

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18th September, 2019 at Westminster Council House, 97-113 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5PT.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Ruth Bush

COUNCILLORS

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

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

1.1 Motion moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Paul Swaddle, 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 26 June 2019 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 the Council, with deep regret, of the passing last week of Honorary Alderman Alan Bradley.
- 3.2 Alan was first elected as a Westminster City Councillor on 4 May 1978 and retired in 2014, having served as a Councillor for 36 years. He represented St George's ward up to 2002 and then Tachbrook until his retirement. He served as Lord Mayor from 1995 to 1996 and chaired almost all of the City Council's committees as well as serving as a Cabinet Member. He was conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman in November 2014.
- 3.3 Councillors Aiken, Dimoldenberg and Angela Harvey spoke in tribute following which the Council stood in silence in memory of Hon Alderman Alan Bradley.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 There were none.

5 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

- 5.1 There were none.

6 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

- 6.1 Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg presented a petition from Queen's Park residents calling on the Council and EcoWorld to make an immediate start to the long-delayed new housing on the site of the former Jubilee Sports Centre in Caird Street, W10.
- 6.2 Councillor Gotz Mohindra presented a petition from Wharncliffe Estate residents in St Johns Wood calling on the Council to install CCTV on their Estate.
- 6.3 Councillor Geoff Barraclough presented a petition from a local resident calling on the Council to reconsider the proposed rent increase for Carlton Hill Community Nursery.
- 6.4 The petitions were referred to the relevant Chief Officers for reporting to the relevant Cabinet Members.

7 QUESTIONS

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

8 COUNCILLOR ISSUES

(a) Practical Steps towards a Healthier Greener Pimlico

Councillor Jim Glen spoke and Councillor Tim Mitchell replied.

9 FUTURE POLICY PLAN

9.1 No items were selected for debate on the Future Policy Plan.

10 GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT: 11 SEPTEMBER 2019

10.1 The Lord Mayor, at the conclusion of the time for debates, then put the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

1. Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members and Amendment to the Members' Allowances Scheme 2019-2020

RESOLVED:

- (i) To adopt a Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Leave Policy for Councillors attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
- (ii) To enable Councillors to claim reimbursement of care expenses when they attend approved duties and incur costs for the provision of care for children or adult dependants.
- (iii) To amend the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019-2020 attached as set out in Appendix 1 to the report to incorporate the above mentioned provisions.

2. Changes to Full Council Meetings 2019-2020

RESOLVED:

- (i) To change Council meeting on 13th November from an Extraordinary meeting to an Ordinary meeting.
- (ii) To change the Council meeting on 4th March from an Ordinary meeting to an Extraordinary meeting in order to receive a report including recommendations in respect of the reception of a speech by the Leader of the Council on council priorities and financial aims and to consider budget proposals in the form of estimates of income and expenditure for 2020 - 2021 as set out in Council Procedure Rules, Section 9.4 (1)(c) and 9.21 (1-3).

3. Amendment to the Members' Code of Conduct

RESOLVED:

To revise the Members' Code of Conduct (as set out in Appendix 3 to the report) with effect from 19 September 2019 and to amend the Constitution accordingly.

11 GENERAL PURPOSES URGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: 28 AUGUST & 4 SEPTEMBER APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

- 11.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Council appoint Elizabeth Walters and Shajad Hussain as Independent Persons.

12 NOTICE OF MOTION

- 12.1 The Majority Party had selected for debate the notice of motion (a) Climate Emergency as set out on the agenda. The notice of motion was moved by Councillor Tim Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Karen Scarborough.

- 12.2 The Majority Party had submitted an amendment to the notice of motion as set out on the order paper.

- 12.3 Councillor Pancho Lewis moved and it was seconded by Councillor Andrea Mann that the notice of motion be amended, as follows:

At the end of 'The Council Resolves' point 2, to add 'It will become a truly zero carbon Council by 2050 when it will no longer use offsets to achieve its zero carbon target.'

At the end of 'The Council Resolves' point 4, to add 'It will strongly consider the use of Climate Assemblies as a model to facilitate this dialogue.'

After 'The Council Resolves' point 6, to add two further resolutions to be numbered 7 and 8:

7. Work with contractors and other partners to conduct an audit of the emissions linked to food offered on Council premises to reduce the food miles involved and provide improved meat-free options.

8. Sign the UK100 clean energy pledge which commits to shifting the Council towards receiving 100% of its energy from clean sources by 2050.'

- 12.4 Following debate, Councillor Aiken agreed to accept the amendment to the motion.

- 12.5 Councillor Lewis advised in view of the Leader's acceptance that the Minority Party's notice of motion (b, Climate Emergency) was withdrawn.

- 12.6 The Lord Mayor put the substantive motion to the vote and on a show of hands declared the substantive motion carried.

RESOLVED:

The Council notes:

1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which outlined the need for immediate action if global temperatures are to be kept within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels.
2. That tackling climate change has been a key priority for this Council and decisive action has already been taken to create a more sustainable environment through the commitment to deliver a healthier and greener city in its City for All plan and the steps to maintaining, protecting and improving the environment set out in the 10-year Greener City Action Plan. Such actions include:
 - Installing one of the most extensive Electric Vehicle infrastructure networks in the country having recently doubled our network with currently over 400 charging points installed across the city. We continue to install EV infrastructure across the city.
 - Introducing a city-wide diesel parking surcharge to reduce the numbers of older more polluting diesel vehicles using our roads.
 - Reducing the Council's own energy consumption and associated carbon emissions by more than 40% between 2014/15 and 2017/18.
 - Investing in solar improvements across its housing portfolio, as well as managing and delivering one of the UK's longest running district heat networks; the Pimlico District Heating Unit (PDHU), supplying low carbon heat to over 3,500 local households, three schools and over 50 commercial customers.
 - Running the award winning #dontbeidle campaign to raise the awareness of the need to cut idling emissions.
 - Establishing a School Clean Air Fund (SCAF) to support our primary and nursery schools to deliver air quality improvements to protect the health of our children.

The Council resolves to:

1. Declare a climate emergency.
2. Become a net zero carbon emissions Council by 2030, which will include influencing and encouraging companies in the investment in and development of cleaner fuels and renewable energy and taking positive action to ensure that our suppliers make significant progress in the reduction of their carbon footprints. It will become a truly zero carbon Council by 2050 when it will no longer use offsets to achieve its zero carbon target.

3. Put in place policies which achieve net zero carbon emissions in the City of Westminster by 2040, ten years ahead of the Government target for the country.
 4. Support ongoing dialogue with the community about environmental issues in the city and action the Council can take to tackle activity which is harmful to our environment. It will strongly consider the use of Climate Assemblies as a model to facilitate this dialogue.
 5. Work with partners in the city to make the case to Government for the necessary legislative reforms and funding to support Westminster's ambitions for a greener city.
 6. Ask the City Management and Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee to receive a report from the Cabinet Member for Environment and City Management in Spring 2020 on progress made since this motion was passed.
 7. Work with contractors and other partners to conduct an audit of the emissions linked to food offered on Council premises to reduce the food miles involved and provide improved meat-free options.
 8. Sign the UK100 clean energy pledge which commits to shifting the Council towards receiving 100% of its energy from clean sources by 2050.
- 12.7 The Minority Party had selected for debate the notice of motion, No Deal Brexit as set out on the agenda. The notice of motion was moved by Councillor Adam Hug and seconded by Councillor Geoff Barraclough
- 12.8 The Minority Party had submitted an amendment to the notice of motion as set out on the order paper.
- 12.9 Councillor Matthew Green moved and it was seconded by Councillor Tim Barnes that the notice of motion be amended, as follows:

This Council notes the real risks posed to the citizens of Westminster and Westminster City Council by leaving the European Union without an agreed deal

Remove:

[as evidenced by the UK Government's YellowHammer civil contingency plans.

The Council believes that a 'No deal' Brexit could cause significant damage to Westminster City Council's finances, both directly and indirectly, and potentially further aggravate issues for the Council's contractors.

This Council believes that a 'No deal' Brexit would have a significant impact on the livelihoods of Westminster residents and on the local economy, as well as having serious consequences for vulnerable residents who depend on medication that could be in short supply, including cancer treatment.

This Council notes that the official Vote Leave Campaign, led by the now Prime Minister, promised voters in 2016 that the UK would leave the UK with a negotiated and beneficial deal.

This Council resolves to make urgent representations to the National Government and to all relevant stakeholders to avoid 'No Deal'.

This Council affirms its opposition to a 'No deal' Brexit and also resolves to further enhance the council's preparations to mitigate the damage it may cause to our city.]

And add:

The Council resolves to mitigate potential risks by focusing on issues within its own remit, including providing practical support to both EU citizens and local businesses as well as working closely with other London boroughs to prepare for leaving the European Union with or without an agreed deal.

The Council affirms its support for the EU nationals who live in Westminster and agrees to continue to engage with them in the run-up to Brexit and beyond.

The Council recognises the importance of the service run by Citizens Advice and financed through the MyWestminster Fund to support the city's EU residents with guidance in person, online and by telephone.

The Council notes the installation of six Android devices in Victoria Library that are available to Westminster's EU residents free of charge to support them in making settled status applications and welcomes the recent installation of further devices in Paddington and Charing Cross Libraries.

In terms of supporting business, the Council conducts regular engagement activities including surveys and events to understand the concerns of our local business community and acknowledges the concerns and uncertainty around Brexit that have been raised. These activities have enabled the Council to understand better the Brexit-related challenges that are faced by businesses, in particular, in terms of recruitment and retention.

Based on the survey findings, the Council recognises the need to develop a provision to help businesses to recruit locally. The Council notes the establishment of the HIRE Westminster service that will initially focus on retail and hospitality with a number of Westminster businesses in this sector already signing up to the programme.

The Council welcomes the positive results of the HIRE Westminster service since it was set up just last month, including a community- based recruitment and training day that was held in Church Street and 17 job starts that have already been secured with employers participating in the scheme.

The Council resolves to request that the Cabinet provide additional support to meet needs of business after Brexit, including by delivering training for local young people to prepare them for careers in the relevant sectors.

The Council agrees to continue to work alongside London Councils and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in preparing for Brexit to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. The Council agrees to continue to work with the London Resilience Forum on all matters arising from preparations for Brexit.

- 12.10 Councillor Iain Bott referred to an error in the amendment as set out in the Order Paper in that there are two rather than six Android devices installed in Victoria Library that are available to Westminster's EU residents free of charge to support them in making settled status applications.
- 12.11 Following debate, the Lord Mayor put the amendment to the motion to the vote and on a show of hands declared the amendment carried.
- 12.12 The Lord Mayor then put the substantive motion to the vote and on a show of hands put the substantive motion carried.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes the real risks posed to the citizens of Westminster and Westminster City Council by leaving the European Union without an agreed deal.

The Council resolves to mitigate potential risks by focusing on issues within its own remit, including providing practical support to both EU citizens and local businesses as well as working closely with other London boroughs to prepare for leaving the European Union with or without an agreed deal.

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The Meeting ended at 9.31 pm

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____