

# CITY OF WESTMINSTER

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 11th July, 2018 at Westminster Council House, 97-113 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5PT.

### PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Lindsey Hall

### COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton	Elizabeth Hitchcock
Ian Adams	Adam Hug
Nickie Aiken	Louise Hyams
Barbara Arzymanow	Aicha Less
Timothy Barnes	Pancho Lewis
Geoff Barraclough	Andrea Mann
Richard Beddoe	Patricia McAllister
Rita Begum	Guthrie McKie
David Boothroyd	Tim Mitchell
Susie Burbridge	Gotz Mohindra
Ruth Bush	Eoghain Murphy
Nafsika Butler-Thalassis	Matt Noble
Melvyn Caplan	Emily Payne
Maggie Carman	Robert Rigby
Antonia Cox	Rachael Robathan
Robert Davis, MBE, DL	Tim Roca
Lorraine Dean	Ian Rowley
Tony Devenish	Karen Scarborough
Richard Elcho	Mark Shearer
Christabel Flight	Selina Short
Peter Freeman	Andrew Smith
Murad Gassanly	James Spencer
Jonathan Glanz	Paul Swaddle
Jim Glen	Shamim Talukder
Matthew Green	Hamza Taouzzale
Angela Harvey	Judith Warner
David Harvey	Jacqui Wilkinson

### **1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN**

1.1 Motion, moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Tim Mitchell, that Councillor Judith Warner be elected as Relief Chairman.

1.2 Motion put, and on a show of hands, declared **CARRIED**.

## **2 MINUTES**

- 2.1 The minutes of the proceedings at the Council meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Lord Mayor as a true record of the proceedings.

## **3 LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Lord Mayor advised that these were as set out on the agenda.

## **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 4.1 There were none.

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

At this point the Lord Mayor adjourned the meeting to enable the Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held.

## **5 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY**

- 5.1 There were no petitions submitted.

## **6 QUESTIONS**

### **6.1 Procedural Motion**

Moved by Councillor Tim Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Guthrie McKie and

#### **Resolved:**

That Standing Order 9 be suspended to the extent only to allow that rather than Members, entitled to do so, being selected by draw to ask Questions the Lord Mayor call Members entitled to ask a question who indicate when asked by the Lord Mayor by show of hands at the meeting a wish to do so. The Lord Mayor, when calling Members, may have regard to the proportionality of the political groups on the Council. The Leader of the Opposition shall still be entitled to ask up to 3 questions during question time which shall be for a maximum of 45 minutes.

- 6.2 The questions, supplementary questions and replies are included on the Council's website.

## **7 COUNCILLOR ISSUES**

- 7.1 With the consent of the Chief Whips of both parties this item was deferred.

## **8 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS**

- 8.1 There was no statement on urgent matters.

## **9 FUTURE POLICY PLAN**

- 9.1 The meeting debated the first item chosen for debate from the Future Policy Plan by the Majority Party.

### **The Council's Strategic Direction**

The Majority Party had selected item number 118 on the Future Policy Plan, the Council's Strategic Direction.

## **10 NOTICES OF MOTION**

- 10.1 The Majority Party had selected for its second debate the first Notice of Motion (Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Anti-semitism and Action on Hate Crime) as set out on the agenda. The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Nickie Aiken and seconded by Councillor Adam Hug.
- 10.2 Following debate, to which Councillor Ian Adams replied, the Lord Mayor put the Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Aiken and seconded by Councillor Adam Hug to the vote and on a show of hands declared the Notice of Motion

**CARRIED.**

### **RESOLVED:**

That Council expresses alarm at the rise in antisemitism in recent years across the UK and welcomes the Government's decision to formally adopt the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on antisemitism, which defines antisemitism as:

“a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”.

The guidelines highlight manifestations of antisemitism as including:

The targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-semitic. Anti-semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.

- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.
- Anti-semitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of anti-semitic materials in some countries).
- Criminal acts are anti-semitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.
- Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

This Council welcomes cross-party support within the Council for combating antisemitism in all its manifestations.

This includes incidents when criticism of Israel has been expressed using anti-semitic tropes. This Council is mindful that criticism of Israel can be legitimate, and the Council reaffirms its commitment to act in accordance with its legal obligations under Article 10 (Freedom of expression) Article 14 (Prohibition of discrimination) and Article 17 (Prohibition of abuse of rights) of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. However, criticism of Israel is not considered legitimate if it employs the tropes and imagery of antisemitism.

This Council resolves to adopt the definition of antisemitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and commits to tackle this form of racism and religious hatred in our City.

Hateful incidents against Jews do not exist in a vacuum however. We are seeing a rise in Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia and misogyny in our community, and we saw a spike in xenophobia following the Brexit vote. This Council condemns all forms of racism, religious hatred, homophobia, transphobia, sexism and any form of hatred towards an individual or group for who they are, and we commit to fighting against them.

Hateful narratives and behaviours promote intolerance and can fragment and divide our community. This Council therefore pledges to better understand the manifestations of Hate Crime and its impact in our City, and will request the Cabinet or Cabinet Member to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat this pernicious crime and support the cohesion of our community. The implementation of this motion and the adoption of a Hate Crime strategy would be taken forward by the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Licensing with the backing of the Council.

- 10.3 The Minority Party had selected for debate the Notice of Motion (CityWest Homes) as set out on the agenda. The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Pancho Lewis and seconded by Councillor Matt Noble.
- 10.4 Following debate, to which Councillor Pancho Lewis replied, the Lord Mayor put the Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor Matt Noble to the vote and on a show of hands declared the Notice of Motion **LOST**.

## **11 CABINET MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 11.1 The Lord Mayor then put the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendation **ADOPTED**.
- 11.2 **RESOLVED:** That the Members Allowances Scheme (amendment) be adopted as set out in the report attached as Appendix A to the General Purposes Committee report.

11.3 The Council noted the Annual Accounts as set out in the report attached as Appendix B to the Cabinet report.

The Meeting ended at 10.18 pm

**CHAIRMAN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_