

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 14 October 2019

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P.**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Kira Gabbert**

Councillors

Marina Ahmad	Peter Fortune	Tony Owen
Gareth Allatt	Hannah Gray	Angela Page
Vanessa Allen	Will Harmer	Chris Pierce
Graham Arthur	Christine Harris	Neil Reddin FCCA
Kathy Bance MBE	Colin Hitchins	Will Rowlands
Yvonne Bear	Samaris Huntington-	Michael Rutherford
Julian Benington	Thresher	Richard Scoates
Kim Botting FRSA	William Huntington-	Suraj Sharma
Mike Botting	Thresher	Colin Smith
Katy Boughey	Simon Jeal	Diane Smith
Kevin Brooks	David Jefferys	Gary Stevens
David Cartwright QFSM	Charles Joel	Melanie Stevens
Mary Cooke	Josh King	Harry Stranger
Aisha Cuthbert	Kate Lymer	Kieran Terry
Peter Dean	Christopher Marlow	Michael Tickner
Ian Dunn	Robert Mcilveen	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Nicky Dykes	Russell Mellor	Michael Turner
Judi Ellis	Alexa Michael	Stephen Wells
Robert Evans	Peter Morgan	Angela Wilkins
Simon Fawthrop	Keith Onslow	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P.

The Mayor was wearing the chains of the former borough of Beckenham, and the Beckenham Mace was used.

Before the meeting started, the Mayor reported that he and Councillor Aisha Cuthbert had taken part in a sponsored swimathon at West Wickham pool for

the Rotary Club, with profits going to the Royal Lifeboat Institute, and he awarded Councillor Cuthbert her medal.

142 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Brock. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Samaris Huntington-Thresher. Apologies for leaving the meeting early were received from Councillors Julian Benington, Melanie Stevens and William Huntington-Thresher.

143 Declarations of Interest

In relation to the question on Biggin Hill Airport, Councillor Hannah Gray declared an interest as she had a contract with the airport, and Councillor Colin Hitchins declared an interest as an employee of the airport.

144 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th July 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2019 be confirmed.

145 Petition - Chislehurst War Memorial Junction
Report CSD19143

A petition had been received from Chris Wells of Chislehurst Safer Streets, calling for the Council to install a push-button pedestrian crossing phase at the traffic light controlled junction at Chislehurst War Memorial.

Mr Wells addressed the Council in support of the petition. He suggested that the A222 was a busy and dangerous road, and he contrasted the provision of numerous controlled crossing places on the Sidcup and Bickley/Plaistow sections of the A222 with the lack of crossing points in Chislehurst, other than one pelican crossing near Chislehurst School for Girls. The War Memorial junction was used by many pupils from the three local schools, as well as pupils from other schools and many elderly and disabled adults. He reported that the Council had said that the refusal to install a pelican crossing was due to the additional congestion and rat-running that would result, but he claimed that the Council had never modelled this. The petition had been signed by 3,000 people who were protesting against the Council's refusal which, he asserted, was discriminatory against vulnerable members of the community in favour of drivers.

Cllr William Huntington Thresher responded, welcoming the interest in this issue, but explaining that providing a pedestrian phase required an increase in the highway space, which was not possible without the agreement of the adjacent landowners, the Commons Conservators. The Council was seeking a holistic solution and remained willing to consider junction remodelling, but in the absence of agreement with the landowners a pedestrian phase would result in congestion with exceedingly long queues at peak times leading to rat-

running by speeding traffic on local roads. Councillor Katy Boughey also spoke on behalf of ward councillors who had been working hard to find a suitable solution.

A motion to agree that no changes be made to the Council's response already provided to the petitioners, and that the Council's Assistant Director, Traffic and Parking, write to all petitioners explaining the facts of the situation, was moved by Councillor William Huntington-Thresher and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith.

An amendment that the Portfolio Holder be asked to bring back deliverable proposals for consideration by the Environment and Community Services PDS Committee within six months was moved by Councillor Ian Dunn and seconded by Councillor Angela Wilkins. This amendment was put to the vote and **LOST**.

The substantive motion proposed by Councillor William Huntington-Thresher and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

(During consideration of this item Councillor Tony Owen declared an interest in that his daughter was a teacher at Coopers School.)

146 Questions

Three questions had been received from members of the public for oral reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

(During consideration of public oral question 3, Councillors Aisha Cuthbert and Robert Evans declared interests as they were Council-appointed board members of Mytime Active, and the Mayor, Councillor Nicholas Bennett, declared an interest as he had a Mytime Active swimming pass.)

Two questions had been received from members of the public for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

Fifteen questions had been received from members of the Council for oral reply, plus one urgent question. The questions, with the replies given, are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

Seven questions had been received from members of the Council for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix D to these minutes.

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

Two requests had been made to receive statements as follows –

(A) From the Leader of the Council, Councillor Colin Smith, on the Council's preparations and contingency plans given the now-likely exit of the UK from the EU without a deal, requested by Councillors Simon Jeal and Angela Wilkins.

Councillor Smith stated that he had nothing to add to his earlier comments in response to Councillor Dunn's question – there was nothing to report and project fear did not live here.

Councillor Jeal stated that the Government had given local authorities a total of £77m to prepare for no deal, and asked whether the Leader thought that this was a waste of money – project fear or project common sense? Councillor Smith stated that this was a waste of money – Bromley had held every penny in reserve and he hoped to be able to spend the money on something useful for the residents of Bromley.

Councillor Wilkins asked whether Councillor Smith could substantiate his accusations about project fear. Councillor Smith responded that there had been a constant attempt to put fear into the people of Bromley, and that this was a disgrace.

Councillor Simon Fawthrop asked whether the Leader had read project cheer on the Brexit Central website – Councillor Smith replied that he had not.

(B) From the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement, Councillor Kate Lymer, explaining why, given recent increases in muggings, a spate of burglaries in Chislehurst and the theft of antique horse troughs, she persisted in refusing to accede to requests from councillors, the public and the police to increase use of CCTV cameras in the Borough, requested by Councillors Kathy Bance MBE and Angela Wilkins.

Councillor Lymer explained that she was not personally impeding anything, and that mobile CCTV had been used in Chislehurst in the last two years to tackle anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping. The Independent Surveillance Commissioner had to be satisfied that CCTV was appropriate or it could be removed. Councillor Sharma had been vociferous in support of CCTV from his first month in office; earlier this year she had asked the Council's independent CCTV consultant to review Police crime statistics for Chislehurst High Street and his view was that it would not meet the legal parameters. Since then, she had asked for the crime statistics to be reviewed and a meeting to discuss options was being arranged.

Following claims of an increase in muggings and burglaries in Chislehurst, Councillor Lymer had requested ward specific data from the Police. Due to the climate change protests in central London, the Police had not had the capacity to provide these statistics for this meeting, but data on the Metropolitan Police website showed that in September 2019 there had been 12 burglaries, below the average for the borough and for London. Burglaries across the borough had fallen from 203 in August 2018 to 182 in August 2019. There had been one mugging reported in Chislehurst across the

summer. The Police reported 15 shop burglaries in Chislehurst within the last six months – in comparison, there were often that number each day in Bromley town centre. They had offered crime prevention advice to shop owners, including moving high value goods away from the front door, but not all shop owners had accepted the advice. Chislehurst shop owners had, collectively, decided not to use pull-down metal blinds as they were not visually appealing. Nearly all the shops that had been burgled had their own CCTV systems, indicating that CCTV was not deterring criminals.

Councillor Lymer concluded that it was essential that the restricted budget for CCTV was used appropriately and where it was most needed. The situation in Chislehurst would continue to be monitored and reviewed.

Councillor Bance complained that the statement had focused entirely on Chislehurst, and had not covered requests for CCTV across the borough. The Police in Penge had requested that the CCTV that had been moved away three times to cover other urgent areas, should be reinstated and this had been agreed, but the equipment could not be moved back for a couple of weeks due to the climate change and Brexit protests in central London. Councillor Bance felt that CCTV was needed in Bromley to safeguard residents and traders. The Penge BID Team did not understand why they were now responsible for providing CCTV in a black-spot high crime area such as Penge High Street, rather than the London Borough of Bromley. Councillor Lymer responded that the camera was a Police camera, so she could not comment on their tactics. There were already numerous Council-run cameras in Penge, but she would look into the position regarding the BID.

Councillor Wilkins asked the Portfolio Holder to concede that CCTV provided a third function – evidence for the Police to use for prosecutions. Councillor Lymer agreed, but it was still not possible to just install it without the right legal case.

Councillor Tickner asked whether the Police could not provide and pay for their own CCTV – was it always necessary for the Borough to deal with CCTV? Councillor Lymer responded that the Council was continually making this case, although the Police were refusing so far.

148 Proposals for Integration of Health and Social Care in Bromley
Report CSD19147

A motion to approve, pursuant to the Localism Act 2011, the recruitment and selection to a joint role between the Council and the CCG to lead commissioning on a salary package higher than £100k, was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Diane Smith and **CARRIED**.

149 Salix Street Lighting LED Upgrade
Report CSD19146

A motion to add the SALIX Street Lighting LED Upgrade Scheme to the capital programme at an estimated cost of £1.124m was moved by Councillor

William Huntington-Thresher, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED.**

150 Award of Contract: Provision of Housing in Burnt Ash Lane
Report CSD19144

A motion to approve the addition of £3,786k to the capital programme, funded from Section 106 contributions (£500k) and the Investment Fund earmarked reserve (£3,286k) for the provision of up to 25 residential units for the purposes of temporary accommodation on the site known as Burnt Ash Lane Car Park was moved by Councillor Peter Morgan, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED.**

151 Update from Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee - Motions

It was noted that two motions referred to the Committee by Council had been considered at the meeting on 3rd September 2019 - the minutes had been circulated to Members.

152 To consider reports from the Urgency Committee (if any)

The draft minutes from the Urgency Committee's meeting on 11th October 2019 were received and noted.

153 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

(A) Motion Congratulating Dina Asher-Smith

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Simon Fawthrop and seconded by Councillor Christine Harris -

“This Council sends its heartfelt congratulations to Blackheath and Bromley Harriers’ Dina Asher-Smith on her amazing achievement of an individual Gold Medal in the Women’s 200M and two Silver Medals in the Women’s 100M and the Women’s 100M relay respectively at the 2019 Athletics World Championships held in Doha.

This Council recognises that this achievement by Dina reflects positively on her Bromley antecedents, and thanks her accordingly. On top of her achievements, the Council also sends its best wishes for every success in the future, particularly the 2020 Olympics.

Furthermore this Council requests that the Mayor write to Dina Asher-Smith on behalf of the Council to ensure that a framed copy of this resolution is presented to her at the earliest opportunity.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was **CARRIED.**

The Mayor confirmed that he would write to Ms Asher-Smith, and that a Mayoral Reception would be arranged to which all Members of the Council would be invited.

(B) Motion on Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education

The following motion was moved by Councillor Simon Jeal and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bance MBE -

“Bromley Council welcomes the introduction of statutory Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) from September 2020. The Council confirms its full support for schools delivering compulsory LGBT+ inclusive Relationships and Sex Education as part of RSE, in line with new Government guidance, in all state funded primary and secondary schools. The Council resolves to ask the Director of Education to write to all schools in the Borough to communicate this support.”

An amendment was moved by Councillor Peter Fortune and seconded by Councillor Michael Rutherford so that the motion would read as follows -

“Bromley Council welcomes the introduction of statutory Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) from September 2020. The Council confirms its full support for schools developing their policy, which includes LGBT+ relationships, and should be sensitive and age appropriate in approach. It also recognises the continued right of parents to withdraw their child from the sex education element if they so wish. Further, the Council confirms its support of the Conservative Government’s continuing initiatives to ensure the curriculum is fit for purpose in the modern age via the academy agenda, passing control over to schools and parents and will ask the Director of Education to ensure that such advice is issued to schools.”

Councillor Kevin Brooks raised a point of order that he did not recall having been asked to contribute issues for potential scrutiny at the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee. Councillor Nicky Dykes, responding with a point of personal explanation, offered to circulate the email concerned. (She subsequently confirmed that the email had been sent to Councillors Brooks and Ahmad on 8th June 2019.)

On being put to the vote, the amendment was **CARRIED**.

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

154 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor reported that his first charity event on 25th September at the Tamasha Restaurant had been very successful, raising just over £3,000. The Mayor thanked all those who had attended, including many Members as well as eight other Mayors and their guests and Bob Neill MP.

Council
14 October 2019

Flyers had been circulated for the next event - a bowling evening at the Pavilion on 29th October. There was also a "Guess who that is?" competition.

The Mayor thanked Members who had offered to represent him at Remembrance Sunday events, and urged other Members to reply to the Office.

155 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 summary
refers to matters
involving exempt information**

156 Exempt Minutes - 15th July 2019

RESOLVED that the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2019 be confirmed.

The Meeting ended at 9.21 pm

Mayor