

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At a virtual Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on
Wednesday 11th November, 2020

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Glanz

COUNCILLORS

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

Apologies: Councillors Nickie Aiken and Ian Rowley

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

1.1 It was 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 **RESOLVED:** The minutes of the proceedings at the Council meeting on Wednesday 16 September 2020 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 referred to these as set out on the agenda.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 There were no declarations.

5 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

- 5.1 There were no statements on urgent matters.

6 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

- 6.1 Councillor Patricia McAllister presented a petition on behalf of some residents expressing concern regarding the relocation of a bench in the dog run in Queens Park Gardens. The petition will be referred to the relevant Executive Director who will submit a report for decision on the subject of the petition to the relevant Cabinet Member.

7 QUESTIONS

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

8 COUNCILLOR ISSUES

Arts and Culture in Westminster

- 8.1 Councillor Angela Harvey spoke and Councillor Paul Swaddle replied.

Ensuring a Sustainable Investment Future for our Pensioners and the City

Councillor Eoghain Murphy spoke and Councillor Melvyn Caplan replied. .

9 FUTURE POLICY PLAN

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

The Council's Response to Covid-19 and City Renewal

- 9.2 The Majority Party had selected item number 23 on the Future Policy Plan, The Council's Response to Covid-19 and City Renewal. The debate will be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when reporting on the subject.

10 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW

Programme of Meetings 2021/2022 and Future Budget Setting:

10.1 RESOLVED:

1. That the Council approved the dates of full Council Meetings, as follows: 12 May 2021 (Annual), 23 June 2021, 22 September 2021, 10 November 2021, 19 January 2022, 2 March 2022 (Budget Setting), 18 May 2022 (Annual).
2. That Full Council agreed to revert to considering the budget proposals for each forthcoming fiscal year at an extraordinary meeting in March and agreed the associated changes to the council meeting procedure rules as set out in Appendix B to the report.
3. That the Programme of other formal Meetings set out in Appendix A be approved.

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

- 11.1 The Labour Party had selected for debate the Notice of Motion (Funding the Free School Meal Voucher Scheme in the coming School Holidays) as set out on the agenda. The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Tim Roca and seconded by Councillor Papya Qureshi

- 11.2 Councillor Tim Barnes moved and it was seconded by Councillor Danny Chalkley that the Notice of Motion be amended, as follows:

~~"This Council notes that according to the last Department for Education census there were 5491 pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in Westminster's schools. Free School Meals has historically been an issue for national government and that prior to Covid restrictions they have never been provided in holiday periods.~~

~~This Council resolves to follow the lead of other local authorities, including RBKC, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Camden, in funding the free school meal voucher scheme in the coming school holidays, and in the absence of funding from central government to continue this provision until Easter 2021."~~

This Council welcomes the decision of the Conservative Government to fund Free School Meals in upcoming holidays during the Covid period and resolves to review national guidance on Free School Meals on an ongoing basis and respond accordingly in the best interests of Westminster residents.”

11.3 Following debate, The Lord Mayor put the amendment to the motion to the vote and following an electronic poll declared the amendment to the motion **CARRIED** .

11.4 The Lord Mayor then put the substantive motion as amended to the vote and following an electronic poll declared the substantive motion as amended **CARRIED**.

11.5 **RESOLVED:**

This Council notes Free School Meals has historically been an issue for national government and that prior to Covid restrictions they have never been provided in holiday periods.

This Council welcomes the decision of the Conservative Government to fund Free School Meals in upcoming holidays during the Covid period and resolves to review national guidance on Free School Meals on an ongoing basis and respond accordingly in the best interests of Westminster residents.

The Meeting ended at 9.33pm

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____