

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 3 November 2022

Present:

Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe (Chairman)
Councillor Mike Botting (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Kathy Bance MBE, Nicholas Bennett J.P.,
David Cartwright QFSM, Robert Evans, Mike Jack,
Josh King, Alexa Michael, Keith Onslow, Melanie Stevens,
Harry Stranger, Ryan Thomson and Sam Webber.

Also Present:

Councillor Alisa Igoe

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kira Gabbert (who was replaced by Councillor David Cartwright), Councillor Andrew Lee (who was replaced by Councillor Alexa Michael) and from Councillor Jonathan Laidlaw.

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no additional declarations of interest.

21 QUESTIONS

Three questions had been received for written reply – these are attached as Appendix A.

22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2022 be confirmed.

23 TEACHER PAY POLICY 2022/23 - CENTRALLY BASED STAFF

From 1 September 2022 revised arrangements had come into force in relation to Teachers' Pay and Conditions through the publication of the statutory 2022 School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. The report set out the main changes.

Bromley employed a small number of teachers (57 staff (45.43FTE)) within its specialist services – most teachers in Bromley were employed by the Academies. It was confirmed that there were still pressures in recruiting to

these posts, and to teaching posts across the country. Although the trade unions were against the differential increases, all teachers would receive at least 5% and the proposals allowed for the starting salary for teachers to be at least £30k from September 2023.

RESOLVED that

(1) The report be noted.

(2) It is noted from 1st September 2022 there will be a statutory 5% increase to all pay and allowance ranges and advisory points for Teaching Staff, with higher increases to some parts of the Main Pay Range.

(3) Officers be authorised to apply the % statutory increases to Teacher Pay Scales as set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document 2022 and to update the Centrally Based Teaching Staff Pay Policy for 1st September 2022; there are no other required changes to the Policy this year.

**24 FEEDBACK ON THE 2022 LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND
UPDATE ON ELECTIONS ACT 2022**
Report CSD22073

The Committee received a report on the key issues relating to the Local Council Elections held on Thursday 5 May 2022 and highlighting the measures to be introduced in the Elections Act 2022. An updated version of appendix 1, showing statistics about postal votes, was tabled at the meeting.

Members commented on the following issues –

(i) The count had taken longer than expected to conclude. It was noted that this was the Returning Officer's first local election and he was concerned to ensure that the results were thoroughly correct. A Member commented that count staff had been released too early before the Beckenham Town and Copers Cope recount. However, it was explained that experienced count staff had been hand-picked to remain for the recount.

(ii) The food provided at the count was not very good – this had already been picked up in a number of reviews. Members were informed that the caterer was new to the venue and a better service would be expected in future.

(iii) It was confirmed that although nomination papers could be submitted by email, this was so that they could be checked in advance and paper copies would still need to be submitted by hand.

(vi) There were still problems with people going to the wrong polling stations. The polling station address was always set out on polling cards and on the Council website, and officers would advertise changes as widely as possible.

(v) Officers were aware of the problems with duplicate registrations, and had lobbied the Electoral Commission for the messaging around registration to be modified.

(vi) The Elections Act 2022 would provide additional funding for elections, but details were not available, and it was expected that funding would be intended to cover equipment for polling stations as well as staffing. It was becoming harder to recruit election staff and officers were proposing new campaigns to recruit a wider base of available staff.

(vii) A reduction of the required number of nomination signatures from ten to two had been announced for the 2023 local elections, but it was unclear whether this was a permanent reduction.

(viii) All postal voters whose votes were rejected had been written to with an explanation of why their votes was rejected.

The Chairman thanked Carol Ling and her staff for their efficient conduct of the election.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and the Returning Officer be requested to take the comments summarised above into account when planning for future elections.

25 LIVE-STREAMING OF MEETINGS
Report CSD22090

The report updated Members on the possibilities for using live-streaming for Council and committee meetings. There had been recent upgrades in equipment in the Council Chamber; the new equipment had provided a major improvement to facilities in the Council Chamber and had been widely used in recent months to enable Councillors, officers and others to participate remotely in meetings. Live-streaming had also been used on special occasions since meetings returned to the Civic Centre in May 2021, though with relatively few viewers. This had required assistance from the IT and Communication Teams - live-streaming did require additional resources. The report gave Members the opportunity to establish a policy on live-streaming.

A number of Members proposed that live-streaming should be introduced for all meetings as this would make the Council more transparent and accountable, and enable more residents to be involved in the Council's decisions including those who might find it difficult to attend in person. Other Members argued that in a time of financial pressure the additional expenditure was not justified. However, it was clear that when matters of controversy and wide public interest, such as major planning applications or issues concerning Biggin Hill Airport, were being considered there was increased attendance at the Civic Centre and online when a live-stream was available. Members agreed to continue with live-streaming for specific high profile meetings but suggested that this should be accompanied with better advertising of live-streamed meetings, monitoring of viewing numbers and a review after a year.

RESOLVED that

(1) The resource implications of live-streaming be noted as well as the low numbers of viewers at recent meetings which were live streamed.

(2) The arguments for and against regular live streaming of meetings be noted and a policy be agreed to continue to use live-streaming as a useful tool available for a limited number of meetings where, in the view of the Chief Executive and the meeting's chairman, there is particular interest or a likelihood that the capacity of the public gallery will be exceeded.

(3) Where meetings are live-streamed, additional promotion be carried out and viewing statistics be kept, and the issue be reviewed in a year's time.

26 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES
Report CSD22115

The Committee was responsible for making the Council's appointments to outside bodies - most of these appointments were annual and were made by the Committee in May each year, but some had different timescales. Three of the Council's six appointments to the Beckenham Parochial Charities were due to be renewed early in 2023, as was the local authority governor role at Nash College.

RESOLVED that

(1) Mr Russell Mellor be reappointed to the Beckenham Parochial Charities for the four year term of office starting in January 2023, and the remaining two appointments be made at the Committee's next meeting.

(2) The appointment of a local authority governor for Nash College be deferred to the next meeting.

27 WORK PROGRAMME AND MATTERS ARISING
Report CSD22100

The Committee received a report summarising their work programme for the 2022/23 Council year and also covering matters outstanding from previous meetings.

In respect of Minute 14, the recommendations for appointment of Honorary Aldermen as made by the Working Group would now be put forward to the next meeting of the Committee, and there was no need for referral to the Constitution Working Group.

The Committee noted that the uncertainty around the outside body appointment to the Wood Lodge Living Skills Centre (minute 17) had been resolved – Councillor Gabbert would be the representative with Cllr Lymer as the reserve.

RESOLVED that the matters outstanding from previous meetings and the work programme for 2022/23 be noted.

28 LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES 22 JUNE 2022 AND 20 JULY 2022

The minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee meetings held on 22 June and 20 July 2022 were received.

29 RIGHTS OF WAY SUB-COMMITTEE - MINUTES 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

The minutes of the Rights of Way Sub-Committee meeting held on 28 September 2022 were received.

The Meeting ended at 8.13 pm

Chairman

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GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

3rd November 2022

PUBLIC QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Ian Dunn to the Chairman of the Committee

Please provide information on the 2022 elections in the same format as was provided in Appendix 2 to the report on the 2018 elections.

Reply:

(See attached appendix.)

2. From Richard Gibbons to the Chairman of the Committee

Please list: (a) all Bromley Council meetings that members of the public may have attended since May 2021; (b) the number of borough residents that attended each meeting, indicating numbers of questioners and/or speakers; and (c) indicating where meetings were live-streamed with number of views to date.

Reply:

Up until the end of October 2022, there have been 194 meetings since the temporary regulations allowing local authority meetings to take place online came to an end in May 2021. Most of these meetings took place in person at the Civic Centre, but a small number of meetings have continued to be held online. Details of all of these meetings are published on the [Council website](#).

The Council does not keep attendance records members of the public attending meetings, or whether they are borough residents or not. The minutes of each meeting will record whether members of the public were present to ask questions in person or speak on planning applications.

Of the 194 meetings, 11 meetings took place entirely online and were live-streamed. These were low-key meetings with numbers of views in single figures.

3 meetings were live-streamed from the Council Chamber and 1 from the Churchill Theatre -

Annual Council 19 May 2021
Executive 26 May 2021
Annual Council 18th May 2022
Special Council 15th September 2022

The viewing figures during these meetings were in single figures.

3. From Richard Gibbons to the Chairman of the Committee

Please provide details of how residents are expected to know about (a) in person and (b) live-streamed Bromley Council meetings; how individual meetings have been advertised; what guidance is given to councillors on informing residents about meetings; and who contributed to list of advantages and concerns about live-streaming in Appendix A.

Reply:

The primary source of all information about Council meetings is the [Council website](#). The website provides details of all Council meetings - dates of meetings are agreed and published in an online calendar up to 15 months in advance, and agendas and reports are published at least five clear working days before each meeting. The venue of each meeting is stated on the agenda, and if the meeting can be viewed on a live-stream or by obtaining an invitation to a virtual meeting then these details are also published. Posters are also displayed at libraries giving dates of forthcoming meetings.

The report on options for live-streaming, including the appendix, was written by Council officers.

Votes Cast at Local Council Elections, May 2022

Ward	Vacancies	BP Marked			Block Votes			Split Votes				Rejected	
		Station	Postals	Total	No. Cast	No. of BP	% of total	No. Cast	Unused	No. of BP	% of total	No. of BP	No. Votes
Beckenham Town & Copers Cope	3	3717	1429	5146	11700	3900	75.79%	3311	388	1233	23.96%	14	42
Bickley & Sundridge	3	3500	1676	5176	11730	3910	75.54%	3278	442	1240	23.96%	25	75
Biggin Hill	2	2350	815	3165	5128	2564	81.01%	1002	176	589	18.61%	12	24
Bromley Common & Holwood	3	3095	1393	4488	9444	3148	70.14%	3438	546	1328	29.59%	17	51
Bromley Town	3	2957	1347	4304	10116	3372	78.35%	2416	326	914	21.24%	20	60
Chelsfield	2	2446	1105	3551	5436	2718	76.54%	1464	186	825	23.23%	6	12
Chislehurst	3	3164	1637	4801	11412	3804	79.23%	2719	257	992	20.66%	6	18
Clock House	3	4113	1124	5237	13434	4478	85.51%	1845	399	748	14.28%	14	42
Crystal Palace & Anerley	2	2024	539	2563	3476	1738	67.81%	1420	204	812	31.68%	12	24
Darwin	1	1228	402	1630	1625	1625	99.69%	0	0	0	0.00%	5	5
Farnborough & Crofton	3	3783	1644	5427	12408	4136	76.21%	3274	545	1273	23.46%	23	69
Hayes & Coney Hall	3	3580	1279	4859	9774	3258	67.05%	4070	664	1578	32.48%	23	69
Kelsey & Eden Park	3	3113	1509	4622	11445	3815	82.54%	1946	427	791	17.11%	16	48
Mottingham	2	1734	640	2374	3516	1758	74.05%	1021	183	602	25.36%	13	26
Orpington	2	2386	1055	3441	6002	3001	87.21%	688	126	407	11.83%	24	48
Penge & Cator	3	3879	994	4873	9276	3092	63.45%	4688	580	1756	36.04%	21	63
Petts Wood & Knoll	3	3873	1584	5457	13275	4425	81.09%	2574	459	1011	18.53%	19	57
Plaistow	2	2658	863	3521	5724	2862	81.28%	1136	148	642	18.23%	16	32
Shortlands & Park Langley	3	3472	1402	4874	11628	3876	79.52%	2448	471	973	19.96%	24	72
St Mary Cray	3	2891	1275	4166	10446	3482	83.58%	1604	397	667	16.01%	18	54
St Paul's Cray	3	1803	980	2783	5574	1858	66.76%	2125	623	916	32.91%	10	30
West Wickham	3	3192	1341	4533	9633	3211	70.84%	3213	579	1264	27.88%	8	24
TOTAL	58	64958	26033	90991	192202	70031	76.96%	49680	8126	20561	22.60%	346	945

