

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 9th November, 2022 at Westminster Council House, 97-113 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5PT.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Hamza Taouzzale

COUNCILLORS

Concia Albert	Iman Less
Gillian Arrindell	Patrick Lilley
Barbara Arzymanow	Patricia McAllister
Geoff Barraclough	Alan Mendoza
Liza Begum	Tim Mitchell
David Boothroyd	Matt Noble
Ruth Bush	Ellie Ormsby
Nafsika Butler-Thalassis	Ralu Oteh-Osoka
Melvyn Caplan	Angela Piddock
Maggie Carman	Robert Rigby
Md Shamsed Chowdhury	Rachael Robathan
Laila Cunningham	Tim Roca
Lorraine Dean	Ian Rowley
Tony Devenish	Cara Sanquest
Paul Dimoldenberg	Caroline Sargent
Robert Eagleton	Karen Scarborough
Paul Fisher	Mark Shearer
Ed Pitt Ford	Selina Short
Jim Glen	James Small-Edwards
David Harvey	Judith Southern
Sara Hassan	Max Sullivan
Adam Hug	Paul Swaddle OBE
Louise Hyams	Jessica Toale
Ryan Jude	Aziz Toki
Aicha Less	Jacqui Wilkinson
	Jason Williams

APOLOGIES: Councillors Elizabeth Hitchcock and Amanda Langford

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIR

- 1.1 Motion moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Matt Noble, that Councillor Ellie Ormsby be elected as Relief Chair.
- 1.2 Motion put, and on a show of hands, declared **CARRIED**.

2 MINUTES

- 2.1 The minutes of the proceedings at the Council meetings held on Saturday 17 September 2022 and Wednesday 21 September 2022 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 Councillor Paul Swaddle declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the item on the Council's New Gambling Policy and would therefore not participate in any debate on this item or vote on the recommendation.

5 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

- 5.1 The Leader of the Council, Councillor Adam Hug, made an urgent statement thanking Council staff for all their work on Operation London Bridge.
- 5.2 After Councillor Adam Hug had spoken the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Rachael Robathan, replied.

6 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

- 6.1 There were no petitions or deputations received.

Adjournment of Meeting

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

7 QUESTIONS

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

8 COUNCILLOR ISSUES

The Cost of Living Crisis and the Continuing Impact on Young People and Children

8.1 Councillor Sara Hassan spoke and Councillor Tim Roca replied.

Mismanagement of Silver Sunday

9.2 Councillor Jacqui Wilkinson spoke and Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg replied.

9 FUTURE POLICY PLAN

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

Climate Emergency

9.2 The Majority Party had selected item number 24 on the Future Policy Plan, Climate Emergency. The debate would be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when reporting on the subject.

10 REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL: THE COUNCIL'S NEW GAMBLING POLICY

10.1 RESOLVED:

That the Council, in line with the recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Protection, adopted the new Gambling Policy attached to the report as Appendix 1 in accordance with section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) and agreed that it would come into effect on the 12 December 2022.

11 REPORTS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: REVIEW OF THE MEMBER/OFFICER PROTOCOL AND PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2023-24

11.1 RESOLVED:

- 1) That the revised Member/Officer Protocol be approved;
- 2) That meetings of the Council be held as follows: 17 May 2023 (Annual), 28 June 2023, 20 September 2023, 15 November 2023, 24 January 2024, 6 March 2024, 15 May 2024 (Annual); and
- 3) That the Programme of other formal Meetings set out in Appendix A of the General Purposes Committee report be approved.

12 NOTICE OF MOTION

- 12.1 The Opposition Party had selected for debate the notice of motion as set out on the agenda. The notice of motion was moved by Councillor Mark Shearer and seconded by Councillor David Harvey.
- 12.2 Councillor Aicha Less moved and it was seconded by Councillor Max Sullivan that the notice of motion be amended, as follows:

~~This Council notes the increasing number of issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Westminster the recent launch of its consultation on a new anti-social behaviour (ASB) strategy, to which all stakeholders can respond. This strategy aims to tackle the behaviours which cause ASB.~~

~~This Council understands the need to constantly review best practice which is why this consultation is underway now. However, there is a great deal of concern amongst residents that the issues will not wait for a new strategy and therefore in addition to the consultation, the Council has increased the number of City Inspectors and is urgently looking at further measures to tackle the problem of ASB. need to be immediately addressed.~~

~~This Council notes the time it takes for cases to come to more formal enforcement and will look at ways to urges that the timescales are accelerated timescales so that the victims are respected and have more faith in the process.~~

~~This Council calls upon the new administration to quickly address these issues in its proposed ASB Strategy that will provide confidence to the victims that their concerns are being addressed.~~

~~This Council notes the decision taken under the previous administration to is concerned about the disbanding of discontinue the Integrated Street Engagement Unit (ISEU) that was provided with one year of funding when it was launched. much needed co-ordination and expertise to deal with significant issues that arise on our streets.~~

~~This Council is very concerned about the major disruption to the city by the weeks of action by various groups such as Extinction Rebellion. Whilst we all supports peaceful protest, but this has to be done in a balanced way and in a way that allows people to get on with their daily working lives. The Council notes the ongoing cooperation between itself, the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London, the Mayor of London and central government on managing disruption around protests in our City.~~

This Council therefore resolves to:

- ~~1. Continue to support our City Inspectors and the work they do tackling ASB on our streets. Maintain the resources that were in the ISEU.~~
- ~~2. Press Work with the Mayor of London to treat issues of ASB more with the seriousness they deserve and to call on the government to provide the~~

funding for the necessary police resources to assist the Council in tackling these issues ~~that if left unresolved will lead to more serious crime and disorder.~~

3. Urge Work with the Mayor of London and other key stakeholders to effectively manage the ~~take a more proactive response to in managing highly disruptive protests which~~ that cause serious disruption to the public.

12.3 Following debate, The Lord Mayor put the amendment to the motion to the vote and following a show of hands declared the amendment to the motion **CARRIED**.

12.4 The Lord Mayor then put the substantive motion as amended to the vote and following a show of hands declared the substantive motion as amended **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

That this Council notes the recent launch of its consultation on a new anti-social behaviour (ASB) strategy, to which all stakeholders can respond. This strategy aims to tackle the behaviours which cause ASB.

This Council understands the need to constantly review best practice which is why this consultation is underway now. There is a great deal of concern amongst residents and therefore in addition to the consultation, the Council has increased the number of City Inspectors and is urgently looking at further measures to tackle the problem of ASB.

This Council notes the time it takes for cases to come to more formal enforcement and will look at ways to accelerate timescales so that the victims are respected and have more faith in the process.

This Council calls upon the new administration to quickly address these issues in its proposed ASB Strategy that will provide confidence to the victims that their concerns are being addressed.

This Council notes the decision taken under the previous administration to discontinue the Integrated Street Engagement Unit that was provided with one year of funding when it was launched.

This Council supports peaceful protest, but this has to be done in a balanced way. The Council notes the ongoing cooperation between itself, the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London, the Mayor of London and central government on managing disruption around protests in our City.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Continue to support our City Inspectors and the work they do tackling ASB on our streets.
2. Work with the Mayor of London to treat issues of ASB with the seriousness they deserve and to call on the government to provide the funding for the necessary police resources to assist the Council in tackling these issues.

3. Work with the Mayor of London and other key stakeholders to effectively manage the response to protests which cause serious disruption to the public.

The Meeting ended at 9.53pm.

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____