

Minutes of the meeting of the Council

Date: Tuesday, 22 June 2021

Time: 19:00

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Councillor Munir Ahmed, Councillor Shahbaz Ahmed, Councillor Jasbir Anand, Councillor Praveen Anand, Councillor Sitarah Anjum, Councillor Mohammad Aslam, Councillor Jon Ball, Councillor Julian Bell, Councillor Josh Blacker, Councillor Fay Block, Councillor Linda Burke, Councillor Theresa Byrne, Councillor Joanna Camadoo-Rothwell, Councillor Jaskiran Chohan, Councillor Paul Conlan, Councillor Deirdre Costigan, Councillor Daniel Crawford, Councillor Kate Crawford, Councillor Joanna Dabrowska, Councillor Karanvir Dhadwal, Councillor Ranjit Dheer, Councillor Kamaljit Dhindsa, Councillor Stephen Donnelly, Councillor Paul Driscoll, Councillor Amarjit Jammu, Councillor Yvonne Johnson, Councillor Harbhajan Kaur-Dheer, Councillor Anthony Kelly, Councillor Mrs Seema Kumar, Councillor Carlo Lusuardi, Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, Councillor Tariq Mahmood, Councillor Gary Malcolm, Councillor Gurmit Mann, Councillor Rajinder Mann, Councillor Shital Manro, Councillor Dee Martin, Councillor Peter Mason, Councillor Mohinder Midha, Councillor David Millican, Councillor Karam Mohan, Councillor Timothy Murtagh, Councillor Kamaljit Nagpal, Councillor Swaran Padda, Councillor Binda Rai, Councillor Aysha Raza, Councillor Miriam Rice, Councillor Sarah Rooney, Councillor Mik Sabiers, Councillor Kamaldeep Sahota, Councillor Charan Sharma, Councillor Gareth Shaw, Councillor Gregory Stafford, Councillor Andrew Steed, Councillor Chris Summers, Councillor Nigel Sumner, Councillor Hitesh Tailor, Councillor Lauren Wall, Councillor Ray Wall, Councillor Simon Woodroffe, Councillor Anthony Young

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received by Councillors Busuttil, Dhami, Gordon and Gulaid.

2 Declarations of Interest

The Mayor made a statement to Council clarifying that the meeting had taken place virtually to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. That meant that the meeting was not formal in relation to section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 and therefore participation in the meeting did not count towards Members' attendance record. However the usual Council and Committee procedure rules would apply to the

meeting including the six month rule in relation to the submission of motions.

Councillor Bell declared he was a member of the TfL board, but recused himself from any decisions taken by TfL that related to funding for active travel schemes for local authorities.

Councillor Young declared an interest as a Landlord and wouldn't take any part in the debate on the motion that related to landlord and tenant matters.

Councillors Sabiers, J Anand, P Anand, Jammu, Dhadwal, Dabrowska, L Wall, Manro and M Ahmed declared that they were landlords in the borough but that they did not consider this interest to be a disclosable pecuniary interest and therefore could take part in the debate on the motion that related to landlord and tenant matters.

Councillors Driscoll, D Crawford, Malcolm, Rai, Burke, Mahfouz, Shaw, Rooney, Dabrowska, Woodroffe and Block declared they lived in, or near to a current or previous Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme. The Councillors who made the declaration did not consider it a disclosable pecuniary interest and were making the declaration in the interest of transparency.

3 **Matters to be Considered in Private**

There were no matters to be considered in private.

4 **Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2021**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2021 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5 **Minutes of meeting held on 27 April 2021**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2021 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

6 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor began his announcements by highlighting that it was LGBTQ+ pride month and that the meeting took place on Windrush

Day, which was the 73rd anniversary of the landing of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks in Essex.

Council noted that it was also Armed Forces week and the Mayor invited members to celebrate Armed Forces Day with a small event at the Town Hall on Saturday 26 June.

The Mayor paid tribute to a number of notable figures who had passed away since the last Council meeting. They were Harvey Rose, past Councillor, Freeman of the Borough and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group at Ealing Council; Mrs Zara Gulaid, who was the immediate past Mayoress to Councillor Abdullah Gulaid; Mike Lewis, a former Councillor who served one term in 1986-1990 and Shane Beadle who was the Officer in charge of Planning Policy in the early 2000s.

Group leaders paid tribute to those who had passed away and Council held a minute's silence in reflection.

7 **Petitions from Members of the Public**

Mr Hiten Patel presented a petition with 95 signatures to Councillor Deirdre Costigan, Cabinet Member for Climate Action, titled:

Speed table nuisance on Whitton Avenue East, Greenford

Councillor Costigan responded to the petition and Mr Patel's supplementary questions.

8 **Petitions from Members of the Council**

There were no petitions from members of the Council.

9 **Questions from Members of the Public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

10 **Questions from Members of the Council**

Councillor P Anand asked Councillor Raza:

It has recently been ruled that the preventative injunction Ealing and other councils have used to take action on illegal encampments is not legal and can no longer be enforced. Can the portfolio holder give us an update on what plans the council has to move forward on this issue?

Councillor Raza responded:

Councillors will know that the High Court recently issued a judgement, resulting in all interim and full preventative injunctions in relation to unauthorised encampments being no longer enforceable where these relate to 'persons unknown'.

Moving forward, the Council is still able to apply for a full high court injunction order in relation to 'persons known' (also known as a named injunction) against groups of people who we have evidenced exhibiting behaviours that are unacceptable whilst encamped on Council land.

The retention of an order in relation to named individual(s) also enables the Council to add individuals to that order in future if we find they are significantly misusing a space whilst encamped and involved in criminal activity and ASB.

That said, the Council has been forced on many occasions to respond to unauthorised encampments.

And we need to all be clear about our language – we are not talking about gypsies and travellers for the purpose of this conversation, we are discussing unauthorised encampments where people commit anti-social behaviour, perpetrate crime and cause much damage and annoyance to our communities.

For the majority of law abiding and respectful citizens we are therefore forced to take action – and we will take action to mitigate this when it happens.

Prior to the injunction and working with the police, Ealing officers developed and introduced a strong working protocol with police for responding to encampments.

This was effective in reducing the number of encampments, the length of encampments and the cost and impact on the borough.

On the basis of our approach we are confident the organisation is as well prepared as possible to manage future encampments.

Councillor Conti asked Councillor Mason:

Please can you state how many staff are currently employed and assigned specifically to the Leader's Office and the total running cost for the office?

Councillor Mason responded:

Welcome back Councillor Conti, but what a shame your debut at full council is such a petty question. Unlike your political party, Ealing Labour was elected to run the council in 2018 on an ambitious manifesto, and with a mandate to deliver for local people. To deliver those pledges, we need adequate support for the council's cabinet.

So the Leader's Office will be renamed the Cabinet Office to reflect the intention to provide better support to cabinet members individually and collectively to deliver their objectives for the council and the borough. Only two staff are currently employed – the Head of Cabinet Office and the Executive Assistant to the Leader – which is less than most other London boroughs have. Three new Cabinet Support Officer posts have been created to enable the office to deliver the manifesto that the council administration was elected on, and these posts are currently out to recruitment.

The current annual salary budget is £132,817.00. The three new posts are forecasted to add £118,915 on a full year basis. The current annual salary budget is £132,817.00. The three new posts are forecasted to add £118,915 on a full year basis.

I'm not going to apologise for recruiting staff to deliver the priorities that the people of Ealing voted for. I'm also reliably informed that the cabinet office under the last Tory administration had 6 members, while we are proposing 5.

Councillor Dhadwal asked Councillor Nagpal:

Can the portfolio holder comment on news that 99% of children will receive no government catch-up tutoring post Covid-19 under government plans?

Councillor Nagpal responded:

Mr Mayor, I want to start by saying that Ealing schools have managed extremely well throughout the pandemic – supporting their communities and pupils. We are very proud of level and scale of their response, particularly for Ealing's most disadvantaged and vulnerable children. We know that the impacts of the pandemic on all children are extensive and that these impacts will be evident for many years to come.

That's why we're incredibly disappointed that approximately 99% of children are receiving no government catch-up tutoring across the country – the equivalent of 59,000 local children missing out according to Ealing Labour analysis.

The Conservatives' own Education Recovery Commissioner, Kevan Collins, has resigned in protest at the Government's plan to offer just a tenth of the support he recommended. In a resignation letter, he wrote that it is not "credible that a successful recovery can be achieved with a programme of support of this size". And he's right.

Children in Ealing have had two years of their education disrupted by Covid. That's a huge loss for them and a massive responsibility on the rest of us to help them catch up. A successful recovery is going to take a serious plan, that's why the national Labour Party is proposing a major programme that leaves no child behind – the same size as the programme recommend by the Government's own education recovery commissioner.

This government has let our children down with this paltry offer of support. Children are excited to be back in the classroom with their friends and hungry to learn. After such disruption, we owe it to them to match their energy and motivation, with the support and resources they need to thrive, not just whilst they catch-up, but for their school careers and beyond. It's incredibly disappointing to see the lack of ambition the Tory government has for our children. Labour's Children's Recovery Plan however proposes a programme for all children to 'play, learn and develop' as the post-covid catch up continues. Labour's £15bn plan – in line with Kevan Collins' recommendations - would deliver:

Small group tutoring for all who need it, not just 1%, breakfast clubs and new activities for every child, quality mental health support in every school, continued development for teachers, an Education Recovery Premium and a commitment that no child goes hungry.

I hope the opposition can join us in calling for the government to implement the recommendations of their own expert advisor, and support all of our children in the Covid recovery. It's our job to match the ambition children have for their own futures and put them at the heart of our national recovery.

Councillor Malcolm asked Councillor Costigan:

Given the lack of action since the press statement on May 21st on LTNs re: the CPZ style consultation, will you confirm that the Fishers Lane scheme will be included in the consultation like the

other LTNs as the observed problems are the same as LTNs and the Fishers Lane scheme was introduced using the COVID legislation?

Councillor Costigan responded:

Firstly I have to remind Councillor Malcolm that Fishers Lane is not an LTN, it's a cycling scheme. I can also confirm that the Council are continuing to monitor the Fishers Lane scheme to assess the effects of the closure on all modes of transport, including pedestrians.

We're aiming for a final assessment once lockdown restrictions are removed, and schools have returned after their summer break. And the final public consultation exercise will follow in Autumn 2021.

Councillor Gallant asked Councillor Costigan:

How much has been raised by fines from the LTNs?

Councillor Costigan responded:

The total amount of income received is £2.4m. Almost 70% of this is fines received by people who live outside of Ealing, and less than £8000 has been paid in fines by those who live in our LTN trials. Cllr Gallant should know the council has been clear all along that all revenue raised from parking fines is ring fenced.

It is all invested into improving the road network and public transport, and funding concessionary travel schemes like the Freedom Pass, in accordance with legislation (Section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984).

This includes improvements to cycle infrastructure, promoting healthier travel and investment in camera technology to enforce non-compliant restrictions in the borough.

Councillor Rice asked Councillor Blacker:

Can the portfolio holder give us an update on plans for surge vaccinations and the impact of the Delta variant of Covid-19 in Ealing?

Councillor Blacker responded:

Mr Mayor, Cllr Rice has asked a very important question given that we're hopeful national restrictions will be eased next month.

Let me address the Delta variant first. This variant now accounts for the vast majority of COVID-19 cases in Ealing and in London as a whole. In common with most other London boroughs, we've seen an increase in infections as a result. The Delta variant is thought to be 60% more transmissible – making it more likely to be passed from person to person – and early data indicates a higher risk of being admitted to hospital.

Although this is concerning, at the moment Ealing is not seeing a significant impact on local hospital admissions, and we have very low numbers of cases and deaths in care homes.

We have just finished a four-week period of surge testing, where we put in additional resources to track the spread of the variant and reduce the spread, particularly around Southall and Northolt. This activity took place alongside an increase in vaccination activity.

Thank you to all councillors and to everyone in the community who have been promoting the drop-in vaccination clinics, and to the volunteers and staff who've been running them. Despite the rain, I'm pleased to say that at the weekend we saw another 1,800 people vaccinated at the Dominion Centre. A big thank you in particular to our Southall councillors and to Virendra Sharma MP who helped to spread the word and encourage people along.

Vaccines are effective against the Delta variant, and are the best way to keep ourselves and each other safe, so that's another 1,800 people on their way to being protected from Covid-19.

As a reminder, it is important to get both doses of the vaccine to offer the best protection, and we are also encouraging people to bring their second doses forward to get that protection as soon as possible.

Councillor Dabrowska asked Councillor Raza:

How many illegal GRT encampments have there been in the borough since 2015?

Councillor Raza responded:

I am deeply disappointed that Councillor Dabrowska is singling out a protected group in this question. I am therefore going to answer the question as if it was appropriately phrased and asked about all unauthorised encampments in Ealing.

Based on the records held within various services responsible for managing land in the borough we can report a total of 222 encampments within a 6 year period of 2015 to 2021.

However this is probably an underestimate of the total number within the borough; it is difficult to get an accurate figure due to a few factors.

The fact that these various cases are recorded on different systems depending on whether the encampment is in a park, housing estate or public highway.

It is affected by how officers have considered what constitutes an encampment, for example an individual living in a car on a public highway would be included within this count in some circumstances.

Some of these encampments will have happened on private land and not within the public realm and therefore may not have been reported at all.

Some encampments may be formed of multiple encampments continually occupied over a period of time – which will have been identified as one period of encampment.

11 **Opposition Motion for Debate**

The opposition motion for debate was moved by Councillor Millican and seconded by Councillor Young.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Ball and seconded by Councillor Steed.

Councillors Costigan, Conti, Blacker, Stafford, Driscoll and Mason responded to the motion and amendment.

Councillor Millican summed up the motion.

A vote was taken and the amendment FELL.

A vote was taken and the motion FELL.

12 **Other Motions for Debate**

The other motion for debate was moved by Councillor L Wall and seconded by Councillor Mahfouz.

Councillors Stafford, Brett, Gallant, Sahota, Conti, Jammu, Martin, Anjum, Rice and Johnson responded to the motion.

Councillor L Wall summed up the motion.

RESOLVED: That

This council notes:

- The end of the Covid-19 eviction ban on 31 May 2021 and prediction by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation that 400,000 renters have either had eviction notices or been told to expect them.
- Renters are twice as likely as homeowners to worry about meeting their housing costs or losing their homes within three months. Black and minority ethnic households, those on lower incomes and those with children have the highest level of concern.
- The government's current end date for furlough in September, and the predicted economic shock and job losses this will cause.
- That both the eviction ban and furlough were planned to end despite a continuing pandemic and feared third wave.
- After the unprecedented circumstances of the last year, with people losing loved ones, working all hours on the front line as key workers, losing their jobs and struggling to pay bills – to leave people without support is morally wrong.
- West London's economy has been more affected by the pandemic than London or UK as a whole. Sectors which have been heavily impacted include aviation, hospitality and leisure.
- Unemployment is up from around 40k in March 2020 to around 120k in March 2021.
- Ealing has the 2nd highest number of furloughed employments in London (Mar 21). Over 180k people are on furlough, which is due to end in September 2021.
- Ealing has the 4th highest number of out of work benefits claimants in London (Feb 21)

This Council believes:

- The Tory government must take action now to stop the Covid cliff edge, reinstate the eviction ban and delay the end of furlough.
- No one should be made homeless or put at risk of homelessness as a result of this crisis, and no one should struggle to support themselves and their families.
- Some sectors of the economy are likely to remain significantly affected by Covid fallout even after a vaccine rollout and the end of lockdown. It will take a long time for demand to recover in areas that have been hit really hard by this crisis. A hard stop in support is not the right answer.
- We must work for an Ealing where local people can afford to live with a new focus on helping people back into work, bringing good jobs with decent living incomes and employment opportunities back to the borough post-Covid.

This Council calls for:

- A “smart” extension of the furlough scheme alongside urgent action to fix the youth unemployment scheme and support for job creation.
- For a training element to be built into the scheme for workers who are furloughed.
- A revenue test for firms using furlough. To ensure the worst employers can’t just use the scheme to fire and rehire workers on lower wages and that the money is going to protect jobs, not to line the pockets of Tory donors.
- Extend the temporary ban on evictions to cover the time needed to implement the legal changes below.
- Action now to scrap Section 21 ‘no-fault’ evictions and outlaw evictions on the grounds of arrears if the arrears were accrued because of hardship caused by the Covid crisis.
- Give residential tenants the same protections as commercial tenants, by protecting them from being made bankrupt by their landlords for non-payment of rent.

- Consider a temporary increase to the Local Housing Allowance to help prevent risk of homelessness.

13

Motions not for Debate

Solidarity with the LGBT+ Community this pride month

RESOLVED: That

This Council notes the huge strides that have been made in the fight for LGBT+ equality.

However, there is much more to do:

- The government must reform the Gender Recognition Act to give Trans people the right to self-identify their gender and live proudly as their true selves.
- The government continues to delay outlawing harmful gay conversion practices.
- The prime minister is yet to apologise for comparing same sex marriage to three men marrying a dog and various other homophobic slurs.

This Council believes that all LGBT+ people have the right to live in safety and dignity and stands in solidarity with the LGBT+ community. This Council is committed to supporting and celebrating every family in Ealing.

Brentford FC

RESOLVED: That

This Council congratulates Brentford FC on promotion to the Premier League. May they buzz to further victories.

Solidarity with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities

RESOLVED: That

This Council stands in solidarity with the GRT community this Gypsy, Roma and traveller history month.

GRT communities face disgraceful discrimination, most recently highlighted when a register of banned Irish names was leaked by a Pontins employee. There is no place for hate or discrimination in Ealing.

This Council commits to engaging with and supporting all of our communities in Ealing.

14

Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

RESOLVED: That the following changes to appointments to Committees are made

1. Councillor Seema Kumar to be appointed as member and Vice Chair of Scrutiny Review Panel 3 in place of Councillor Joanna Dabrowska.
2. Councillor Joanna Dabrowska be appointed as member of Scrutiny Review Panel 1 in place of Councillor Seema Kumar.
3. Councillor Seema Kumar to replace Councillor Joanna Dabrowska on Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4. Note that the Cabinet Member for Healthy Lives be appointed as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board in place of the Leader, with relevant Constitution changes to be made at a future full council meeting.
5. Note that the Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality will be appointed to the Health and Wellbeing Board, with relevant Constitution changes to be made at a future full council meeting.

15

Urgent key decisions exempted from call-in

There were no urgent key decisions exempted from call-in.

16

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on 20 July 2021.

17

Duration of Meeting

7.00 pm to 10.05 pm.