

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 2 December 2013

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Ernest Noad**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Judi Ellis**

Councillors

Reg Adams	John Getgood	Nick Milner
Graham Arthur	Julian Grainger	Peter Morgan
Douglas Auld	Ellie Harmer	Tony Owen
Kathy Bance MBE	Will Harmer	Tom Papworth
Julian Benington	David Hastings	Ian F. Payne
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	Brian Humphrys	Sarah Phillips
Ruth Bennett	Samaris Huntington-	Neil Reddin FCCA
Eric Bosshard	Thresher	Catherine Rideout
Katy Boughey	William Huntington-	Charles Rideout
Lydia Buttinger	Thresher	Richard Scoates
John Canvin	John Ince	Colin Smith
Stephen Carr	Russell Jackson	Diane Smith
Peter Dean	David Jefferys	Tim Stevens
Nicky Dykes	Charles Joel	Harry Stranger
Robert Evans	Paul Lynch	Michael Tickner
Roxhannah Fawthrop	Mrs Anne Manning	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Simon Fawthrop	David McBride	Michael Turner
Peter Fookes	Russell Mellor	Stephen Wells
Peter Fortune	Alexa Michael	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Ernest Noad

41 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Beckley, Charsley, Lymer and Norrie

42 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23rd September 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2013 were confirmed.

43 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

44 To consider any petitions received

No petitions had been received

45 Questions from members of the public where notice has been given.

One oral question was dealt with, and there were five questions for written reply. These are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

46 Oral questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given.

Fourteen oral questions were dealt with – these are set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

47 Written questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given.

The answers to fourteen written questions were tabled – these are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

48 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

Two statements were made by Councillor Stephen Carr, the Leader of the Council and Councillor Graham Arthur, the Resources Portfolio Holder.

(A) Leader's Statement

Councillor Stephen Carr made a statement concerning the proposed Bromley element Council Tax rise of 1.99% in 2014/15, agreed by the Executive on 20th November. He referred to the need for the budget to be sustainable in the long term in the face of demographic pressures and the reductions in Government grant, to ensure that Bromley continued to be a clean, green and safe borough where people wanted to live. The public consultation meetings through the autumn had shown that protecting front-line services was a priority for residents, and that a small increase in Council Tax was acceptable.

The Leader responded to questions from other Members. He explained that the Council could not accept the incentive to maintain the same level of

Council Tax as the Government funding for this was one-off and would not be built into future grants. Asked about the sixth written question, from Councillor Nicholas Bennett, concerning the additional costs imposed by new legislation, Councillor Carr confirmed that there had not been sufficient time to research the issue, but that an answer would be provided.

(B) Resources Portfolio Holder's Statement

Resources Portfolio Holder made a statement announcing the proposed staff salary increases for 2014/15 of 1.7% for staff earning under £21k, 1.2% for staff earning over £21k and 1% for management grade staff. There would also be a first round of merit payments in the current year based on management feedback, but he hoped that nominations from co-workers and the public could be used in future.

The Portfolio Holder responded to questions from other Members. He confirmed that the cost of the £200 payment to staff in recognition of accepting the local pay arrangements had been contained within existing budgets. 98% of staff had accepted the new contracts and would enjoy higher pay increases than under the national settlement.

49 Beckenham Town Centre Improvements - Capital Programme

A motion to add the Beckenham Town Centre Improvements Scheme (with a total estimated cost of £3.257m) to the capital programme was proposed by Councillor Stephen Carr, seconded by Councillor Peter Morgan and adopted.

50 Meetings of the Urgency Committee

A motion to note the decisions made by the Urgency Committee at its meetings on 21st August and 12th September 2013 was proposed by Councillor Tony Owen, seconded by Cllr Peter Dean and adopted.

51 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

Two motions were considered –

(A) Volunteers and Friends Groups

The following motion was moved by Councillor William Huntington-Thresher and seconded by Councillor Peter Fortune -

"This Council would like to pay tribute to all our residents who volunteer as 'Friends'. The efforts of the borough's Friends of Parks, Street Friends and Snow Friends all improve our environment and the lives of all who work and live in the borough. The 'Friends' network is a key component in the maintenance of the clean and green image of our borough. They, together with the staff who support them and our environment contractors provide us with a borough of which we are proud. Further, this Council acknowledges and honours all residents who volunteer to the benefit of the borough and its

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residents. Those residents who volunteer for positions of responsibility such as school governors are greatly appreciated. The volunteering ethos which is important at all times, is particularly valued and appreciated in these times of austerity. This is a model that should be commended to all councils. This Council requests that the Mayor provides a copy of this motion to each 'Friends' group."

The motion was carried.

(During consideration of this matter Councillor Tom Papworth declared an interest in that his wife was the secretary of the Friends of Crystal Palace Park)

(B) The "Bedroom Tax"

The following motion was moved by Councillor Peter Fookes and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bance

"This Council calls on the government to abolish the bedroom tax."

The motion was lost.

(During consideration of this matter Councillor Nicholas Bennett declared an interest as the Council's representative on the Affinity Sutton Regional Scrutiny Board.)

52 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor thanked all Councillors who had represented the Borough at the Remembrance Sunday Services and those who had attended his Charity Appeal Dinner at the RAF Club in October. He particularly thanked Councillor Michael Turner for arranging the latter event.

There had been a very good response to the dinner being held in the House of Lords on 30th January and there were very few tickets left. Anyone interested should contact the Mayor's Office as soon as possible.

Diary dates:

The Charity Appeal Quiz Evening would be held in the Great Hall, Civic Centre on Friday 24th January 2014.

BYMT have offered to arrange two concerts for the Charity Appeal – one on Sunday 16th February and another on Sunday 23rd March 2014 (further information for these events would be sent out shortly.)

The event at Mings was a sell out.

The Meeting ended at 9.03 pm

Mayor