

PRESENT

Members of the Council

THE MAYOR: COUNCILLOR JAMES HUSBAND

THE DEPUTY MAYOR: COUNCILLOR MAIGHREAD CONDON-SIMMONDS

AHERN, Tim
ATKINSON, J Robert
BLAKEMAN, J M
BORWICK, Victoria
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 J
GARDNER, Joanna
HARGREAVES, Gerard
HEALY, Pat
HOIER, Bridget
HOLT, Tony
JONES, Tim
LAMONT, Andrew
LINDSAY, David
MASON, Pat
MILLS, Julie
MINGAY, Robert
MOYLAN, Daniel
NEAL, Matthew
O'NEILL, Dez
PAGET-BROWN, Nicholas
PASCALL, Will

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

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Mayor.

2 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Douglas Eaton

It was with much sadness that the Mayor reported the death, on 24 June, of Douglas Eaton. Mr Eaton served as a Councillor for 33 years. He was elected in 1949 as a Member for the Brompton Ward. From 1953 until 1974 he represented Earl's Court Ward and for the final eight years of his service, until 1982, he was a Councillor in Redcliffe Ward.

He held many committee chairmanships, mainly in the field of housing. The achievement of which he was perhaps most proud was the part he played in the building of this Town Hall, as Vice-Chairman of the New Civic Buildings Committee.

Councillors Miss Weatherhead and Campion spoke.

The Council's sympathies went to Douglas Eaton's family.

Members stood in silent remembrance.

Help for Heroes Carol Service

The Mayor drew attention to the Help for Heroes Carol Service at 7pm on 14 December at St Mary Abbots Church. He hoped as many Members as possible might be able to attend.

Mrs Anne Marie Carrie, Executive Director for Family and Children's Services

The Mayor said farewell this evening to Mrs Anne Marie Carrie who would be shortly to leave the Council's service to take up her appointment as Chief Executive of the children's charity, Barnardo's.

Having first trained as an electrical engineer, Anne Marie Carrie re-trained as a drama teacher and went on to become a head of department in a college of further education. A period as executive director of lifelong learning in North Tyneside followed; and in 2003 she took on the role of regional director of policy and practice in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, where her main task was to transform the performance of the most poorly performing councils in England.

She has served on the Haringey Improvement Board and has chaired the Association of Directors of Children's Services educational achievement board. Mrs Carrie has also held executive director posts in numerous voluntary and private organisations including the Health Education Board for Scotland, Women's Aid and the BBC.

In 2006 she joined the Royal Borough as the first executive director for family and children's services. She has been Deputy Chief Executive in the Royal Borough from January 2008 until August 2010. Since her arrival the Borough's Family and Children Services department has been judged as outstanding by Ofsted.

Mrs Carrie chairs the National Association of Directors of Children's Services education committee and is a member of the national task force for employment.

The Mayor said that Mrs Carrie leaves with the very warmest best wishes in her new role.

Councillors Baroness Ritchie, Elizabeth Campbell, Professor Sir Anthony Coates, Blakeman and Sir Merrick Cockell spoke about Mrs Carrie.

The Council placed on record its thanks and appreciation for the hard work and dedication which Mrs Carrie has brought to the Royal Borough.

3 TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(i) Results of by-elections

The results of the three by-elections held on 22 July and 16 September 2010 were noted.

(ii) Ratio on Committees

The revised ratio was noted.

(iii) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dr Hanham, Lightfoot, Marshall and Wade. Apologies for lateness were submitted by Councillor Freeman and by Councillor Mrs Taylor who had been representing the Mayor at St Mary the Boltons.

(iv) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Moylan declared a personal interest in item 10 (i) as Deputy Chairman of Transport for London.

Councillor Lindsay declared a personal interest in item 10 (iii) as a trustee of the Westway Development Trust.

4 PETITIONS

- (i) Councillor Williams presented a petition of 379 signatures with the following prayer:

"We the undersigned who live and work in Redcliffe Gardens, Finborough Road and neighbouring streets call on the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Transport for London to take steps to control the excessive speed of vehicles and motor bicycles in Redcliffe Gardens and Finborough Road which is a danger to pedestrians and cyclists."

- (ii) Councillor Neal presented a petition on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, signed by 31 residents, with the following prayer:

"We, the residents of Elizabeth Court, 47 Milmans Street, SW10 0DA do hereby wish to bring to the attention of Kensington and Chelsea Council the damage incurred by the nightly invasion of our beautifully cultivated courtyard garden by mangy urban foxes which, by present law of the land, we are unable to eliminate.

We would like the Council to present this matter to our Member of Parliament with a view to introducing legislation to enable residents to kill the verminous invading foxes by a recommended means of disposal."

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 remainder of the agenda.

6 REPORTS FROM THE CABINET

The reception of the reports was moved by Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell and seconded by Councillor Paget-Brown.

(i) Treasury Management Policy Statement

RESOLVED -

That the recommendations in paragraph 5.1 be adopted.

(ii) Annual Treasury Report 2009/10

RESOLVED -

That the report be received and noted.

(iii) Urgent key decisions taken since 23 June 2010

RESOLVED -

That the report be received and noted.

7 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL BY COUNCIL-SIDE COMMITTEES

(i) Report of the Administration Committee

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

RESOLVED -

That the recommendation in paragraph 1.2 be adopted.

(ii) Annual Report of the Audit Committee

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Weale and seconded by Councillor Warrick.

RESOLVED -

That the report be received and noted.

(iii) Annual Report of the Investment Committee

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Weale and seconded by Councillor Dalton.

Debate ensued, during which Councillor Collinson made her maiden speech.

RESOLVED -

That the report be received and noted.

8 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

(i) Annual Scrutiny Report 2009/10

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Buckmaster and seconded by Councillor Blakeman.

RESOLVED -

That the report be received and noted.

(ii) Report of The Health Scrutiny Committee - Priorities for Health: A review of NHS Kensington and Chelsea's priorities in the context of the current financial climate.

The reception of the report was moved by Councillor Buckmaster and seconded by Councillor Terence Buxton.

RESOLVED -

That the report be received and noted.

9 MATTERS RAISED UNDER STANDING ORDER 19

Shops in St Helen's Gardens

Councillor Blakeman drew the Council's attention to local concerns about a range of issues affecting the shops in St. Helen's Gardens, London W10, including the fact that this parade of 12 small community shops was no longer flourishing. Currently three shops were empty and it was anticipated that others would become vacant within the near future. Councillor Blakeman referred to paragraph 30 of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy where it was made clear that individual shops were important. She referred to the recent Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) submitted to the Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and asked that the Council take these concerns seriously, that a reply be made to the CCfA and that the Core Strategy be implemented. Councillor Blakeman asked if officers could look at whether it might be appropriate to use funding from the Ward Initiatives budget.

The Council noted the matter.

10 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

The Mayor recommended that the Council vary the order in which the motions were considered, so that Motion (i) on traffic signals was taken first, Motion (iii) on the North Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre second and Motion (ii) on Housing Benefit third. This was agreed.

(i) **Traffic signals**

Having declared a personal interest in the motion as Deputy Chairman of Transport for London, Councillor Moylan left the chamber for this debate.

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

"This Council objects to the proposed removal of 12 Traffic Signals in Kensington and Chelsea by the Mayor of London and Transport for London that is likely to increase the level of vehicle accidents at the road junctions in question, have a negative effect on traffic flow and bus journeys, and create a more dangerous environment for pedestrians, cyclists, children and the elderly and disabled.

The Mayor of London is proposing to remove the traffic signals in North Kensington at St Marks Road/Cambridge Gardens, Ladbroke Grove/Lancaster Road, Ladbroke Grove/Westbourne Park Road, Ladbroke Grove/Elgin Crescent, Elgin Crescent/Kensington Park Road, Westbourne Grove/Portobello Road, Kensington Park Road/Westbourne Grove, and Addison Road/Holland Park Gardens.

In the South of the Borough, the Mayor of London wants to remove the traffic signals at Pont Street/Beauchamp Place /Walton Street, Sloane Avenue by Makins Street, Royal Hospital Road by Franklins Row, and Chelsea Embankment by Embankment Gardens.

The Council will seek an early meeting with the Mayor of London and Transport for London, setting out the reasons why the removal of these traffic signals will be unacceptable to the Council and to the residents of the Borough.

The Council will also carry out a comprehensive consultation on this proposal directly with borough residents, and with the voluntary and community sectors, residents associations, and with other representative interest groups so that their views are taken into account by the Mayor of London and TfL before any decision is taken."

Debate ensued.

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

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

(iii) North Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre

The following motion was moved by Councillor Elizabeth Campbell and seconded by Councillor Professor Sir Anthony Coates:

"This Council welcomes both the prospect of a new academy in North Kensington and the opportunity to re-develop Kensington Leisure Centre. It supports the conclusion of the recent feasibility study which recommends the selection of the Kensington Leisure Centre site as the only feasible location for achieving these objectives."

The following **amendment** was then moved by Councillor Foreman and seconded by Councillor Blakeman:

To amend the motion by adding at the end:

"In view of recently expressed local concerns, it will now take immediate steps to re-assure residents in nearby blocks that their homes will not be demolished in order to achieve these objectives."

Debate ensued, during which Councillor Will made her maiden speech.

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

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

(ii) Housing Benefit

The following motion was moved by Councillor Caruana and seconded by Councillor Jones:

"This Council regrets the budget announcement about changes to Housing Benefit which could have a detrimental effect on some of the least well off residents in Kensington and Chelsea and further regrets Conservative suggestions to introduce fixed-term tenancies for council housing tenants.

This Council believes that unless there is protection for long-standing residents who receive Housing Benefit, many may be forced onto the streets and this could result in higher costs to the council in the longer term.

This Council believes that fixed-term tenancies would result in a lack of incentive for council tenants to work hard and earn more for their families if they feared losing their homes. This Council further believes that secure tenancies provide stability, support family networks and can improve social cohesion.

This Council recognises that the removal of security of tenure would require a change in legislation and therefore condemns the inappropriate calling of residents in the Borough, making many feel that their homes were at risk, causing terrible anxiety, especially amongst vulnerable residents. This Council fully supports the rights of secure tenants to live in their council home for as long as they wish.

This Council further condemns the Labour Government's failure to build much needed council and social housing during its thirteen years in power.

This Council calls on the Government to investigate ways to help mitigate the impact of Housing Benefit reforms in the Borough and to fund an increase in the building of affordable social housing."

The following **amendment** was moved by Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell and seconded by Councillor Feilding-Mellen:

To amend the motion so that it reads as follows:

"This Council congratulates the Coalition Government, under the leadership of David Cameron and Nick Clegg for the reforms they have announced since May. The last Labour Government left the country in a perilous state and its economy in tatters. Whilst planning vast savings in public expenditure, any details were hidden by Labour from the electorate.

The Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition is reforming public services and making essential savings at the same time. This Council will be doing the same locally and, as the two parties of Government share responsibility for the consequences of clearing up Labour's mess, so will Councillors locally.

We support the proposed changes to Housing Benefit that will take effect from April 2011. The current very high level of Local Housing Allowance (LHA) has pushed local rent levels beyond the reach of many local residents, who seek to rent in the private sector.

Recently, some have made groundless claims that council tenants' homes were at risk, causing terrible anxiety, especially amongst vulnerable residents. This Council fully supports the rights of secure tenants to live in their council homes for as long as they wish.

This Council further condemns the Labour Government's failure to build much needed council and social housing during its thirteen years in power."

Debate ensued.

The amendment was put to the vote and was declared by the Mayor to be carried. Councillors Atkinson, Blakeman, Caruana, Dent Coad, Foreman, Healy, Hoier, Jones, Mason, Mingay and O'Neill asked that their names be recorded as voting against the amendment.

The following **amendment** was then moved by Councillor Dent Coad and seconded by Councillor Mingay:

To amend the motion by deleting all after "this Council regrets the announcement..." and inserting:

"by the Conservative/Liberal-Democrat government about changes to Housing benefit, Local Housing Allowance and Temporary Accommodation subsidy. These proposed changes would affect over 4,000 households in this Borough, including many of our poorest and most vulnerable residents and will have a disproportionate effect on women and black and minority ethnic communities. These households will not be able to make up the difference in lost benefits, leading to arrears and possible eviction or enforced migration to cheaper boroughs or even out of London. This would be to the serious detriment of their health and well-being, their prospects of obtaining employment and will disrupt the education and life chances of their children.

The proposed changes also represent a very serious threat to the Council's Community Strategy commitment to "enable a diverse population to live as part of the same community" and an even greater threat in terms of equality of opportunity for minority communities.

This Council therefore resolves that it will:

- (a) call on the Government to reverse these cuts in the light of their far-reaching effects on the lives of Borough residents;
- (b) immediately undertake an Equality Impact Assessment as required by legislation before taking any steps that will lead to the eviction or removal of any tenants out of their present homes; and

(c) ask the Government to investigate ways to mitigate the effect of any such cuts on Borough residents.”

Debate ensued.

The amendment was put to the vote and was subsequently declared by the Mayor to be lost. Councillors Atkinson, Blakeman, Caruana, Dent Coad, Foreman, Healy, Hoier, Jones, Mason, Mingay and O'Neill asked that their names be recorded as voting for the amendment.

The motion, as amended by the Conservative amendment, was then put to the vote and was subsequently declared by the Mayor to be carried. Councillors Atkinson, Blakeman, Caruana, Dent Coad, Foreman, Healy, Hoier, Jones, Mason, Mingay and O'Neill asked that their names be recorded as voting against the motion as amended.

11 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

(i) Resignations from and appointments to Committees etc

Cabinet and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Jones was appointed.

Family and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Hargreaves was appointed.

Health, Environmental Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

The resignations of Councillors Buckmaster and Mingay were noted.

Councillors Hoier, Wade and Weale were appointed.

Housing and Property Scrutiny Committee

The resignations of Councillors Hoier and Weale were noted.

Councillor Mingay was appointed.

Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Jones was appointed.

Major Planning Development Committee

Councillor Caruana was appointed.

Planning Applications Committee

Councillor Hargreaves was appointed.

Member Training and Development Steering Group

Councillor Blakeman was appointed.

The Council noted that, pursuant to Standing Order 39.02, action was taken by the Mayor on 16 September 2010 to approve the following appointments:

Cabinet and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee - to appoint Councillor Feilding-Mellen

Major Planning Development Committee - to appoint Councillor Feilding-Mellen.

(ii) **Appointments to Outside Organisations**

Chelsea Non-Ecclesiastical Charities

The resignations of Mr D Barlow and Mrs Hughes-Onslow were noted.

Imperial College - Court representative

The resignation of Mr D Harland was noted and the Council appointed Mr T Fairhead in his place.

Westway Development Trust

The resignation of Mrs G Mayhew was noted and the Council appointed Councillor Feilding-Mellen in her place.

12. OTHER URGENT MATTERS

None.

The meeting ended at 9.33pm.

Mayor