

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.00 pm on 9 February 2021

Present:

Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe (Chairman)
Councillor Stephen Wells (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Gareth Allatt, Vanessa Allen, Mary Cooke,
Robert Evans, Kira Gabbert, Josh King,
Christopher Marlow, Russell Mellor, Tony Owen,
Neil Reddin FCCA, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger and
Michael Turner

Also Present:

Councillor Simon Fawthrop

122 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no apologies for absence.

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Stephen Wells, expressed his displeasure that representatives from KPMG, the Council's former auditor for 2016/17 and 2017/18, were not present at the meeting to answer questions.

123 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

124 QUESTIONS

No questions had been received.

125 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2020 be confirmed.

126 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22

Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council was required to approve and publish a Pay Policy Statement every year, and Committee received a report introducing the 2021/22 Statement.

The chairman identified two corrections that needed to be made to the report -

- in paragraph 7.12, line 1, “employee” should be changed to “employees”
- In paragraph 7.13, the words “...will be hearing a judicial review challenge in March 2021,...” should be deleted.

The Committee noted that it would normally receive a report on the proposed staff pay award at this meeting – the Chairman confirmed that a special meeting was being arranged for 25th February 2021 to enable the Committee to make a formal recommendation to Council once the proposed pay award was announced. There would be no delay to the implementation of any pay increase.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to approve the 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement.

127 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2021/22
Report CSD21001

The regulations governing Members Allowances required the Council to approve a scheme of allowances each year, and the Committee considered the proposed scheme for 2021/22 to be recommended to full Council. The scheme was based on the 2020/21 scheme, with no increases in allowances proposed.

The Committee noted that Councillors serving on Appeals Sub-Committee meetings often had to take part in long meetings and deal with large volumes of paperwork in the same way as members serving on other “quasi-judicial” meetings. It was therefore proposed that a similar allowance be paid, per day, for Appeals Sub-Committee meetings. The Committee was informed that these costs could be covered within the existing budget.

Councillor Gareth Allatt suggested that the roles of the Chairman of Audit Sub-Committee and Chairman of Pensions Investment Sub-Committee involved significant responsibilities and workloads and the levels of these allowances should be enhanced. The Chairman responded that this should be taken into account for the next year’s review.

RESOLVED that

(1) Members Allowances, and the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral allowances, remain at the same levels for 2021/22.

(2) A “quasi-judicial” allowance be paid for attendance at Appeals Sub-Committee meetings at the same rate per day as for Plans and Licensing Sub-Committee meetings.

(3) Council be recommended to approve the updated Members Allowances Scheme and the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral allowances for 2021/22.

128 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS - ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21
Report CSD210002

The Committee received summaries from the six Executive Assistants of the work that they had carried out during the 2021/22 Council year.

(Councillor Kira Gabbert declared an interest during consideration of this item as she held one of the Executive Assistant posts.)

RESOLVED that the reports from Executive Assistants be received and noted.

129 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2021/22
Report CSD21

The Committee considered the proposed programme of meetings for the 2021/22 Council year. The programme had been subject to extensive consultation with members and officers, and was broadly based on the pattern of the current year. The Committee noted some final changes affecting meetings of the Schools Forum – a meeting was required on 16th September 2021 and the meeting indicated for 21st April 2022 was deleted.

RESOLVED that

(1) The programme of meetings 2021/22 be approved.

(2) The Director of Corporate Services be authorised to adjust the programme in accordance with any changes made to committees by Members, and to make minor corrections to the programme as necessary.

130 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2020/21
Report CSD21020

The Committee received a report informing them of a vacancy on the Beckenham Parochial Charities. As there was no nominee for the role the report was deferred.

131 WORK PROGRAMME AND MATTERS OUTSTANDING
Report CSD21004

The Committee considered its work programme.

EY were due to attend the meeting on 23rd March 2021 when the outcome of the 2019/20 audit would be reported. Councillor Stephen Wells stated to the Committee that KPMG should also attend.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

132 PENSIONS INVESTMENT SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY, 28 JULY, 15 SEPTEMBER AND 1 DECEMBER 2020, EXCLUDING EXEMPT INFORMATION

The draft minutes from the meeting of the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee meetings held on 13th February, 28th July, 15th September and 1 December 2020 were received.

Councillor Tony Owen raised concerns about the role of the London CIV. He referred to a recent Supreme Court case – the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign Ltd versus the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government – regarding the responsibilities of local government pension fund trustees. He considered that, particularly in the light of this judgement, the Council should give notice that it would be leaving the London CIV at the end of March. Councillor Gareth Allatt, as the Vice-Chairman of the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee, explained that the Council was required to be a member of a CIV, but had not invested any funds. The Pensions Investment Sub-Committee shared Councillor Owen’s scepticism, but withdrawing from the CIV would mean risking the possibility of the Government taking control of the pension fund. The Committee noted Councillor Owen’s concerns.

133 AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2020, EXCLUDING EXEMPT INFORMATION

The draft minutes from the meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2020 were received.

134 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 items 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**

**135 PENSIONS INVESTMENT SUB-COMMITTEE: EXEMPT
MINUTES - 13 FEBRUARY, 15 SEPTEMBER & 1 DECEMBER
2020**

The draft exempt minutes from the meeting of the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee meetings held on 13th February, 15th September and 1 December 2020 were received.

**136 AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE: EXEMPT MINUTES - 3RD
NOVEMBER 2020**

The draft exempt minutes from the meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2020 were received.

The Meeting ended at 6.35 pm

Chairman