

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Wednesday 21 April 2021 at 7.00 pm**  
**Held via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Councillor Danial Adilypour, Councillor Scott Ainslie, Councillor David Amos, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, Councillor Liz Atkins, Councillor Mary Atkins, Councillor Jonathan Bartley, Councillor Matthew Bennett, Councillor Scarlett O'Hara, Councillor Linda Bray, Councillor Tim Briggs, Councillor Marcia Cameron, Councillor Rezina Chowdhury, Councillor Malcolm Clark, Councillor Joe Corry-Roake, Councillor Kevin Craig, Councillor Edward Davie, Councillor Jon Davies, Councillor Jim Dickson, Councillor Ibrahim Dogus, Councillor Stephen Donnelly, Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Councillor Pete Elliott, Councillor Peter Ely, Councillor Paul Gadsby, Mayor Annie Gallop, Councillor Adrian Garden, Councillor Pauline George, Councillor Nicole Griffiths, Councillor Nigel Haselden, Councillor Dr. Mahamed Hashi, Councillor Claire Holland, Councillor Jack Hopkins, Councillor Mohamed Jaser, Councillor Maria Kay, Councillor John Kazantzis, Councillor Ben Kind, Councillor Jessica Leigh, Councillor Joshua Lindsey, Councillor Nanda Manley-Browne, Councillor Marianna Masters, Councillor Jackie Meldrum, Councillor Irfan Mohammed, Councillor Jennie Mosley, Councillor Philip Normal, Councillor Emma Nye, Councillor Jane Pickard, Councillor Joanna Reynolds, Councillor Mohammed Seedat, Councillor Iain Simpson, Councillor Joanne Simpson, Councillor Becca Thackray, Councillor Martin Tiedemann, Councillor Tina Valcarcel, Councillor Christopher Wellbelove, Councillor Clair Wilcox, Councillor Andy Wilson, Councillor Timothy Windle and Councillor Sonia Winifred

**Apologies:** Councillor Anna Birley, Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite, Councillor Lucy Caldicott and Councillor Fred Cowell

### **1. ELECTION OF MAYOR**

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Philip Normal, welcomed everyone to the Annual Council meeting which was held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

It was moved by Councillor Dyer, seconded by Councillor Gadsby, and, with there being no other nominations:

**RESOLVED** unanimously that Councillor Annie Gallop be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Lambeth for the municipal year 2021/22.

The retiring Mayor then vacated the Chair and the newly elected Mayor made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, returned thanks for her election, and introduced her Mayoral charity for 2021/22 – the Ebony Horse Club.

## **2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was moved by Councillor Dickson, seconded by Councillor Cameron, and, with there being no other nominations, it was:

**RESOLVED** unanimously that Councillor Pauline George be elected Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Lambeth for the municipal year 2021/22.

The Deputy Mayor made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and returned thanks for her election.

## **3. REPORT OF MAYORAL ACTIVITIES FOR 2020/21 BY THE OUTGOING MAYOR, COUNCILLOR PHILIP NORMAL**

Councillor Normal addressed the Council, extending his thoughts to everyone who had experienced loss due to Covid-19. Councillor Normal commended among many others NHS staff, supermarket staff, and postal workers, for having come together to support the community during this difficult time. Councillor Normal thanked all those who were involved in the Lambeth Emergency Food Distribution Service: Healthy Living Platform, PedalMe, and Wayne Chandai, Head of the Chief Executive's Office and Democratic Services, for their huge efforts turning the Brixton Recreation Centre into a food hub almost overnight. Councillor Normal thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader, his partner and family, and many others for their support during his term of office. Councillor Normal mentioned two Royal visits to the Borough, including one to Ebony Horse Club, the new Mayoral charity, which he urged everyone to support for its vital work for young people in Lambeth. It was also mentioned that the Museum of London had added to its collection the chains designed by Councillor Normal at his Mayor Making ceremony the year before, as it had to be done virtually for the first time, and he had been unable to wear the official Mayoral chains. Councillor Normal also mentioned amongst his achievements the successes of his fundraising for AIDs charities, and the importance of raising this issue as the first openly HIV positive Mayor in history.

Councillors Briggs, Thackray, and Davie all thanks Councillor Normal for his services as Mayor and wished the best for Councillor Gallop as the incumbent Mayor.

## **4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

## **5. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the Budget Council meeting held on 3 March 2021 be approved as a correct record of proceedings and signed.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor invited members of the Council to pay tribute to His Royal Highness, the late Duke of Edinburgh. Councillors Briggs, Bartley and Simpson all spoke, thanking the Duke for his service and sending condolences to the Royal Family, and the Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

The Mayor also called upon councillors to remember Sarah Everard, a member of the community who had tragically been murdered. Councillors Briggs, Griffiths, and Dyer paid tributes to Sarah Everard, and the Council held a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Clerk's note: Councillor Normal and Councillor Gadsby left the meeting before the rest of the items were discussed and therefore did not take part in the vote.

## **7. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CABINET PORTFOLIOS, OTHER ADMINISTRATION AND OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS**

Councillor Brathwaite stepped down as Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, and Councillor Kay took up the position.

Councillor Briggs spoke and stated that he was sorry to see Councillor Brathwaite leave. He also congratulated Councillors Dyer and Kay on their new appointments.

Councillor Griffiths congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and welcomed Councillor Kay as the new Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness. The Green Group called for the Cooperative Council to live up to its name by moving to a committee system, and mentioned a petition calling for a referendum on this issue.

Councillor Hopkins welcome the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and thanked the efforts of the local community during covid-19.

**RESOLVED:** unanimously,

(1) To note the Cabinet appointments as made by the Leader of the Council and other group appointments

(2) To note Opposition appointments as set out in the report.

## **8. REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS**

Councillor Briggs argued that an opposition member should chair the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as it did not absorb the collective will of those who are opposed to decisions of Cabinet, or explore alternative options.

Councillor Elliott then spoke, and repeated the request for an opposition member to chair the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and also mentioned the petition to move to a committee system that was circulating the Borough.

Councillor Cameron explained to the opposition groups that the setup of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was based on the size of the political groups and that the committee strives for the best possible outcomes of decisions for all residents of Lambeth.

**RESOLVED,** by 46 votes for and 4 abstentions to:

(1) That the report of the Chief Executive setting out the recommended allocation of seats to political groups, as set out in Table 2 below, be adopted.

(2) That Council reappoints its Committees with the sizes and allocation of seats between political groups as set out in Table 2 of the report.

Clerk's note: 6 councillors did not vote due to technical difficulties. The Mayor did not vote.

## **9. CONSTITUTION 2021/2022**

Councillor Briggs disputed constitutional references to the Cooperative Council. Councillor Bartley questioned why the constitutional changes had not been debated at Corporate Committee.

Councillor Windle responded to both, stating that, whilst he agreed in general that constitutional changes should be scrutinised, it would not be appropriate for them to go to Corporate Committee because of the size and nature of the document. He also pointed out that the opposition groups were not raising issues with the changes themselves but that they were asking for a procedural review. Councillor Windle said he hoped that the constitutional changes would be approached in a collegiate fashion.

**RESOLVED**, by 45 votes for and 4 abstentions, to:

- (1) To approve the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution (Appendix 1, 2 and 3).
- (2) To approve all Parts of the Council's Constitution 2021-22, as set out in 2.1 of the report.
- (3) To appoint the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and other members of committees, including substitute members except where such members are excluded by its constitution (Appendix 4).
- (4) To recommend the Appointments, Corporate, Licensing and Standards Committees to appoint their respective sub-committees with the terms of reference, constitution and membership (including substitute members except where such members are excluded by its constitution).
- (5) To invite Cabinet to appoint the bodies to undertake executive functions as set out in Part 2, Section 2 of the Constitution.
- (6) To confirm the renewal of all joint arrangements (whether by way of joint committee or otherwise), as detailed in Part 2, Section 5 of the Constitution, which, following the adoption by the Council of executive arrangements, became either the sole responsibility of the Cabinet, or partly the responsibility of the Cabinet and partly the responsibility of the Council.
- (7) To appoint the representatives of the Council on other bodies and outside organisations (Appendix 5).
- (8) To approve the annual schedule of meetings set out in Appendix 6.

Clerk's note: 7 councillors did not vote due to technical difficulties. The Mayor did not vote.

## **10. USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY IN RESPECT OF KEY DECISIONS**

Councillor Bartley thanked officers for continuing to publish decisions despite the pressures of conditions under the pandemic; but he showed concern for decisions made with the use of special urgency as they would not have been subjected to the proper scrutiny.

Councillor Hopkins extended thanks to officers especially for having acted quickly on the urgent self-isolation policy to support those with barriers to follow guidance around covid-19, and said that he looked forward to entering more normal times for decision-making.

**RESOLVED**: unanimously,

1. To note the decisions taken under the Council's Special Urgency procedure.

## 11. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Councillor Ainslie expressed concerns that not enough people had applied for the role of Independent Persons, and that Corporate Committee should have been consulted on constitutional changes.

Councillor Chowdury expressed the need to maintain high standards of conduct, and that to that end members had adopted a councillor code of conduct, which included appointing independent persons. Councillor Chowdury believed that this had been undertaken with a robust recruitment process and welcomed the new independent persons.

**RESOLVED:** by 47 votes for, one against, and one abstention to:

1. That the Council appoint Sue Gower MBE and Shajad Hussain to serve as Independent Persons for a term of 4 years (from the start of the 2021/22 Municipal Year until the end of the 2024/25 Municipal Year).

Clerk's note: 7 councillors did not vote to due technical difficulties. The Mayor did not vote.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm

CHAIR  
COUNCIL  
Wednesday 21 July 2021

Date of Despatch: Thursday 29 April 2021

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