

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

## MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the  
Council of the Borough  
held at 7.00 pm on 25 November 2015

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor Kim Botting**

**The Deputy Mayor  
Councillor Alan Collins**

### Councillors

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

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair  
The Mayor  
Councillor Kim Botting

### 126 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Cartwright and David Jefferys.

## **127        Declarations of Interest**

A schedule of declarations of interest relating to agenda item 6 had been circulated –

### **Cllr Teresa Ball**

Free food in the VIP tent at the 2014 Air Fair (but bought own Air Fair Tickets)

### **Cllr Julian Benington**

Council Deputy Representative on Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee

Trustee of Biggin Hill Memorial Museum Trust

Attended the Biggin Hill Festival Of Flight in June 2015 and made a donation to the RAF Benevolent Fund to the cost of my complimentary ticket.

Lives within, at the edge of, the noise envelope of Biggin Hill Airport

### **Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP**

Governor of Bromley College – which has an interest in developing an avionics college on the airport.

### **Cllr Eric Bosshard**

Council Deputy Representative on Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee

### **Cllr Mary Cooke:**

Council Deputy Representative on Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee

### **Cllr Judi Ellis:**

Complementary ticket to the 2014 Air Fair (but paid for it herself)

### **Cllr Robert Evans**

Lives under the flightpath

### **Cllr Peter Fortune:**

Complementary ticket to the 2014 Air Fair

### **Cllr Hannah Gray:**

Running a business to business exhibition at Biggin Hill Airport on 16th September 2015 along with two fellow directors of Bank (Bromley and Kent) on Business

4 complementary tickets to Biggin Hill Air Show 2015

### **Cllr Charles Joel**

Lives under the flightpath

### **Cllr Kate Lymer:**

Four complementary tickets to the 2014 Air Fair

Four complementary tickets to the 2015 Festival of Flight

### **Cllr Peter Morgan**

Council Representative on Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee

**Cllr Melanie Stevens:**

Council Representative on Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee  
*Shared with Cllr Tim Stevens JP –*

Complimentary ticket to the 2014 Air Fair

Radio Two Music Night Show - 4 complimentary tickets (hosted by Rizonjet)  
on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015

2015 Air Show - 4 complimentary tickets for which we paid for 2

75th BoB Anniversary Show - 2 complimentary tickets, paid for 1

Expo Exhibition - attendance

**Cllr Tim Stevens:**

*Shared with Cllr Melanie Stevens–*

Complimentary ticket to the 2014 Air Fair

Radio Two Music Night Show - 4 complimentary tickets (hosted by Rizonjet)  
on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015

2015 Air Show - 4 complimentary tickets for which we paid for 2

75th BoB Anniversary Show - 2 complimentary tickets, paid for 1

Expo Exhibition - attendance

**Cllr Pauline Tunncliffe:**

2 Complimentary tickets to the 2014 Air Fair

**Cllr Richard Scoates:**

Council Representative on Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee

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

Twenty seven questions had been received from members of the public (although one had been withdrawn). It was agreed that the time for questions would be extended to one hour. The questions and replies given are set out in **Appendix A** to these minutes.

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

Two questions had been received for oral reply from a Member. The questions and replies are set out in **Appendix B** to these minutes.

**130 Written questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given**

Six questions had been received for written oral reply from Members. The questions and replies are set out in **Appendix C** to these minutes.

**131 Biggin Hill Airport Limited's (BHAL) Proposal to Vary the Operating Hours**  
Report DRR15/097

The special Council meeting had been called to consider a proposal from Biggin Hill Airport Limited (BHAL) to vary the operating hours of the Airport pursuant to the terms of their lease. BHAL's original proposals had been considered by the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015, following which the Executive had resolved as following -

"In consideration of proposals from Biggin Hill Airport Limited to vary the operating hours at Biggin Hill Airport it is RESOLVED to:

(1) agree the following recommendation from Council –

*"That subject to agreement from the airport to all concessions, conditions, and obligations which can reasonably be required in consideration for agreeing a variation to the operating criteria in the third schedule to the lease, and subject to the Executive being satisfied with the concessions, conditions and obligations negotiated, the Executive should then agree in principle to the extension of hours and consult again with council before the final decision is made"; and*

(2) the recommendation above is to be taken forward subject to negotiations with Biggin Hill Airport Limited on concessions, conditions and obligations, including a variation to operating hours for Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays based on 8am to 10pm rather than the operating hours proposed by BHAL, namely 6.30am to 11pm on Saturdays and 8am to 11pm on Sundays."

Extensive negotiations had been conducted by officers and the Council's technical advisors with BHAL since then, and the modified proposals had been re-presented by BHAL.

The Mayor explained to the meeting that for legal reasons the final decision on this matter would need to be taken by the Executive, which would meet, after a short adjournment, on the rising of the Council meeting.

The Mayor asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Carr, to speak before the debate was opened up. He stated that executive members would not be speaking or voting on this issue, and that Conservative members had a free vote. He also thanked the public, Members, officers and the Council's consultants for their contributions.

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Nicholas Bennett and seconded by Councillor Julian Benington –

"That this Council, noting its resolution at the meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 to the Executive, and the subsequent negotiations; recommends to the Executive that BHAL's proposals for an amendment of the operating schedule of the lease, subject to the concessions, conditions and obligations as

detailed in the Council's technical advisor's report and any other matters which the Executive believes are necessary, be approved.”

Members discussed the proposals and the motion. The following points were made in support of the BHAL proposals -

- The Airport was making a reasonable request and the Council had to consider the request and make a reasonable response.
- The airport was committed to best practice in agreeing to implement a Noise Action Plan, which would protect residents.
- There were currently no restrictions on the numbers of movements in the shoulder hours, and the proposals would give greater control.
- The proposals would reduce noise and introduce a system of sanctions and penalties.
- Flights over Chislehurst, Petts Wood and Farnborough would be reduced by around a third.
- The removal of the Heathrow Beacon by 2019 would remove many of the large jets stacked for Heathrow from the area.
- The Council had a duty to all of its residents and approving the proposals would be in the overall interests of the whole borough, bringing economic development and training opportunities.
- The proposed hours were a very modest extension which could bring up to 2,300 jobs, many of them highly skilled, and a specialist college.
- Of the 18 recommendations, 8 had been met and 4 needed submission of further details, but if they were not all complied with the Airport would have to revert to the current hours.

The following points were made against the BHAL proposals –

- The airport was bought by the Council in 1984 to protect the residents of the borough, and this should still be the Council's priority as a reasonable landlord.
- The results from the consultations carried out by the Airport and the Council were highly questionable and should be disregarded. Residents under the flightpath were overwhelmingly against the proposals.
- The Airport had not accepted any reduction in hours since the meetings in March.
- Changing the height of aircraft arriving and departing might help residents in Sidcup, but would have little impact closer to the airport in Farnborough and Crofton.
- Residents were having to suffer from bigger, noisier aircraft and this was an opportunity to reduce disturbance at anti-social hours.
- Although it was claimed that aircraft were now quieter than in the past, all aircraft were still noisy, especially at night and in the early hours of the morning.
- The issue of noise nuisance from helicopters needed to be addressed in the Noise Action Plan.

- The negative impact of the proposals on thousands of residents did not outweigh the limited economic benefits to the borough – these jobs and the new college were not guaranteed.
- It was unlikely that many of the jobs supposed to be created would actually go to local people, and unemployment was very low in the borough.
- The complicated noise envelope arrangements and noise averages masked the impact of more aircraft movements early in the morning.
- Only a few of the 18 recommendations had actually been fully met in the eight months since the meeting in March – residents could not rely on the Airport’s “best endeavours” to fulfil the remaining conditions.
- The Airport had received planning permission for a hotel several years ago, but it had not been built. Promises about jobs and a college could not be relied on.

**The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.**

Voting on the motion was as follows –

For the motion: Vanessa Allen, Teresa Ball, Katherine Bance, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett JP, Ruth Bennett, Kevin Brooks, Mary Cooke, Peter Dean, Ian Dunn, Nicky Dykes, Judi Ellis, Peter Fookes, Hannah Gray, Ellie Harmer, Will Harmer, William Huntington-Thresher, David Livett, Terence Nathan, Tom Philpott, Neil Reddin, Catherine Rideout, Charles Rideout CVO QPM, Michael Rutherford, Melanie Stevens, Michael Turner, Stephen Wells, Angela Wilkins and Richard Williams (29)

Against the Motion:

Councillors Douglas Auld, Eric Bosshard, Katy Boughey, Lydia Buttinger, Simon Fawthrop, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, Charles Joel, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Ian Payne, Sarah Phillips, Chris Pierce, Richard Scoates, Diane Smith, Tim Stevens JP and Michael Tickner (19)

Abstaining from voting:

Councillors Graham Arthur, Kim Botting, Stephen Carr, Alan Collins, Robert Evans, Peter Fortune, Kate Lymer, Peter Morgan, Colin Smith and Pauline Tunnicliffe (10)

The Meeting ended at 9.54 pm

Mayor