

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 6.30 pm on 18 May 2022

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Russell L. Mellor**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Tony Owen**

Councillors

Jeremy Adams	Hannah Gray	Keith Onslow
Jonathan Andrews	Dr Sunil Gupta	Angela Page
Jessica Arnold	FRCP FRCPATH	Chris Price
Felicity Bainbridge	Christine Harris	Chloe-Jane Ross
Kathy Bance MBE	Colin Hitchins	Will Rowlands
Yvonne Bear	Alisa Igoe	Shaun Slator
Nicholas Bennett MA J.P.	Julie Ireland	Colin Smith
Kim Botting FRSA	Mike Jack	Diane Smith
Mike Botting	Simon Jeal	Mark Smith
Mark Brock	David Jefferys	Alison Stammers
David Cartwright QFSM	Charles Joel	Melanie Stevens
Graeme Casey	Kevin Kennedy-Brooks	Harry Stranger
Will Connolly	Josh King	Michael Tickner
Aisha Cuthbert	Jonathan Laidlaw	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Peter Dean	Andrew Lee	Thomas Turrell
Sophie Dunbar	Kate Lymer	Sam Webber
Robert Evans	Christopher Marlow	Rebecca Wiffen
Simon Fawthrop	Ruth McGregor	
Kira Gabbert	Tony McPartlan	
Adam Jude Grant	Alexa Michael	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor, Russell L Mellor

1 To elect the Mayor of the Borough

It was moved by Cllr Nicholas Bennett, seconded by Cllr Mark Brock and

RESOLVED that Councillor Hannah Gray be elected Mayor of the Borough.

Councillor Gray made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Mayor and thereupon adjourned from the chamber in company with the retiring Mayor to receive the insignia of office.

In the chair, Cllr Hannah Gray

On her return to the chamber, the Mayor expressed her thanks for the honour conferred on her.

2 To record the appointment of the Deputy Mayor signified to the Council in writing

The Mayor signified orally and in writing her appointment of Councillor Christine Harris as the Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor was invested by the Mayor with the insignia of his office and expressed appreciation for the honour of his appointment.

3 The Retiring Mayor

On a motion by Councillor Michael Tickner, which was seconded by Councillor Nicholas Bennett, it was

RESOLVED that at the conclusion of the year of office of Councillor Russell L Mellor as Mayor of the London Borough of Bromley, the Council places on record its appreciation of the able manner in which he has presided at meetings of the Council and the distinction with which she has maintained and discharged the high traditions and responsibilities of that office.

The Council also recognises the committed and dedicated manner in which he has carried out Mayoral duties when representing the Borough, spreading awareness of the history and tradition of the Mayoralty, as well as strengthening our long-standing relationship with Neuwied and Mayoralities outside of the Borough.

Councillor Mellor was keen that all the tradition and time-honoured customs and practices of the Mayoralty were upheld; and as such Cllr Mellor reinstated the custom for the Chief executive to wear the black robe of his office at all Council meetings and the official attire for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor when not on ceremonial duties, enrobed, to be morning suits.

He was particularly pleased to welcome schools and local organisations to visit the Mayoral parlour and instruct them as to the traditions and protocols of the Mayoralty.

During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Council worked closely with the NHS providing facilities for testing and inoculation of the residents in order that they could be protected and thereby saving lives. Many people found themselves spending less time with family and friends – especially if they were shielding or self-isolating. Councillor Mellor was keen to bring people together in convivial company as the country began gradually making its way out of the pandemic, with a series of events to enable a greater social involvement.

The Council further acknowledges his enthusiastic support and fund-raising efforts through his Charity appeal for The Beckenham Parochial Charity and The Shipwrecked Mariners Society. That the Corporate Seal be affixed to an engrossment of this resolution for presentation to Councillor Russell L Mellor and a Past Mayor's Badge be presented to him in token of the appreciation hereby expressed.

Thereupon the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, invested Mr Russell Mellor Councillor with a badge in token of the appreciation of his services as Mayor of the Borough.

Mr Mellor expressed his thanks for the terms of the resolution and the presentation, and for the support accorded to him which had contributed so greatly to his year in office as Mayor.

RESOLVED that the Council records its appreciation of the able and courteous services of Councillor Tony Owen and Mrs Rosie Owen when, as Deputy Mayor and Mayoress for the year 2021/22, they represented the Mayoralty and the Council, and provides them with an attested copy of this resolution.

Councillor Owen expressed his thanks for the terms of the resolution and for the support accorded to him during his year of office as Deputy Mayor.

4 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ryan Thomson

5 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations on interest.

6 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11th April 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2022 be confirmed.

- 7 To record the election of Councillors for the respective wards of the Borough on 5th May 2022 as set out in the notice attached.**

The election of Councillors on 5th May 2022 as set out in the schedule circulated with the agenda was noted.

- 8 To appoint a Leader of the Council for a four year term of office**

In accordance with the Council's constitutional arrangements consideration was given to the appointment of a Leader of the Council for a four year term of office.

On a motion by Councillor Simon Fawthrop and seconded by Councillor Will Rowlands it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Colin Smith be elected as Leader of the Council for a four year term of office.

- 9 To receive the appointments of the Deputy Leader of the Council and other Members of the Executive from the Leader of the Council**

In accordance with the Council's constitutional arrangements the Leader of the Council advised Council of the following appointments:

Councillor Kate Lymer – Deputy Leader of the Council

Members of the Executive:

Councillor Kate Lymer –

Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Councillor Diane Smith –

Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health

Councillor Angela Page –

Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Enforcement

Councillor Yvonne Bear –

Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Councillor Christopher Marlow –

Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management

Councillor Aisha Cuthbert –

Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services & Open spaces

Councillor Nicholas Bennett –

Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways & Road Safety

RESOLVED that the appointments made by the Leader of the Council, as set out above, be noted.

10 To receive an address from the Leader of the Council if they so elect

The Leader gave a brief speech reminding Members of the problems faced by the borough during the previous four years and remarking on the remarkable response of Bromley residents to the pandemic and to the war in Ukraine.

He then spoke of the coming four years, emphasising that the Council's first duty was to keep a balanced budget, and then summarising some of the key issues and challenges. In Children's Services, the Council was awaiting the return of the Ofsted Inspectors, new schools were being developed in Chislehurst and Penge, and there were pressures in SEND and mental health, and dealing with loneliness and long Covid. The Council would continue to work with health partners as the new Integrated Care Board was introduced in July and was also anticipating the reforms in adult social care which would be crucial for the borough's large elderly population. On environmental issues, the Council was now working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2027, was continuing with its ambitious tree-planting programme and was looking to enforce more strongly against planning abuses, littering and enviro-crime. Housing remained a major problem in the borough, with too many people in temporary accommodation. The Council was accelerating its affordable housing programmes, but the statutory requirement in the London Plan to provide 774 new homes a year was a massive challenge when the Council also wanted to protect the greenbelt and avoid overdevelopment.

11 Minor Changes to the Constitution and Establishment of an Audit and Risk Management Committee

A motion to approve the following resolutions was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Mike Botting and **CARRIED** –

(1) Authority be given to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance to make minor changes to the Constitution to ensure that the wording is kept up to date, in particular in respect of the reduction in the number of Members after the 2022 local election and officer titles.

(2) That External Audit and Annual Statement of Accounts, Probity Strategy, Audit and Fraud Prevention be removed from the terms of reference of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee and an Audit and Risk Management Committee be set up to replace the Audit Sub-Committee, with the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix A to the report.

12 To appoint Committees and their chairmen and Vice-Chairmen and agree proportionality
Report CSD22

A schedule of proposed committee appointments had been circulated. A motion to approve proportionality, the appointment of Councillors to

Council
18 May 2022

Committees and the election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen as set out in the schedule was moved by Councillor Christine Harris, seconded by Councillor Simon Fawthrop and **CARRIED**.

After the end of the meeting, Committee met to appoint their Sub-Committees and appoint chairmen and vice-chairmen. The final version of the schedule is attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

13 To receive the Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions from the Leader of the Council and to approve the Scheme of Delegation of Non-executive Functions
Report CSD22053

A motion to (1) approve the Scheme of Delegation to Officers of non-executive functions and (2) note the Scheme of Delegation to Officers of executive functions received from the Leader of the Council, was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Mike Botting and **CARRIED**.

14 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor reminded Members that she would be sending out details of her events very shortly.

The Meeting ended at 8.24 pm

Mayor