

PRESENT

Members of the Council

THE MAYOR: COUNCILLOR WARWICK LIGHTFOOT

THE DEPUTY MAYOR: COUNCILLOR MISS BARBARA CAMPBELL

AHERN, Tim

ALAPINI, Marianne

ATKINSON, Robert

BLAKEMAN, J M

BLANCHFLOWER, Simon

BORWICK, Victoria

BUCKMASTER, Christopher

BUXTON, Fiona

BUXTON, Terence

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

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

COCKELL, Merrick

COLERIDGE, Timothy

CONDON-SIMMONDS, Maighread

CORBET-SINGLETON, John, CBE

COX, John, MA, FCA

CUNNINGHAM, Keith

DALTON, Andrew

DONALDSON, Ian

EDGE, Jeremy

FAIRHEAD, Thomas

FRAZER, Mrs Priscilla

FREEMAN, Robert

GARDNER, The Hon. Joanna

HANHAM, Dr Iain, MA, MSc, DIC, FRCP, FRCR

HANHAM, The Lady, CBE

HARLAND, David

HOIER, Bridget

HOIER, Stephen P

HOLT, Tony

HORTON, Rima

HUSBAND, James

KINGSLEY, Mrs Jennifer

LASHARIE, Mushtaq

LEVITT, Bryan P, MA, PhD, FRSC

LINDSAY, David

MOYLAN, Daniel

O'NEILL, Dez
PAGET-BROWN, Nicholas
PHELPS, Barry
RITCHIE, Shireen
SHAPRO, Stuart H
TAYLOR, Mrs Frances
TOMLIN, Ernest P
WALKER-ARNOTT, Richard, DL
WARRICK, Paul
WEALE, Mary
WEATHERHEAD, Miss Doreen M

A1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Mayor.

A2 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

With much sadness, the Mayor reported the deaths of two people who were very much a part of the Royal Borough for many years – one serving as an elected member, the other as a champion of those who lived in rented accommodation.

Former Councillor and Alderman Mrs Diana Paul

Councillor and Alderman Mrs Diana Paul was first elected to the Council of the former Royal Borough of Kensington in 1949. She subsequently served on the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea as a Councillor for Queen's Gate Ward from 1964 to 1968 when she was elected to the Aldermanic bench where she served for a further three years, resigning in May 1971.

Her interests were in the fields of Housing and Planning although, during her many years on the Council, she served on a wide range of Committees and amongst other responsibilities was the Council's representative on Kensington Housing Trust and the London Boroughs' Association.

After leaving the Council, Mrs Paul married Richard Christmas, a cousin of the late Elizabeth Christmas and moved to Powis where he farmed. She was last at the Town Hall when Elizabeth Christmas received the Freedom of the Borough in 2001.

Helen Holdsworth

The Mayor said that Helen Holdsworth lived in Holland Ward and worked hard to campaign for all sorts of residents who in one form or another were vulnerable: private sector tenants, older people, disabled people and national insurance pensioners. She was

involved in many voluntary organisations, such as Staying Put for the Elderly, but certainly did not limit her community involvement to simply engaging with the local voluntary sector and was not afraid of getting involved in overtly political action. She was one of the Borough's active residents who was involved in so many organisations that it was difficult to remember which she was genuinely involved in and which she was not. Her contribution was recognised in 2002 by a Mayor's Award.

The Mayor said that she would be remembered by everybody who encountered her - even if they weren't wholly in agreement with her on a particular matter that she was campaigning on - with a great deal of affection which reflected her own warmth and generosity. She was never a member of the Council but sometimes one felt she might as well have been.

Other Members spoke.

The Council stood in silent tribute to Mrs Diana Paul and Ms Helen Holdsworth.

The Queen's 80th Birthday

The Mayor announced that on the previous Friday, in the traditional manner, he had sent a message to congratulate The Queen on her 80th birthday and to wish her many happy returns on behalf of the Council and residents of the Royal Borough. To mark The Queen's birthday in a practical way a short pamphlet has been produced that explores the Royal Boroughs links with the monarchy that go back to the time of the Glorious Revolution; why we are a Royal Borough; the interesting story behind the national anthem; and a brief description of the political and historic context of The Queen's coronation oath and titles. Its purpose is to help our schools in their plans to celebrate The Queen's official birthday and as an aid for our residential homes and day centres for their reminiscing therapy projects. The new words of the national anthem are printed on the back.

Councillors not standing for re-election

The Mayor stated that this was the last Council meeting for nine Councillors who were not seeking re-election on 4 May.

The Mayor said that details of their service on the Council had been circulated round the Chamber. In placing on record warm appreciation for their many years of public service the Mayor invited the Council also to agree that those details should form part of the official public record.

Councillor Richard Walker-Arnott, DL (32 years' service)

Richard Walker-Arnott was elected to the Council in May 1974. Among his many roles on the Council, he has been Chief Whip, Deputy Mayor, Mayor for the municipal year 2000-01, Chairman of the Social Services, Health and Housing and Corporate Management Committees, Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and Deputy Leader of the Council. He was appointed to the Cabinet when it was established in July 2001 and has served on it ever since, currently as Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks, Arts and Museums. In April 2005 he was appointed Representative Deputy Lieutenant Designate for Kensington and Chelsea following Sir Michael Craig-Cooper's elevation to Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London. Once he has left the Council next month he will formally take up the full appointment as the Royal Borough's Representative Deputy Lieutenant.

Councillor Ernest Tomlin (31 years' service)

Ernest Tomlin represented Norland Ward for many years. He was first elected to the Council in 1968 and has served continuously since 1978. He has been Chairman of several committees including the Voluntary Organisations Liaison Committee, Social Services Committee, Education and Libraries Committee and more recently the OSC on Social Services, Health and Housing. He was Deputy Mayor in 1980-81 and Mayor in 1988-89.

Councillor Stuart H Shapro (27 years' service)

Stuart H Shapro was first elected to the Council in 1971 and served until 1990 principally as a member for Colville Ward. He was re-elected in 1998 as a member for Golborne Ward. He served on many committees including Policy and Resources, Social Services, Town Planning and Investment Committees and more recently the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Cabinet and Corporate Services. He was also Deputy Leader of the Labour Group on the Council and the former Minority Party Whip.

Councillor Simon Blanchflower (8 years' service)

Simon Blanchflower was elected to the Council in May 1998 and is currently Deputy Leader of the Minority Party. He has served on the Education and Libraries Committee, the Environmental Services Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Education, Libraries and Arts, among others.

Councillor Jonathan Clamp (4 years' service)

Jonathan Clamp was elected in 2002 as a member for Redcliffe Ward. He has served most recently on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Family and Children's Services and Adult Care, Health and Environmental Health and before that on the OSC for Social Services, Health and Housing.

Councillor Nicholas Halbritter (4 years' service)

Nicholas Halbritter has represented Redcliffe Ward since 2002 and has served on the OSC for Education, Libraries and Arts and the OSC for Family and Children's Services.

Councillor David Harland (4 years' service)

David Harland has represented Brompton Ward for the last four years. He has served on the OSC on Environmental Services, Environmental Health and Planning Policy, the Licensing Panel and more recently the OSC on Public Realm.

Councillor Steven Redman (4 years' service)

Steven Redman has represented Cremorne Ward since 2002 and has served on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Family and Children's Services and Housing, Leisure, Arts and Regeneration and before that on the OSC for Social Services, Health and Housing. He has been a trustee of the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum since 2002.

Councillor Mrs Jennifer Kingsley (4 years' service)

Jennifer Kingsley has represented Cremorne Ward since the last election and has served on Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Housing, Leisure, Arts and Regeneration and Community Partnerships and Economic Development and Education, Libraries and Arts. She has also served on the Licensing Panel, the Planning Services Committee and the former Kensington and Chelsea Arts Council. She is Vice Chairman of the Crime Prevention Panel.

Various Members of the Council spoke in recognition of work carried out by individual Councillors and praised such invaluable service and dedication.

A3 TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

Declarations of interest

Councillor Moylan declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 7. He informed the Council that he had previously worked with Miss Sophia Lambert in the British Embassy, Pretoria.

A4 PETITIONS

(i) St. Charles Ward

Councillor Atkinson presented a petition containing 184 signatures with the following prayer:

"We the undersigned residents of St. Charles Ward call upon the Police, landlords and the Council to take action to halt the anti social behaviour of a small number of people in the public areas of the ward. We call for extended utilisation of CCTV cameras. We call for coordinated and resolute action to stamp out intimidation and damage to property and people by fighting dogs and pit-bull terriers. Legislation already exists to require dog owners to protect residents from dogs trained to fight each other and menace adults and children. We call upon the Police, landlords and the Council to use the powers they already have. We demand that the Council of the Royal Borough employ full time dog wardens with a duty to stop 'out of control dogs' menacing residents and to enforce the bye law requiring dogs in public places to be on a lead at all times.

We demand that the Metropolitan Police, Community Police Officers and the Council's Parks Police tackle anti social behaviour and the training of fighting dogs in St. Charles Ward."

Pursuant to Standing Order 18, the petition stood referred to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Environmental Management and Regeneration for consideration and report back.

(ii) Replacement and Planting of Trees in Oakley Street

Councillor Condon-Simmonds presented a petition containing 83 signatures with the following prayer:

"We, the signatories of the following statement,

CONCERNED at the recent rapid loss of distinctive mature trees in the street, as a result of decay;

RECALLING that the famous Victorian developer of part of the Street, Dr Phene, recognised and promoted trees in the streets, on amenity and health grounds;

URGENTLY REQUEST that the conservation streetscape be maintained with fresh tree planting.

Further, noting that some possible pavement planting sites have hitherto been considered unsuitable by reason of cellars and cabling; and that planting in the highway has been successful elsewhere;

REQUEST that, in addition to planting where practicable in the pavements, some planting may be done in the highway of Oakley Street;

while recognising that this may require a small reduction in parking bays;

and have RESOLVED that the Association is prepared to contribute to the cost of fresh trees."

Pursuant to Standing Order 18 the petition stood referred to the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Housing Policy and Transportation for consideration and report back.

(iii) Hammam and Moroccan Arts Centre in North Kensington

Councillor Bridget Hoier presented a petition containing 208 signatures with the following prayer:

" We the undersigned residents and young people of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea call upon the Council to take action to provide a Hammam in North Kensington with adjacent Moroccan museum. We request this for our health and cultural heritage to benefit the community at large."

Pursuant to Standing Order 18 the petition stood referred to the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks, Arts and Museums for consideration and report back.

(iv) Ashburnham Adventure Playground

Councillor Bridget Hoier presented a petition containing 104 signatures with the following prayer:

"We the undersigned electors of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea are outraged that the Council has chosen to ignore our petition calling for the closure of Ashburnham Adventure Playground to be delayed until such time as full alternative provision has been made.

Custom and practice has previously required the Council to respond to a petition at the next meeting after its presentation. On this occasion, that custom and practice has been disregarded, apparently because of the imminence of local elections.

Therefore we call upon the Council to revert to normal custom and practice by responding to this petition at their next meeting. We additionally demand that the Adventure Playground be re-opened until sufficient - and free - facilities are provided."

Pursuant to Standing Order 18 the petition stood referred to the Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services for consideration and report back.

(v) Roundabout at rear of St. Helen's Church, St Helen's Gardens, W10.

Councillor Horton presented a petition containing 70 signatures with the following prayer:

"This roundabout used to be a local landmark when it was planted with flowers. Now it has become an eyesore. In recent years the roundabout perimeter was paved. However, no thought then was given to the design of the green space of the roundabout. One fir and some sad five 'birch-like' looking trees were randomly planted on top without much thought about their location. One 'birch' was soon broken and the 'Christmas tree' fir does not seem to be even vertical. The overall roundabout impression is of an abandoned piece of urban space rather than an eye catching local landmark.

One only has to go to France or Spain to see roundabouts where they think about its design. They make either a visual composition out of plants or even locate some artwork on the roundabout to make the place memorable. It can be as simple as a flower clock or an ornament made of planting.

If a question of lack of financial resources arises one has to ask why raised flowerbeds (similar in size to the mentioned roundabout) can be attractively planted in southern parts of the borough. Some examples are - the raised bed tucked away on the corner of Addison Crescent, W.14 and Holland Villas Road, W.14 or at the back of the Town Hall. Is this the north - south divide within the borough raising its ugly head again.

We undersigned request the above mentioned improvements to the landscaping of the roundabout at the crossing of St. Quintin Avenue and St. Mark's Road, W10."

Pursuant to Standing Order 18 the petition stood referred to the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Housing Policy and Transportation for consideration and report back.

A5 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor announced that in accordance with Standing Orders the order of debate should be as set out in the agenda.

A6 SUBMISSIONS FROM THE CABINET

(i) Children's Fund and the Children's Photograph Competition

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Ritchie and seconded by Councillor Cockell.

Councillor Ritchie showed a short video of the work of the Children's Fund.

RESOLVED -

(a) That the report and presentation be received and noted.

(ii) Urgent Key Decisions taken since 25 January 2006

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

RESOLVED -

(b) That the report be received and noted.

A7 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL-SIDE COMMITTEES

Report of the Administration Sub-Committee

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Cockell and seconded by Councillor Miss Weatherhead.

The Council noted that the appointment of Miss Sophia Lambert CB as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee required a majority of all Members of the Council to be in favour.

It was then

RESOLVED:

(a) That the report be received; and

(b) That the recommendation at paragraph 1.4 be adopted with all 44 Members present voting in favour.

A8 MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Report of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Views of Young People on the Royal Borough's Draft Children and Young People's Plan

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Husband and seconded by Councillor Miss Campbell.

Debate ensued.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the report be received and noted.

A9 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

None.

A10 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Appointments to Committees

None.

Appointments to Outside Organisations

Councillors Paget-Brown and Councillor Horton moved the nominations standing in their names.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the nominations be agreed.

OTHER URGENT MATTERS

No other matters were dealt with at the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.33 pm

Mayor