Scheme of Allowances

The Mayor introduced the report of the Director of Law and Monitoring Officer that had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED – That the Council agreed to:

Appointments

- 1.1 The appointments to Committees of the Council (as detailed in the Blue Schedule); and
- 1.2 The appointments to all other Panels, Working Groups and Outside Bodies (as detailed in the Pink Schedule).
- 1.3 Note the Executive appointments of Cabinet Members, Cabinet Committees and Deputy Cabinet Members (as detailed in the Blue Schedule);
- 1.4 Note the Executive appointments to Joint Committees (as detailed in the Blue Schedule);
- 1.5 Note the Executive appointments to London Councils Committees and Panels and Local Government Association bodies (as detailed in the Blue Schedule); and
- 1.6 Note the Executive appointment of Councillors to the Health & Wellbeing Board (as detailed in the Blue Schedule).
- 1.7 Note that the Leader had confirmed his intention to continue to devolve decision making powers to cabinet or relevant cabinet members.
- 1.8 Authorise the Council Solicitor to make any consequential changes to the Council's Constitution to reflect the proposed arrangements for 'job-share' executive roles.
- 1.9 Note the appointments of the Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Cabinet (as detailed in the Blue Schedule);
- 1.10 Note the appointments of political party group officers (as detailed in the Blue Schedule);

Allowances

- 2.1 That pursuant to the provisions of Article 12.4 of the Constitution and section 31 of the Localism Act 2011, the Monitoring Officer had granted a general dispensation to all Members of the Council pursuant to the Council's dispensation procedure as detailed in

paragraph 3 of the report for the purposes of permitting Members to consider allowances for the duration of their term of office;

- 2.2 That the continuation of the current Members' allowance scheme as adopted by the Council in 2015, and last updated by the Council in June 2017, together with delegation of authority to the Council Solicitor to carry out all necessary publicity; and
- 2.3 Note that a review of the Members' Allowance Scheme was to be undertaken, including more detailed consideration of the latest report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, and that recommendations arising from that review, along with a revised Members' Allowance Scheme, would be presented to Members for approval.

10/18 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Not required.

The meeting ended at 7.43 pm

Signed:

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Date:

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