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CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 8th July, 2015 at Porchester Hall, Porchester Road, Bayswater, London, W2 5DU.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Christabel Flight

COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton
Ian Adams
Nickie Aiken
Barbara Arzymanow
Daniel Astaire
Richard Beddoe
Rita Begum
David Boothroyd
Iain Bott
Susie Burbridge
Ruth Bush
Melvyn Caplan
Danny Chalkley
Paul Church
Brian Connell
Antonia Cox
Thomas Crockett
Peter Cuthbertson
Robert Davis, MBE, DL
Tony Devenish
Paul Dimoldenberg
Nick Evans
Christabel Flight
Jean Paul Floru
Peter Freeman
Murad Gassanly
Jonthan Glanz
Barbara Grahame

Lindsey Hall
Angela Harvey
David Harvey
Richard Holloway
Adam Hug
Louise Hyams
Audrey Lewis
Patricia McAllister
Guthrie McKie
Tim Mitchell
Adnan Mohammed
Gotz Mohindra
Jan Prendergast
Papya Qureshi
Vincenzo Rampulla
Robert Rigby
Rachael Robathan
Glenys Roberts
Philippa Roe
Ian Rowley
Karen Scarborough
Andrew Smith
Steve Summers
Shamim Talukder
Cameron Thomson
Aziz Toki
Judith Warner
Jason Williams

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

It was moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Tim Mitchell that Councillor Jan Prendergast be elected as Relief Chairman and resolved accordingly.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Council Meeting held on 20 May 2015 were, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Lord Mayor as a true record of the proceedings.

3 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR FOR HARROW ROAD WARD

3.1 The Council noted the resignation of Councillor Nilavra Mukerji, Member for Harrow Road Ward.

4 LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 The Lord Mayor referred to the Communications set out on the agenda.

4.2 The Lord Mayor drew attention to those honoured with connection with Westminster in the Birthday Honours, in particular Councillor Robert Davis, who received an MBE.

4.3 The Lord Mayor informed the Council that August was the 100th anniversary of the award of the Victoria Cross to Leonard Keyser, a former Westminster resident.

4.4 The Lord Mayor advised, with deep regret, of the death of former Councillor and Lord Mayor Ronnie Raymond-Cox and also of former Councillor James Hood. The Council stood in silence in their memory and also remembered Private Leonard Keyser, VC, and the victims of the London bombings on 7 July 2005.

4.5 On behalf of the Council the Lord Mayor endorsed the thanks already recorded to Peter Large, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services who was retiring.

4.6 The Lord Mayor invited the Youth MP, Aby Murray, to address the meeting following which the Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated her on an excellent speech.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5.1 During the debate on Air Quality Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg declared a personal interest as a resident of a property in Marylebone Road.

6 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

- 6.1 Councillor Aziz Toki presented a petition from local residents about the closure of the Church Street Drop In Centre and Nursery. The petition was referred to the relevant Chief Officer for reporting to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.
- 6.2 Councillor Antonia Cox presented a petition from local residents calling for further action against street vice around Paddington and in Hyde Park and for the ring fencing of Police resources to tackle the problem. The petition was referred to the relevant Chief Officer for reporting to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection.

7 QUESTIONS

The questions, supplementary questions and replies will be included on the Council's website.

8 COUNCILLOR ISSUES

- 8.1 Westminster and the Importance of Mixed Communities.
Councillor Williams spoke and Councillor Astaire replied.
- 8.2 Protecting Residents Quality of Life
Councillor Cox spoke and Councillor Aiken replied.

9 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

- 9.1 There were no urgent matters.

10 FUTURE POLICY PLAN

- 10.1 The meeting debated the items chosen for debate from the Future Policy Plan by the Majority Party.

Licensing

The Majority Party had selected Item 67 on the Future Policy Plan: Licensing. The debate will be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when next reporting on the subject.

Air Quality

The Majority Party had selected Item 6 on the Future Policy Plan: Air Quality. The debate will be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when next reporting on the subject.

11 NOTICE OF MOTION

The Minority Party had selected for debate the Notices of Motion as set out on the Agenda.

The Notice of Motion: Phone Ownership as set out on the agenda was moved by Councillor Adam Hug and seconded by Councillor Vincenzo Rampulla.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Daniel Astaire and seconded by Councillor Peter Cuthbertson.

The Lord Mayor put the amendment to the vote and on a show of hands declared the amendment to be adopted.

The Lord Mayor then put the substantive motion, as amended, to the vote and on a show of hands declared the amended motion to be adopted.

RESOLVED:

The Council welcomes the election of a Conservative Government with ambitious plans for social reform, including increased home ownership and mixed tenure neighbourhoods which are designed to help stimulate local communities and help the continued and sustained growth in the UK economy.

Amongst the basket of measures that the Government is proposing is that the Right to Buy is extended to properties owned by registered providers as well as the local authority, creating a level playing field within social housing stock.

The Council recognises that the Government's proposals are at a very early stage and that now is an appropriate time for the Council to work with Government to ensure that the development of the policy meets the needs and desires of the City Council and local communities.

To achieve this the Council is committed to working with partner boroughs (Kensington & Chelsea and Wandsworth) who face similar challenges and share similar outlooks in respect of housing policy to work with and influence the Government, in addition to working with the GLA, and other agencies, to ensure that proposals work for the City Council, its residents and partners.

The City Council is embarking on an ambitious new Housing Strategy and regeneration programme. Key proposals are the regeneration of a number of our housing estates and the improved life chances that this will offer residents, together with a move towards a greater supply of intermediate housing for working households and the opportunity to allow people to get a foot onto the housing ladder.

The Council will encourage the Government to support its ambitious housing plans in any legislation passed. In respect of the Government's Housing agenda, the Council will maintain ongoing dialogue and negotiation to make sure that the Government can meet its pledges while at the same time balancing a number of needs and factors that are of real importance to London's social and economic success, including:

- The need to meet urgent and local housing needs on a continuing basis through the provision and availability of low cost rent stock and in turn allowing councils to control temporary accommodation costs.
- Maintaining low cost rent homes in higher value areas but exploring ways that would allow this stock to be better utilised whilst providing the opportunity for current occupiers to buy a home.
- Providing a greater degree of local autonomy and responsibility to meet the Government's pledges through a fully flexible financing regime focused on delivering outcomes rather than meeting regulations.

At 9.44pm the Lord Mayor advised that the time allocated for debate had finished.

14 2014/15 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Resolved: That the report be noted.

14 2014-2015 TREASURY OUTTURN REPORT

Resolved: That the report be noted.

14 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

Resolved: That the recommendation of the General Purposes Urgency Sub-Committee be agreed.

14 PROPER OFFICER IN RESPECT OF FORMAL MEETINGS AND RELATED CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Resolved: That the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee be agreed.

14 UPDATES TO STANDING ORDER 51 RELATING TO STATUTORY CHIEF OFFICERS

Resolved: That the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee be agreed.

14 MEMBERSHIP OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

Resolved: That the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee be agreed.

The Meeting ended at 9.50pm.

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____

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