

PRESENT

Members of the Council

THE MAYOR: COUNCILLOR WARWICK LIGHTFOOT

THE DEPUTY MAYOR: COUNCILLOR MISS BARBARA CAMPBELL

AHERN, Tim

ALAPINI, Marianne

ATKINSON, J Robert

BLAKEMAN, J M

BLANCHFLOWER, Simon

BORWICK, Victoria

BUCKMASTER, Christopher

BUXTON, Fiona

BUXTON, Terence

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

CLAMP, Jonathan

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

LASHARIE, Mushtaq

LEVITT, Bryan P, MA, PhD, FRSC

MASON, Pat

MOYLAN, Daniel

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

A1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2005

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Mayor.

A2 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor was delighted to report the birth of a daughter (Lucy) to Councillor Joanna Gardner and her husband, Richard.

He announced that Councillor Mrs Kingsley and Councillor David Lindsay had both recently suffered accidents. He wished them well and hoped to see them back soon.

The Mayor reported with great sadness that he had learned, that morning, of the death on Tuesday 29 November of former Councillor Jennifer Forsyth. Councillor Forsyth had served on the Council for 12 years, representing Avondale Ward from 1986 to 1998.

She was, at various times, a member of the Education and Libraries Committee, the Housing Committee and the Social Services Committee as well as the Corporate Management and Policy and Resources Committees. For ten of her twelve years on the Council she sat on the Benefit Review Board. Among the outside bodies with which she was involved, she represented the Council on the Kensington and Chelsea Arts Council and as a governor at Thomas Jones School.

During her final year on the Council she served as Deputy Mayor during Edward Hess's mayoralty. She was the first Labour Councillor to hold that position and she served with great distinction and diligence.

The Mayor added that Jennifer Forsyth and he were elected to the Council on the same day. From the start they were good friends with many interests and acquaintances in common. Jennifer came on to the Council after a long and distinguished career in the public service. Her father was a theatre director and she grew up in a bohemian and cerebral world. It was a world that combined an interest in the arts with a commitment to Fabian socialism and

progressive education. She had originally intended to go on the stage, but instead trained as an economist at the London School of Economics and entered the Home and Finance Division of HM Treasury in 1945. She had a full official Treasury career. Among other things working on the financing of Nationalised industries and the public sector capital programme. In the 1960s she spent two years seconded to the Treasury delegation in Washington and returned to work at the Department for Economic Affairs under the First Secretary of State, Mr. George Brown. She left the Treasury in 1980 as an under secretary and moved across to the Department of Transport to take charge of the Roads Programme. The Mayor said that he knew many people who worked for her and went on to have distinguished careers as Permanent Secretaries in Whitehall such as Sir Nicholas Monk. They all remembered her with affection and respect. In the Ministers she worked for she inspired confidence and respect. Norman Fowler, as Secretary of State for Transport, still has fond memories of her as "Queen of the Roads".

The Mayor said that for those Councillors who only got to know Jennifer in her later years as a councillor, it would be quite wrong to remember her as a cultivated and public spirited retired civil servant, who was simply a "worthy". She is remembered at the Treasury as a very stylish lady. The Mayor's secretary, Maureen, had once worked for her and when she knew that he knew Jennifer, she said "Yes, nice lady, stylish lady, very elegant lady."

As a Councillor she won respect and admiration across the Council. She was generous and friendly, but formidable with a purpose on a Committee.

The Mayor added that she provoked one of the most amusing exchanges he had ever seen in the Council Chamber. Nicholas Freeman, the then Leader of the Council, had campaigned for the abolition of the Greater London Council. Once he had succeeded in that he moved on to campaigning for the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority which enjoyed a brief twilight existence as a directly elected authority. At the budget meeting in 1988 after it was announced that ILEA was to go and the Royal Borough was to become an education authority, Jennifer expressed some reservations about this. At one point she said "Mr. Mayor, although it is almost 40 years ago since I took my school certificate I still feel I can make some practical comments on education. Nicholas Freeman responded by saying: "Mr Mayor there are some members of the minority party for whom the majority party have a great affection and respect. And what I say to Cllr Miss Jennifer Forsyth is: Jennifer, I don't believe that it really is almost 40 years ago since you took your school certificate."

The Mayor concluded by saying that for most of us our final years can be quite difficult and our light does not shine quite as brightly as perhaps it once did. He thought it fair to say that over the last few years Jennifer's light had gradually dimmed and he was very saddened that yesterday it went out.

Councillors Blakeman, Lasharie, Atkinson, Phelps, Blanchflower, Cunningham, Mason, Stephen Hoier, Walker-Arnott and Cockell all spoke with affection and respect for the late Jennifer Forsyth.

The Council stood in silent tribute to former Councillor Jennifer Forsyth.

A3 TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(i) Apologies

Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Mrs Kingsley, Lindsay, Mrs Taylor and Weale.

Apologies for lateness were reported from Councillors Coleridge, Freeman and Lady Hanham.

(ii) Declarations of interest

Councillors Blakeman and Horton declared non-prejudicial interests in item 9 as members of the Dalgarno SRB Board. Councillor Atkinson declared the same interest as Chairman of that Board.

A4 PETITIONS

(i) Presentation of petitions

Councillor Cunningham presented a petition containing 112 signatures with the following prayer:

"We the undersigned being parents and residents of the Royal Borough urge the Council to build a new secondary school in North Kensington to meet established need. We note that only 36% of RBKC resident primary children are successful in gaining admission to our own secondary schools. We further note that there were 713 applications for 240 places at Holland Park School for September 2005. We want our local children to receive their secondary education within the Royal Borough and we do not believe that the problem of admissions to borough secondary schools will be addressed simply by building an Academy in the south of the borough.

Should the Primary Care Trust decide, after consultation, to demolish the Princess Louise Hospital we believe that this site would

be ideal for RBKC maintained secondary school education provision in North Kensington."

Pursuant to Standing Order 18 the petition stood referred to the Cabinet Member for consideration and report back.

(ii) Response to petition against improvements to Sloane Square

The response was received and noted.

A5 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor announced that the order of business would be as set out on the agenda page.

A6 SUBMISSIONS FROM THE CABINET

There were no such submissions.

A7 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL-SIDE COMMITTEES

(i) Report of the Administration Committee

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

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be received;
- (b) That the recommendations in paragraphs 1.7 and 2.6 be adopted.

(ii) Report of the Appointments Panel

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Cockell and seconded by Councillor Ritchie. Councillors Buckmaster, Phelps, Warrick, Ritchie and Cockell spoke about Mrs Griffin.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be received;
- (b) That paragraph 1 be noted;
- (c) That the recommendation in paragraph 2.4 be adopted.

A8 MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

No matters were referred by Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

A9 MOTION FOR DEBATE

The following motion was moved by Councillor Blanchflower and seconded by Councillor Atkinson:

"That this Council congratulates both the Dalgarno and Golborne SRBs on developing effective forward strategies to harness their respective achievements and to ensure that elements of their valuable work can be continued after March 2006.

With respect to the Dalgarno SRB, the Council welcomes the proposals being drawn up for a post to continue to co-ordinate neighbourhood management across the area post SRB/NRF, in partnership with local landlords. The Council also commits to looking at the best options for the future lease and management arrangements for the Dalgarno Community Centre, so that it can continue to host a full range of youth and community activities.

With respect to the Golborne United SRB, the Council notes that consultants have been appointed to undertake both the final evaluation of the scheme and to help establish a Golborne Forum, which will take over from Golborne United in providing a voice for people living and working in Golborne in the continuing regeneration of their area. The Council is pleased to support this initiative."

Debate ensued.

The motion was put to the vote and declared by the Mayor to be carried unanimously.

A10 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No appointments were made.

OTHER URGENT MATTERS

No other matters were dealt with at the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.17pm

Mayor