

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 8 December 2014

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Julian Benington**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Kate Lymer**

Councillors

Vanessa Allen	Simon Fawthrop	Tom Philpott
Graham Arthur	Peter Fortune	Chris Pierce
Douglas Auld	Hannah Gray	Neil Reddin FCCA
Teresa Ball	Ellie Harmer	Catherine Rideout
Kathy Bance MBE	Will Harmer	Charles Rideout
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	Samaris Huntington- Thresher	Michael Rutherford
Ruth Bennett	William Huntington- Thresher	Richard Scoates
Eric Bosshard	Charles Joel	Colin Smith
Kim Botting	David Livett	Diane Smith
Katy Boughey	Russell Mellor	Melanie Stevens
Kevin Brooks	Alexa Michael	Tim Stevens
Lydia Buttinger	Peter Morgan	Michael Tickner
David Cartwright	Keith Onslow	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Alan Collins	Tony Owen	Michael Turner
Mary Cooke	Angela Page	Stephen Wells
Peter Dean	Ian F. Payne	Angela Wilkins
Ian Dunn	Sarah Phillips	Richard Williams
Nicky Dykes		
Robert Evans		

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Julian Benington

48 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Kim Botting, Stephen Carr, Judi Ellis, Peter Fookes, David Jefferys and Terence Nathan.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Ruth Bennett.

49 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th October 2014

Members noted in relation to the motion proposed by Councillor Ian Dunn at the last meeting (minute 46) that the issue had been considered by Executive and Resources PDS Committee on 19th November 2014, after which a letter had been sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Leader of the Council. Copies of the letter were circulated at the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2014 were confirmed.

50 Declarations of Interest

During consideration of the motions set out in minute 57, Councillor Simon Fawthrop declared an interest as an employee of British Telecom in relation to motion (1) and Councillor Teresa Ball declared an interest as her husband was employed in the financial sector in relation to motion (2).

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

One question had been received from Patricia Trembath. The question and written answer are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

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

Twelve questions for oral reply and one urgent question had been received. The questions and answers are set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

53 Written questions from Members of the Council

Twenty two questions had been received for written reply. The questions and answers were circulated at the meeting and set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

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

No statements were made.

55 Treasury Management - Performance Q2 2014/15 and Mid-Year Review.

A motion to approve changes to the 2014/15 prudential indicators was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED.**

56 Council Tax Support/Reduction - 2015/16

A motion to approve the recommendation from the Executive to adopt the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

57 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

Three motions were considered as follows -

(1) Superfast Broadband

The following motion was moved by Councillor Will Harmer and seconded by Councillor Lydia Buttinger -

“This Council notes the Government’s recent £1 billion investment to secure superfast broadband to 90% of the UK by 2016 and has already seen the positive impact that this investment has in supporting businesses both across the country and in the neighbouring County of Kent.

However, it is disappointed that as a London Borough, Bromley is ineligible for any funding under the Superfast Broadband Programme to improve the very poor provision of Superfast Broadband in the rural parts of the Borough.

It requests that the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Greater London Authority (“GLA”) meet with the Council to discuss how best it can meet the Programme objectives and the needs of our residents and businesses in rural areas and if funding could be extended to provide the required investment.”

The motion was **CARRIED**.

(2) Financial Transaction Tax

The following motion was moved by Councillor Angela Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Ian Dunn -

“It is wrong that local authority funding is continuing to be cut and essential services are being hit in order to pay for the bailout to the financial sector. This Council therefore calls on the Government to introduce a Financial Transaction Tax in order that more resources can be made available to local councils.”

The motion was **LOST**.

(3) Devolution of powers and finance to local councils

The following motion was moved by Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith -

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“This Council notes the proposal to give Scotland more devolved responsibilities and tax raising powers and believes that, as far as practicable, responsibility for local services and their financing should also be devolved down to the most appropriate level of government in England and therefore calls upon the Government to examine how this can be achieved as soon as possible.”

The motion was **CARRIED**.

58 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor thanked those Councillors who had attended the Mayoress' ladies lunch on Wednesday 26th November and the Business Reception on Thursday 27th November. Both events had been a great success.

The Mayor invited Members to the following events:

- The Mayor's Christmas Coffee Morning on Tuesday 16th December at 10am, with a choir from Biggin Hill Primary School.
- A Black Tie Boxing Dinner at the Warren on Friday 23rd January 2015, (this was nearly sold out.)
- The annual Quiz Evening in the Great Hall at the Civic Centre on Friday 20th February 2015.

Invitations and further information would be sent out from the Mayor's office nearer the dates.

Mayor

The Meeting ended at 8.56 pm