

ANNUAL COUNCIL

Thursday 20th May 2021

PRESENT – Councillors Akhtar, H, Akhtar P, Baldwin, Desai M, Desai S, Fielding, Floyd, Gee, Gunn, Hardman, Humphrys, Hussain I, Hussain M, Irfan, Jan- Virmani, Khan M, Khan Z, Khonat, Liddle, Mahmood, Marrow, Patel Ab, Patel Al, Rawat, Riley, Russell, Salton, Shorrocks, Sidat, Slater Jacq, Slater Jo, Slater Ju, Slater N, Smith D, Smith J, Talbot, Taylor, Walker and Whittle.

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chief Executive read out the notice convening the meeting and apologies were received from Councillors Bateson, Brookfield, Browne, Casey, Connor, Fazal, Harling, Hussain S, McFall, McGurk, Oates, and Rigby.

2 The Election of Mayor 2021/2022

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing Council year. Councillor Derek Hardman was nominated for Office and declared elected as the Mayor of the Borough for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year.

(The Mayor in the Chair).

3 The Election of Deputy Mayor 2021/2022

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2021/2022 Council year. Councillor Suleman Khonat was nominated for Office and the Mayor declared him elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year.

4 Tribute to the newly elected Mayor

Councillors Paul Marrow and Mohammed Khan paid tribute to the newly elected Mayor. The Mayor responded and returned thanks for his election.

5 Minutes of the Council Forum Meeting held on 25th March 2021

RESOLVED - The Minutes of the Council Forum Meeting held on 25th March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

6 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

7 Election Results – May 2021

The Mayor reminded Members that the results of the recent Election were available on the Council website.

8 Motion on Human Rights in Palestine

A motion was submitted as follows:

Council notes with great concern the blatant disregard for human rights by Israeli forces in the occupied Palestinian lands with aerial/ground attacks against innocent civilians.

Council notes the state sanctioned forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes contrary to international law.

Council is concerned that HM government has not spoken out against these attacks on the human rights and safety of civilians.

Council resolves to:

- 1) Write to the prime minister & foreign secretary demanding immediate condemnation by HM government against the actions of Israeli forces.*
- 2) Ask HM government to raise this at the United Nations Security Council and seek sanctions against the government of Israel for these blatant breaches of international law.*

Moved by: Cllr Quesir Mahmood

Seconded by : Cllr Phil Riley

Members debated the Motion. Councillor John Slater advised that his Group would support the Motion if the words 'of all violence' 'and' were inserted into Resolution 1, the wording would now read:

- 1) Write to the prime minister & foreign secretary demanding immediate condemnation by HM government of all violence and against the actions of Israeli forces.*

Councillor Quesir Mahmood as Mover of the Motion accepted this change, and Council agreed that the Motion as altered was now the Substantive Motion.

The Motion, as altered was put to the Vote and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED – That the Motion be carried.

9 Council Appointments for 2021/2022

The Chief Executive referred to her report on the allocation of seats and appointments to Council positions for 2021/2022.

The first draft of the Council Appointments list for 2020/21 was circulated.

Councillor John Slater advised this his Group was not happy with the allocation of Chair and Vice Chair positions to his Group, and had therefore only put forward a limited number of nominations.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That Council notes the appointment of the Executive Board Members;
- 2) That appointments be made to the positions detailed in Paragraph 2, subsection 3;
- 3) That Council note the provisions relating to political balance, referred to in Paragraph 3; and
- 4) That decisions on the remaining appointment of Members to Committees be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments.

10 Mayoralty 2021/2022

Members received a report which confirmed the arrangements for the Mayoralty in 2021/2022, namely that Councillor Derek Hardman be appointed as Mayor and Councillor Suleman Khonat be appointed as Deputy Mayor for 2021/2022.

Council was advised that a report on the future rotation agreement for the Mayoralty from 2023/2024 onwards would be submitted during the new Municipal Year.

RESOLVED –

The Annual Council:

1. Confirms the appointment of Councillor Derek Hardman as Mayor of the Borough for 2021/22;
2. Confirms that in accordance with the rotation arrangements agreed at Annual Council in May 2018 that it is the Labour Group's turn to nominate the Deputy Mayor for 2021/22 and notes the appointment made earlier in the meeting of Councillor Suleman Khonat; and
3. Notes that a report on the future rotation agreement for the Mayoralty from 2023/2024 onwards will be submitted during the new Municipal Year.

11 Appointments to Various Bodies, Groups and Panels 2021/22

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the appointment to various Bodies, Groups and Panels for 2021/2022.

Due to the need to make early appointments to the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel, the Leader moved that in terms of the Fire Authority, that Councillors Dave Smith and Zamir Khan be nominated from the Labour Group, and that the remaining place be nominated by the Conservative Group. Councillor Khan also advised that Councillor Quesir Mahmood had been nominated to serve on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel.

Councillor Dave Smith, seconded by Councillor Damian Talbot, moved that Councillor Jean Rigby be nominated as the Conservative representative to the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority, based on her previous experience in the role.

Councillor John Slater requested that he be given chance to agree a Conservative nomination, as he was aware of other circumstances, but was advised that as the matter had been moved and seconded it had to be voted on, and following the vote it was agreed that Councillor Jean Rigby be confirmed as the Conservative representative on the Fire Authority.

RESOLVED –

4.1 That in the first instance, (as is usual practice) each of the organisations listed on the outside bodies, and partnership bodies list is contacted to establish;

That their Terms Of Reference / Articles Of Association have not changed and still require Council Representation in the same capacity, for the same tenure, and what added value will be mutually brought by such engagement. Subject to which;

4.2 That following the process outlined in Section 3 above, nominations will be confirmed as the Council's representatives to serve until the end of the current Municipal Year; or if a longer period of office is shown, until that date; unless during the Municipal Year the Leader amends the appointments to take account of changed requirements;

4.3 That fifteen Members be appointed to serve on the panel of Members to deal with appeals; and

4.4 That as is usual practice, the decisions on representation be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments;

4.5 That the appointments to the Lancashire Fire Authority and Lancashire Police and Crime Panel be agreed.

Signed at a meeting of the Council Forum
On Thursday 22nd July 2021
(being the ensuing meeting on the Council) by

MAYOR