

PRESENT

Members of the Council

THE MAYOR: COUNCILLOR JAMES HUSBAND

THE DEPUTY MAYOR: COUNCILLOR MAIGHREAD CONDON-SIMMONDS

ATKINSON, J Robert

BLAKEMAN, J M

BUCKMASTER, Christopher

BUXTON, Fiona

BUXTON, Terence

CAMPBELL, Barbara

CAMPBELL, Mrs Elizabeth

CAMPION, David, BA (Arch), Dip TP, FRIBA, MBCS, CITP

CARUANA, Carol

COATES, Professor Sir Anthony Bt, BSc, MD, FRC Path, FRCP

COCKELL, Sir Merrick

COLERIDGE, Timothy

COLLINSON, Deborah

DALTON, Andrew

DENT COAD, Emma

DONALDSON, Ian

FEILDING-MELLEN, Rock

FOREMAN, Todd

FREEMAN, Robert

GARDNER, Joanna

HANHAM, Dr Iain, MA, MA (Hons), MSc, DIC, FRCP, FRCR

HARGREAVES, Gerard

HEALY, Pat

HOIER, Bridget

HOLT, Tony

JONES, Tim

LIGHTFOOT, Warwick

LINDSAY, David

MARSHALL, Quentin

MASON, Pat

MILLS, Julie

MINGAY, Robert

MOYLAN, Daniel

NEAL, Matthew

O'NEILL, Dez

PAGET-BROWN, Nicholas

PALMER, Matthew

PASCALL, Will
READ, Jonathon
RITCHIE, Baroness Shireen
ROSSI, Marie-Therese
RUTHERFORD, Mrs Elizabeth
TAYLOR, Mrs Frances
WADE, Linda
WARRICK, Paul
WEALE, Mary
WEATHERHEAD, Miss Doreen M
WILL, Emma
WILLIAMS, Charles

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2011

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 19 January 2011 and the ordinary meeting held on the same evening were confirmed as correct records and were signed by the Mayor.

2 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor informed the Council that the Chocolate Fest in the Parlour on 10 February had been a success and had raised £1,700 for Help for Heroes. There would be a street collection for Help for Heroes in and around the King's Road on the morning of 26 March; more details would be circulated nearer the time.

3 TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(i) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ahern, Borwick and Lamont.

(ii) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Coleridge declared a personal interest as a trustee of Focus Kensington and Chelsea as this appeared in the Labour Group's alternative budget.

All Members present declared personal interests in the Administration Committee report on the Members' Allowances Scheme.

(iii) Declarations under S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

None.

4 PETITIONS

(i) Satellite TV and digital switchover

Councillor Caruana submitted a petition signed by 75 residents of Clydesdale House and Tavistock Crescent Residents Associations with the following prayer:

'We the undersigned residents of Clydesdale House RA and Tavistock Crescent RA are alarmed that RBKC Council with the collusion of the TMO are forcing through a new satellite television system for our blocks, forcing us to pay for a new service we neither need nor want.

We note that there has been no consultation. What little information that has been provided appears to have been aimed at misleading residents, for example by promising an opt-out, which is now being refused.

While residents believe that some minor work may be required for a very few number of flats at Clydesdale House and Tavistock Crescent who are unable to receive Freeview, we believe this could be done more cheaply and efficiently. It is our view that the Council is using digital switchover and this expensive proposal as an excuse to rip down private satellite dishes - something the Council could do at any time without forcing us all to pay ongoing charges for an unwanted satellite system.

We do not believe the Council should become a satellite provider for TMO Estates.

We call on the TMO to defend its residents and demand that the Council halts this programme and carry out a meaningful consultation with Clydesdale House and Tavistock Crescent residents.

We also call on our local councillors to call the Council to account and halt this programme.'

(ii) Jobs and services

Councillor Atkinson submitted a petition signed by 242 people with the following prayer:

'We, the undersigned oppose Kensington and Chelsea plans to cut jobs and services - over 200 jobs - by April 2011. We believe that these savage spending cuts driven by the Con-Dem Government are unnecessary and unfair. They will have a devastating effect to local services and communities. We believe there are alternatives such as:

- Fair taxation;
- Investment in local communities, health and education;
- More equal and just society.'

Pursuant to Standing Order 18 the petitions were referred to the relevant Cabinet Member for consideration.

5 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor announced that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the order of debate would be as set out in the paper laid round the chamber.

It was moved by Councillor Paget-Brown, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

RESOLVED:

- (a) That in accordance with Standing Order 50, Standing Orders 25.07 and 34 be suspended insofar as they related to the speech of the Leader in submitting the Budget, that of Councillor Blakeman in her reply and that of Councillor Lightfoot in submitting the Capital Budget; and
- (b) that Standing Order 29 be suspended insofar as it placed a three hour guillotine on this meeting, but that instead the meeting should terminate after four hours (including any period of adjournment).

6 REPORTS FROM THE CABINET

The reception of the reports was moved by Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell and seconded by Councillor Moylan.

(i) & (ii) Budget proposals 2011/12 and Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2010/11

The Mayor drew attention to the Labour Group's alternative budget. He informed Members that one amendment had been tabled. He explained that after the period of general debate on the Budget Proposals, Revenue Budget and Council Tax, the amendment would be moved, seconded, debated and voted on.

The Mayor also drew the Council's attention to the amendment to the Campden House Court tax base which had been circulated around the Chamber.

Debate ensued, during which Councillors Hargreaves and Rossi made their maiden speeches.

With the prior agreement of the Mayor, Sonya Howard, Unison Branch Secretary for Kensington and Chelsea addressed the meeting.

Motion (Amendment) 1

It was then moved by Councillor Blakeman and seconded by Councillor Mason:

"To amend the Cabinet's Revenue Budget proposal to enhance the Council's support to those most in need of help by:

- Freezing the Council Tax
- Promoting a range of Invest to Save projects
- Deferring job losses pending an in-depth re-examination to determine whether savings can be achieved without ceasing front line services to vulnerable residents
- Abandoning the technically infeasible proposal to build a Crossrail station to ensure availability of capital reserves for Invest to Save projects
- Deferring indefinitely all "vanity" capital expenditure pending restoration of "the sunny uplands"
- Pump priming the Kensington and Chelsea Big Society by gifting properties and dowries to the voluntary sector
- Laying the groundwork of the Vision for Edenham to re-invigorate and develop a sustainable community in the Edenham area of Golborne Ward significantly to reduce health inequalities and consequential future demands on health and social care services.

This amended revenue budget is sustainable with targeted service reductions, increased charges for the Holland Park Opera, reducing the amount to be contributed to capital spending, utilising the Supporting People Reserve for its intended purpose and making effective use of the Strategic Regeneration Reserve to promote employment and housing and to reduce health inequalities."

Debate ensued.

The amendment was put to the vote and was declared by the Mayor to be lost.

Councillors Atkinson, Blakeman, Dent Coad, Foreman, Healy, Hoier, Mason, Mingay and O'Neill asked that their names be recorded as voting for the motion. Councillors Caruana, Jones and Wade asked that their names be recorded as abstaining.

It was then

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be received; and
- (b) That the recommendations at paragraphs 1.3 and 2.10 of the submissions from the Cabinet, as amended by the change to the Campden House Court tax base, be adopted.

Councillors Atkinson, Blakeman, Caruana, Dent Coad, Foreman, Healy, Hoier, Jones, Mason, Mingay, O'Neill and Wade asked that their names be recorded as voting against.

(iii) Capital Programme 2011/12 - 2013/14

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Lightfoot and seconded by Councillor Moylan.

Debate ensued.

Motion (Amendment) 2

It was moved by Councillor Dent Coad and seconded by Councillor Mingay:

"To amend the Cabinet's Budget in respect of the Capital Programme as shown on the attached Labour Group alternative budget. This will allow the Council to:

- Promote some genuinely mixed housing communities at a time when the Royal Borough still has too many families in temporary accommodation and a lengthy waiting list
- ensure that the Kensington Academy matches so far as is feasible in a changed economic environment the standards set by the Chelsea Academy and the re-built Holland Park School
- carry out a series of environmental improvements, particularly in the Golborne Ward."

Debate ensued.

The amendment was put to the vote and was declared by the Mayor to be lost.

Councillors Atkinson, Blakeman, Caruana, Dent Coad, Foreman, Healy, Hoier, Jones, Mason, Mingay, O'Neill and Wade asked that their names be recorded as voting for the motion.

It was then

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be received; and

- (b) That the recommendations at paragraph 3.10 of the Capital Programme report from the Cabinet be adopted.

Councillors Atkinson, Blakeman, Caruana, Dent Coad, Foreman, Healy, Hoier, Jones, Mason, Mingay, O'Neill and Wade asked that their names be recorded as voting against.

(iv) Annual Treasury Strategy 2011/12

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Lightfoot and seconded by Councillor Moylan.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be received; and
(b) That the recommendations at paragraph 4.12 be adopted.

Councillors Atkinson, Blakeman, Dent Coad, Foreman, Healy, Hoier, Mason, Mingay and O'Neill asked that their names be recorded as abstaining.

7 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL BY COUNCIL-SIDE COMMITTEES

Report of the Administration Committee

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell and seconded by Councillor Moylan.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the recommendation at paragraph 1.2 be adopted;
(b) that the recommendation at paragraph 2.3 be adopted;
(c) that the recommendation at paragraph 3.2 be adopted.

8 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None.

9 MATTERS RAISED UNDER STANDING ORDER 19

Lancaster Green

Councillor Foreman spoke about Lancaster Green at the base of Grenfell Tower. This was a highly used open space. He said this would be the site of the new North Kensington Leisure Centre. At the Council meeting on 13 October the conservation of this open space had been discussed. Councillor Foreman said that Councillor

Paget-Brown had remarked that this space would be preserved. The Local Development Framework stated that the Council was looking at reducing open space. The Leader had written to Sir Malcolm Rifkind in January stating that the Green was under threat and local people could use Avondale Park 200m away. Councillor Foreman said that in fact it was 400m away. He had written to Councillor Paget-Brown about it but was still awaiting a reply.

The Council noted the matter.

10 MOTION FOR DEBATE

Member and Officer remuneration

It was moved by Councillor Foreman and seconded by Councillor Dent Coad:

"This Council welcomes the recent announcement by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, that the Localism Bill will contain a provision that democratically elected Councillors will be given the right to vote in full Council on Council officer remuneration in excess of £100,000 per annum. This Council undertakes that, at the earliest opportunity after the Localism Bill becomes law, it will conduct a public review and vote by the full Council with respect to the Council's remuneration of any Council officer or member whose total remuneration from all sources of public sector employment or service is in excess of £100,000 per annum."

Pursuant to Standing Order 24.09 it was then moved by Councillor Paget-Brown and seconded by Councillor Moylan:

"That the motion be referred to the Administration Committee for consideration and report."

The Mayor put this motion to vote and declared it carried.

Councillors Atkinson, Blakeman, Dent Coad, Foreman, Healy, Hoier, Mason, Mingay and O'Neill asked that their names be recorded as voting against.

11 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

None.

12. OTHER URGENT MATTERS

None.

The meeting ended at 9.31pm.

Mayor