

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 5 DECEMBER 2019

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 5 December 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Ismail	Gill	Poole
Bell-Bradford	Graham	Poyser
Caluori	Heather	Russell
Champion	Hull	Smith
Chapman	Hyde	Spall
Chowdhury	Jeapes	Turan
Clarke	Khurana	Ward
A Clarke-Perry	Klute	Watts
Comer-Schwartz	Lukes	Wayne
Cutler	Nathan	Williamson
Debono	Ngongo	Woodbyrne
Gallagher	O'Halloran	Woolf

The Mayor (Councillor Rakhia Ismail) in the Chair

83 MINUTE'S SILENCE

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a minute's silence was held for all of those affected by the London Bridge terror attack on 29 November 2019.

84 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2019 be agreed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

86 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burgess, Convery, Gantly, Hamitouche, Kay, Khondoker, Picknell and Shaikh.

b) Order of Business

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

c) Declaration of Discussion Items

No items were declared.

d) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that, due to the pre-election period of heightened political sensitivity, procedure rules 10.2(f), (i), (j) and (k) relating to petitions, questions and motions were suspended for the duration of the meeting.

The Mayor thanked the many colleagues who attended the Remembrance events in November. The Mayor said that it was an honour to attend the wreath laying events on Remembrance Sunday as well as the Poppy Appeal launch with the Islington Veterans Association. Many local people attended the events to remember and pay their respects. The Mayor thanked everyone involved in organising the events for all their hard work.

The Mayor paid tribute to Lilian Reeve, who passed away on Remembrance Sunday. Lilian was a local resident who served in the Second World War as a nurse in the Royal Air Force. Lilian never missed a Remembrance Day parade. The Mayor passed on the council's condolences to her family and friends.

The Mayor had attended many events since the last meeting, including the Community Apple Day at the Ecology Centre, the Harvest Festival with the London Pearly Kings and Queens, and the 25th Anniversary of Angel Shed Theatre Company at Sadler's Wells Theatre, which were all fantastic events.

October was Black History Month and the Mayor had attended the Black Women Rising Event at City University, highlighting the many positive contributions that Black women make to society.

The Mayor had also opened a national conference on improving the experiences of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children at the Art House. The Mayor said she was proud of the council's work to support refugees, particularly young people seeking asylum.

The Mayor had attended the Council Caretaker Awards to celebrate the fantastic work of the caretakers on Islington's estates. The Mayor highlighted that the council's caretakers do so much more than look after estates; they do great work to support the local community and often go above and beyond the call of duty.

The Mayor's fundraising dinner was held on Tuesday evening and raised nearly £1,500 for the Mayor's Charities, Centre 404 and Nafsiyat Intercultural Therapy Centre. The Mayor thanked Fish Central for hosting this event and supporting her charities.

The Mayor enjoyed the opening of the Charterhouse Christmas Fair, switching on the Christmas lights across the borough and the Talking Newspaper Christmas Party. The Mayor said that the Talking Newspaper provides a great service for local people with visual impairments and it was nice to talk to some of their clients.

e) Length of Speeches

The Mayor reminded members to take note of the timer and to keep within the permitted length for speeches.

The Mayor reminded councillors to consider the political sensitivity when making their remarks.

87 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts said that his thoughts were with the family and friends of the victims of the terror attack at London Bridge. Councillor Watts said that there was a responsibility on all of us to think about how we can bring our communities together and support community cohesion in the face of such appalling attacks.

Councillor Watts thanked the Islington Veterans Association and all of those who supported the Remembrance Day events. Councillor Watts also passed on his best wishes to the family of Lilian Reeve, the second world war veteran, who passed away on Remembrance Day.

88 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2020-21

Councillor Hull moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Watts seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate. Councillor Hull exercised his right of reply.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020/21 be agreed as set out in Appendix A to the report submitted;

- (ii) That it be noted that the Council is retaining a cap of 8.5% for council tax support – despite unprecedented central government funding cuts both for this scheme and for the council generally – as part of our ongoing commitment to provide support throughout the different stages of residents' lives, where it is needed.
- (iii) That the amendments to council tax agreed at full Council on 6 December 2018 be retained. To be clear, this means that, from 1 April 2020, the following will continue to apply:
 - 1) council tax exemption classes A and C will have a discount of 0% for all cases;
 - 2) council tax discount for second homes will be 0% in all cases;
 - 3) council tax discount for empty furnished lets will be 0% in all cases; and
 - 4) a premium will be charged at the maximum percentage allowed on the council tax of all properties that have remained empty for over 2 years in all cases.

89 ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN THE 2019-20 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Councillor Hull moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Watts seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate. Councillor Hull exercised his right of reply.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the changes to the capital programme covered in the report and the revised 2019/20 capital programme at Appendix 1 to the report submitted be agreed.
- (ii) That it be noted that the medium-term capital programme will be further reviewed and increased as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process.

90 CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The Mayor advised that this report had been circulated in the additional despatch of papers.

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Turan seconded. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the amendments to the Constitution set out in the Appendix to the report submitted be approved;
- (ii) That the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution considered necessary.

91 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT

The Mayor advised that this report had been circulated in the additional despatch of papers.

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Turan seconded. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Claire Ballak be appointed as the Parent Governor Representative (Primary) on the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for a four year term or until a successor is appointed;
- (ii) To appoint Cllr Comer-Schwartz, the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families, to the Disciplinary Appeal Committee for the remainder of municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- (iii) To appoint Cllr Williamson as a trustee of the Cloudesley Charity with immediate effect for a period of four years or until a successor is appointed.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

MAYOR