

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 19th January, 2022 at Westminster Council House, 97-113 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5PT.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Andrew Smith

COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton	David Harvey
Ian Adams	Elizabeth Hitchcock
Nickie Aiken	Adam Hug
Barbara Arzymanow	Louise Hyams
Timothy Barnes	Aicha Less
Geoff Barraclough	Pancho Lewis
Liza Begum	Patricia McAllister
Rita Begum	Tim Mitchell
David Boothroyd	Gotz Mohindra
Susie Burbridge	Eoghain Murphy
Nafsika Butler-Thalassis	Matt Noble
Melvyn Caplan	Papya Qureshi
Maggie Carman	Robert Rigby
Danny Chalkley	Rachael Robathan
Lorraine Dean	Tim Roca
Tony Devenish	Ian Rowley
Paul Dimoldenberg	Karen Scarborough
Christabel Flight	Selina Short
Peter Freeman	James Spencer
Jonathan Glanz	Paul Swaddle
Jim Glen	Shamim Talukder
Matthew Green	Aziz Toki
Angela Harvey	Jacqui Wilkinson

APOLOGIES: Councillors Richard Beddoe, Iain Bott, Margot Bright, Ruth Bush, Antonia Cox, Richard Elcho, Lindsey Hall, Murad Gassanly, Guthrie McKie, Emily Payne, Mark Shearer, Hamza Taouzzale and Judith Warner.

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 Motion moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Paul Swaddle, that Councillor Louise Hyams be elected as Relief Chairman.
- 1.2 Motion put, and on a show of hands, declared **CARRIED**.

2 MINUTES

- 2.1 The minutes of the proceedings at the Council meeting held on Wednesday 10 November 2021 were, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Lord Mayor as a true record of the proceedings.

3 LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Lord Mayor referred to these as set out on the agenda.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

- 5.1 There were no urgent matters.

6 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

6.1 (a) Petitions

Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis presented a petition calling on the Council to consult with residents of Lauderdale Road about the best way to reduce speeding on their street. The petition was referred to the Executive Director for Environment and City Management for reporting to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Councillor Geoff Barraclough presented a petition calling on the Council to improve the safety of people on foot and reduce air pollution by upgrading the junctions of Shirland Road, Kilburn Park Road and Chippenham Road. The petition was referred to the Executive Director for Environment and City Management for reporting to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Councillor Maggie Carman presented a petition from the residents of the Collonades calling for the Council to address noise issues experienced from a nearby commercial property. The petition was referred to the Executive Director for City Management and Communities for reporting to the relevant Cabinet Member.

(b) Deputations

There were no deputations.

7 QUESTIONS

- 7.1 The questions, supplementary questions and replies are included as an audio recording on the Council's website.

8 COUNCILLOR ISSUES

(a) Diverse Recruitment at Westminster City Council and with our Community Business Partners.

Councillor Lorraine Dean spoke and Councillor Rachael Robathan replied.

(b) Opportunities for Young People during the Pandemic.

Councillor Barbara Arzymanow spoke and Councillor Tim Barnes replied.

9 FUTURE POLICY PLAN

- 9.1 The meeting accordingly debated the item chosen from the Future Policy Plan by the Majority Party:

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 9.2 The Majority Party had selected item number 8 on the Future Policy Plan: Anti-Social Behaviour. The debate would be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when reporting on the subject.

10 REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL: COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS (INCLUDING COUNCIL TAX LOCAL REDUCTION SCHEME) AND COUNCIL TAX BASE

10.1 RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Council accepted the recommendations of the Cabinet and that the Council approved the following recommendations for the financial year 2022/23:-
 - (i) that the Council Tax discount for second homes remained at 0%
 - (ii) the Council Tax discounts for empty properties, including the discounts that replaced the previous Class A and C Council Tax exemptions, remain at 0%.
 - (iii) that a Long-Term Empty Property Premium continued at the maximum percentage allowed for by the current legislation, which is for 2022/23:
 - Properties empty between 2 years - 5 years: 100% Increase
 - Properties empty between 5 years – 10 years: 200% Increase
 - Properties empty over 10 years: 300% Increase

- (iv) that the Director of Revenues & Benefits be given delegated authority to determine any individual local discount applications received from Council Taxpayers during the 2022/23 financial year under section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 2) That the Council approved the same Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23 which had operated successfully since 2013/14. The scheme was based on the Default Scheme Regulations, updated to reflect changes made via the Prescribed Requirements Amendment Regulations and with War Disabled Pensions, War Widow, Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation scheme payments disregarded in full when calculating a claimant's income.
- 3) That the Council resolved that the Council Tax Base for 2022/23 for the Whole City was 135,056.32 equivalent Band D properties, for Montpelier Square alone 91.68 equivalent Band D properties and for Queen's Park 3,519.72 equivalent Band D properties.
- 4) That the Council resolved that the figures set out above for the Council Tax Base for 2022/23 be used by the Council to make a determination pursuant to the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

- 11.1 The Minority Party had selected for debate the notice of motion as set out on the agenda. The notice of motion was moved by Councillor David Boothroyd and seconded by Councillor Geoff Barraclough.
- 11.2 Following debate, the Lord Mayor put the Motion to the vote and on a show of hands declared the Motion **HAD NOT BEEN CARRIED**.

The Meeting ended at 9.27pm

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____