

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 1 June 2021

Present:

Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe (Chairman)
Councillor Michael Turner (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Gareth Allatt, Nicholas Bennett MA J.P.,
Mark Brock, Robert Evans, Kira Gabbert, Colin Hitchins,
Josh King, Alexa Michael, Neil Reddin FCCA,
Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Ryan Thomson and
Stephen Wells

153 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no apologies for absence; the Chairman welcomed new and returning Members to the Committee.

154 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made in relation to minute 157 (Appointments to Outside Bodies 2021/22) –

Councillors Nicholas Bennett and Alexa Michael declared that they had Mytime passes.

Councillor Colin Hitchins declared that he was an employee of Biggin Hill Airport Limited.

155 QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted.

156 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 23 MARCH AND 19 MAY 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 23 March and 19 May 2021, excluding exempt information, be confirmed.

157 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2021/22 Report CSD21050

The Committee received a report setting out the nominations for appointments to outside bodies for 2021/21 received from the party groups.

RESOLVED that the nominations to outside bodies set out in Appendix 1 to the minutes be approved.

158 WORK PROGRAMME AND MATTERS ARISING
Report CSD21049

The Committee considered its draft work programme for the 2021/22 Council year, and discussed the following matters –

- It was noted that there would be a review of the 2021 GLA election at the September meeting. It was suggested that the report needed to address the issue of the use of school premises as polling stations.
- The report from Executive Assistants was, historically, submitted to the Committee's February meeting to be considered along-side the Members' Allowances Scheme. It was suggested that this should be moved to the March meeting as this was nearer to the end of the Council year.
- There would be a report to the next meeting on 6th July on arrangements for committee meetings – this would cover livestreaming.
- It was suggested that the Committee should consider whether Audit Sub-Committee should become a Committee in its own right, as with the Pensions Committee.
- The Committee requested that a Licensing training/update presentation be arranged for their next meeting.

The Committee also received an update from David Dobbs, Head of Corporate Finance and Accounting, on the current position with regard to the audit of the Council's accounts.

Objections to the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 accounts had been made by one resident. These objections largely concerned the waste disposal contract, but also referred to utilisation of property on the Civic Centre site for the 2018/19 accounts. The objections were lengthy and detailed. The situation was further complicated by the change in external auditor from KPMG to EY for 2018/19 onwards. The accounts for these three years had been completed but could not be signed off in full until the external auditors had finished their investigations into the objections. Officers had pressed for a speedy resolution of the issues, and KPMG had now engaged specialist legal advisors.

For the 2018/19 accounts, EY had found errors in the property valuations carried out by Cushman and Wakefield. Consequently, new valuations had been carried out by Montagu Evans and the accounts had been completed. However, during the audit of the 2019/20 accounts EY Real Estate had queried the methodology used by Montagu Evans in relation to the treatment of investment properties, which were re-valued annually on a market value

basis, and Montagu Evans had been asked to re-value these properties. The deadline for completing the 2019/20 accounts was 31st October 2020; many Councils had missed the deadline due to similar issues with valuations – it was recognised that this was a national issue. The Council's Finance Team were currently working on the 2020/21 accounts – the statutory deadline for publication of the draft accounts was 31st July 2021.

In response to questions, Mr Dobbs explained that the options for the external auditor in relation to objections to the accounts were to take no action, to issue a report with recommendations or a public interest report, which would incur adverse publicity for the Council. The expected outcome was a report, but investigations were still on-going and could take many months to resolve. Officers would continue to press for the issues to be dealt with as quickly as possible – if changes were required to the numbers in the earlier accounts these changes would need to be worked through in subsequent accounts, though this was thought to be unlikely. The issues raised in relation to the Montagu Evans valuations were less serious than with the original Cushman and Wakefield valuations, and centred on detailed interpretation of the CIPFA Guidance.

There was further discussion in part 2.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dobbs for his clear and thorough explanation of the issues.

RESOLVED that the work programme and the situation with the Council's accounts be noted.

159 AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2021, EXCLUDING EXEMPT INFORMATION

The minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee's meeting on 9th March 2021 were received.

160 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006 AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

RESOLVED that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the item of business referred to below as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

**The following summaries
refer to matters involving exempt information**

161 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2021

The exempt minutes of the Committee's meeting on 23 March 2021 were confirmed.

162 WORK PROGRAMME AND MATTERS ARISING

The Committee continued its consideration of issues relating to the audit of accounts.

163 AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE: EXEMPT MINUTES - 9 MARCH 2021

The exempt minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee's meeting on 9th March 2021 were received.

The Meeting ended at 7.55 pm

Chairman

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND PARTNERSHIP BODIES 2021/22

(i) London Councils' Appointments

Leaders' Committee

(S.101 Joint Committee)

Cllr Colin Smith

Cllr Peter Fortune (deputy)

Cllr Kate Lymer (deputy)

London Councils Transport and Environment Committee – TEC

(Associated Joint Committee)

William Huntington-Thresher

Grants Committee

(Associated Joint Committee)

Cllr Kate Lymer

Greater London Employment Forum

Cllr Pauline Tunnicliffe

Cllr Michael Turner (deputy)

London Pensions CIV

(Sectoral Joint Committee)

Cllr Keith Onslow

Cllr Gary Stevens & Cllr Simon Fawthrop (deputies)

Lead Members for London Councils

Children & Young People/Safeguarding & Schools: Cllr Kate Lymer

Skills & Employment: Cllr Peter Morgan

Economic Development/Business: Cllr Peter Morgan

Crime and Public Protection: Cllr Angela Page

Arts/Culture, Tourism, Sport & Leisure: Cllr Peter Morgan

Health and Social Care including Adult Services : Cllr Diane Smith

Housing & Regeneration: Cllr Peter Morgan

Planning/Infrastructure/Development: Cllr Alexa Michael

Finance & Corporate Services: Cllr Michael Rutherford

(ii) Partnership Appointments

Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group

Cllr Angela Page

Safer Neighbourhood Board (3)

Cllr Angela Page, Cllr Kathy Bance and Cllr Ryan Thomson

Bromley Economic Partnership (1)

Cllr Peter Morgan

(Cllr Vanessa Allen, Cllr Julian Benington & to receive papers.)

Adult's Safeguarding Board (2)

Cllr Colin Smith & Cllr Diane Smith

Children's Safeguarding Board (2)

Cllr Colin Smith & Cllr Kate Lymer

(iii) Education, Children & Families Appointments

Management Committee of Wood Lodge Living Skills Centre (1)

Cllr Kira Gabbert

Early Years Development & Child Care Partnership (1)

Cllr Kate Lymer

Bromley "Y" Project (2)

Cllr Judi Ellis & Cllr Kieran Terry

Mentoring Steering Group (1)

Cllr Angela Page

(iv) Environment & Community Services Appointments

London Road Safety Council (1)

Cllr Robert Mcilveen

(v) **Renewal, Recreation & Housing Appointments**

Bromley Arts Council (4)

Cllr Vanessa Allen, Cllr Kim Botting & Cllr Alexa Michael (one vacancy)

(Note: The Bromley Arts Council has been replaced by the Bromley Arts Trust, and is due to be wound up by summer 2021.)

The Crystal Palace Community Development Trust (1)

Cllr Angela Wilkins

Newable Ltd (1) (formerly Greater London Enterprise – GLE)

Cllr Peter Morgan

London Youth Games (1)

Cllr Graham Arthur

Proactive Bromley (2)

Cllr Kevin Brooks & Cllr Michael Rutherford

Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee

Representative of the Council as freeholder:

Cllr Graham Arthur (deputy Cllr Harry Stranger)

Representative of Biggin Hill Ward:

Cllr Melanie Stevens (deputy Cllr Julian Benington)

Representative of Darwin Ward:

Cllr Richard Scoates (deputy Cllr Simon Fawthrop)

(vi) **General Appointments**

Bromley Town Twinning Association (3)

Cllr Kathy Bance, Cllr Kim Botting & Cllr Mary Cooke

Community Links Bromley (2)

Cllr Kevin Brooks (1 vacancy)

Leadership Committee of the Bromley Community Fund (1)

Cllr Pauline Tunncliffe

(v) **Three Year Terms**

The Court of the University of Kent (1)

(Remainder of 3 Year Term to 1/8/23)

Cllr Stephen Wells

Clarion Housing Group South London Regional Scrutiny Committee (1)

Cllr Christine Harris

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust (1)

Cllr Yvonne Bear

(vi) **Four Year Terms**

Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London (1)

(Remainder of four year term to May 2022)

Cllr Mike Botting

Beckenham Parochial Charities (1 of 6)

(Remainder of four year term to January 2025)

Cllr Stephen Wells

Mytime Active (1 of 2)

(Remainder of the four year term to May 2022)

Cllr Josh King (Cllr Robert Evans fills the other post)

Cray Valley War Memorial Hall (2 of 4)

Two vacancies for the remainder of the four year term to June 2022 (Cllrs Yvonne Bear and Harry Stranger fill two of the four posts.).