

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2015

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Patricia Ekechi (Mayor), Bernie Lappage (Deputy Mayor), Abdul Abdullahi, Daniel Anderson, Ali Bakir, Dinah Barry, Yasemin Brett, Alev Cazimoglu, Nesil Cazimoglu, Erin Celebi, Lee Chamberlain, Bambos Charalambous, Jason Charalambous, Katherine Chibah, Lee David-Sanders, Dogan Delman, Nick Dines, Guney Dogan, Sarah Doyle, Nesimi Erbil, Turgut Esendagli, Peter Fallart, Krystle Fonyonga, Achilleas Georgiou, Alessandro Georgiou, Christine Hamilton, Ahmet Hasan, Elaine Hayward, Robert Hayward, Ertan Hurer, Suna Hurman, Doris Jiage, Eric Jukes, Nneka Keazor, Adeline Kepez, Joanne Laban, Michael Lavender, Dino Lemonides, Derek Levy, Mary Maguire, Donald McGowan, Andy Milne, Terence Neville OBE JP, Ahmet Oykenner, Anne-Marie Pearce, Daniel Pearce, Vicki Pite, Michael Rye OBE, George Savva MBE, Toby Simon, Alan Sitkin, Edward Smith, Andrew Stafford, Claire Stewart, Jim Steven, Doug Taylor, Haydar Ulus, Ozzie Uzoanya and Glynis Vince

ABSENT Chris Bond, Jansev Jemal, Christiana During and Ayfer Orhan

1

WELCOME

Before starting formal proceedings the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Bakir, took the opportunity to welcome Councillor Nesil Cazimoglu as the newly elected councillor for Jubilee ward following a by-election held on 7 May 2015.

He also advised everyone attending that the meeting was being recorded by the Council along with a number of other media agencies and filmed for the purpose of relaying proceedings into the Conference Room where additional guests had been seated. He advised that filming would be focussed on the main participants during the meeting but if anyone did not wish to be filmed they would need to advise a member of staff. No objections were raised.

2

MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Father Emmanuel from St Edmunds Church gave the blessing.

3

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared by members at the meeting.

4

ELECTION OF MAYOR

Councillor Taylor moved and Councillor Neville seconded the nomination of Councillor Patricia Ekechi as Mayor of the London Borough of Enfield for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

In moving the nomination Councillor Taylor highlighted the important role of the Mayor, not only in terms of chairing Council but also in terms of acting as a representative and ambassador as the “First Citizen” of the borough. Councillor Ekechi was recognised as someone with a great deal of local knowledge and experience, having lived in the borough for more than 30 years. During her time as a councillor she had also gained a wide level of experience serving on a range of committee’s and scrutiny bodies as well as in her previous role as Deputy Mayor. Councillor Taylor highlighted what he felt would be the dignity and commitment in terms of the way that Councillor Ekechi would serve as Mayor and advised that he was therefore pleased to be able to move her nomination, for what he was sure would be a highly successful year as Mayor.

Councillor Neville, in seconding the nomination on behalf of the Conservative Group, recognised the experience and commitment that it was felt Councillor Ekechi would bring to the role. In wishing her every success in her year as Mayor he also took the opportunity to highlight the continued importance in ensuring that Council meetings were chaired in a fair and impartial manner and the borough continued to be represented as widely as possible.

AGREED that Councillor Patricia Ekechi be elected as Mayor of the London Borough of Enfield for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

The motion was agreed unanimously (without a vote). Councillor Ekechi then made and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with the badge of office by the retiring Mayor, Councillor Bakir.

5

MAYORS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

The Mayor made the following acceptance speech:

“Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good evening all and welcome.

It is my great honour, privilege and delight to have been elected as the Mayor of the London Borough of Enfield and the First Citizen of this Borough.

The position of Mayor bears much responsibility and one I assume with great pride, conviction and dedication.

Firstly, as a Christian, I thank God and pray the He blesses and guides me and allows me to fulfil my Mayoral duties in a just and fair way that is fitting of this high office.

Secondly, I want to thank my fellow councillors for entrusting me to be elected as Mayor. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the people of this beautiful Borough.

Thirdly, I thank my family for their unconditional love and thank my friends for their support.

I want to assure you all that I take this position very seriously and I am planning to execute my duties in a diligent manner.

Before I continue I will tell you a little bit about myself.

My parents gave me the Nigerian birth name of Chinyere meaning "God's gift". I pray and trust that I live up to my name and hope that at the end of my Mayorship my legacy will be that I have been "God's gift" to the citizens of the London Borough of Enfield.

My history is one of struggle and challenges but also of much joy. I was born in a small village in Imo State, Nigeria and am the youngest in the family of two men and five women.

I started and completed my secondary education after the Nigerian Civil War, which some of you may remember as the devastating Biafra war in the late 1960's. During that time, as a young girl, I cared for the wounded in a refugee camp and they called me "little nurse". That was my first taste of serving those in need. The experience of war and servitude will live with me all my days. Following the war, I came to England in 1977 for further education and settled in Edmonton. I worked hard to settle here, educating myself, getting married and having three children all through my struggles.

I gained an Advanced Diploma in Secretarial and Business Studies and a BSc in Social Sciences whilst being a busy mother and being in full time employment.

During this time I made many friends who made my transition from the warmth of Nigeria to the cold winters of England joyful and comfortable. I integrated myself into the community and whilst Nigeria never left my heart, the Borough of Enfield definitely became my new home.

I am a proud mother to three children and now also a grandmother. My family, multicultural and ever growing are my source of joy and inspiration.

I have seen the Borough of Enfield also go through its own struggles. Within our community we have poverty, high unemployment and crime to contend with. However, despite this the integrity of this community remains intact. I have wonderful memories of the people in this borough providing a sense of community be it through the safe delivery of my children, the great schools or the leisure community services that we all enjoyed. My favourite memory is of the beautiful Pymmes Park in the summertime and my children laughing

feeding the ducks. This is the borough that I fell in love with and the borough that I wish to protect and uphold for future generations to come.

This is why I became involved in politics, to serve my local community as I once did all those years ago in Nigeria. It has allowed me to serve in various positions in the Edmonton Labour Constituency. Since becoming a councillor in 2010 I held offices of Deputy Whip and Women Officer for over three years before becoming the Deputy Mayor. Through these positions I have, hopefully, been able to improve, in a small way, the lives of the residents of this borough.

I am very delighted to welcome some important guests. My brother, Professor Christian Anah and his wife Mrs Anah who have travelled from Nigeria. I also welcome their daughter Assistant State Attorney Mrs Chiaka Ihekweaba who has travelled from Florida to grace this occasion.

I was made a Traditional Chief in 2011, as recognition for my services to the Ihiagwa Igbo Community from Nigeria by HRH Eze James Muruako who could not come tonight but I am delighted to welcome instead His Royal Highness Eze Kingsley Odu and his children who came from Nigeria to our beloved Enfield borough.

I cannot begin to name all the important dignitaries, family and friends that have travelled far and wide to be with me but I am honoured that you all attended tonight.

Most importantly, I thank Councillor Ali Bakir, the outgoing Mayor for giving me the opportunity to cover various engagements from which I have learnt a lot that will take me through this journey.

One of my roles as Mayor is to decide on a cause to support through the Mayoral Fund. This decision is a challenge due to the great degree of need within this borough and the numerous groups and charities working tirelessly for excellent causes.

However, I have chosen to highlight and support the work of dementia services within the borough with the proceeds from the Mayoral Fund. Dementia is a common disease but yet often ignored. As we become an aging population it is likely that most of us in this room will be touched by this dreadful disease. Dementia is a disease that attacks our memory, our thinking and our very selves as we get older, often leaving those affected with no memory and childlike behaviour. Its effects are devastating not only for the sufferer but also for their families.

Whilst I may not be able to find a cure, I believe that I can support the various charities working for dementia sufferers and their families living within our borough. My Mayoral Committee team, wearing special rosettes, and I will be working closely with Dr Sophie Edwards, Lead for Dementia and Dementia Services at North Middlesex Hospital. We will be working to introduce a number of exciting and innovative projects to aid diagnosis and improve the

support already offered in this borough and potentially beyond. I look forward to sharing the exciting work planned with you all through this Mayoral Year. I therefore must acknowledge the presence of Dr Sophie Edwards, Consultant Geriatrician, Prof Stanley Okolo, Medical Director of North Middlesex Hospital and the Deputy Chief Executive Lance McCarthy. I am extremely grateful for your presence here today. Additional proceeds from the Mayoral Fund will go to other worthy causes and organisations as I embrace the boroughs diversity and other good works.

My duty as a Mayor is to work closely with the community of Enfield. Enfield has been my home for over 37 years and I am proud to belong here. I am the People's Mayor. I am your servant and I will do my best to reach out to each community. I will continue to support and fight for a better and stronger relationship between the council and the residents of Enfield. I look forward to serving you and the borough.

Thank You.”

6 APPOINTMENT OF MAYORS CONSORT

The Mayor announced the appointment of Dr Christine Ekechi as her Consort for the 2015/16 Municipal Year. He then invested her with the badge of office.

7 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor confirmed the appointment of Councillor Bernadette Lappage as Deputy Mayor for the 2015/16 Municipal Year. The Deputy Mayor then made and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested by the Mayor with her badge of office.

Councillor Lappage then made the following acceptance speech:

“I would like to thank the Mayor for my appointment and I look forward to us working together.

It is a great honour to be the deputy mayor in a town where you have been born and raised and I thank my parents for coming here, from Ireland in the 1940s.

I want to thank all my colleagues across the Council, members and officers.

I want to thank the people of Jubilee for electing me and my ward colleagues Alev and Nesil Cazimoglu who I know will support me.

Last but not least I want to thank my family, my sisters, nieces and nephews, brothers-in-law and of course Andrew and Edward for their love and support.

I look forward to the year ahead and working with, and for, the wonderful community of Enfield.”

8

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYORS CONSORT

The Deputy Mayor announced the appointment of Andrew Lappage as her Consort for the 2015/16 Municipal Year, and invested him with the badge of office.

9

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET

Councillor Taylor confirmed the appointments as set out below and detailed on the yellow list tabled under agenda item 10.1:

Deputy Leader – Councillor Achilleas Georgiou

Cabinet member for Community Organisations & Culture – Councillor Yasemin Brett

Cabinet member for Economic Regeneration & Business Development – Councillor Alan Sitkin

Cabinet member for Education, Children’s Services and Protection – Councillor Ayfer Orhan

Cabinet member for Environment – Councillor Daniel Anderson

Cabinet member for Finance Efficiency – Councillor Andrew Stafford

Cabinet member for Health & Social Care - Councillor Alev Cazimoglu

Cabinet member for Housing & Housing Regeneration – Councillor Ahmet Oykener

Cabinet member for Public Health & Sport – Councillor Nneka Keazor

10

PRESENTATION OF THE PAST MAYOR AND CONSORT BADGES

The Mayor presented past Mayor’s and Mayors Consort badges and certificates recording the Council’s appreciation to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Ali Bakir and his Consort Berdan Bakir.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, thanked them for the work they had undertaken during the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

The Leaders of both Groups were also presented with a token of appreciation for their support over the year.

11

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORDINARY COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Mayor made the following announcement:

(a) Members of Parliament – London Borough of Enfield

The Mayor congratulated all three Members of Parliament elected to represent constituencies within Enfield at the General Election on 7th May 2015.

12

MINUTES

AGREED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 25 March 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

13

APOLOGIES (IF ANY)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Bond, Christiana During, Jansev Jemal and Ayfer Orhan.

14

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

Councillor Stewart moved and Councillor E.Hayward seconded the report of the Director of Finance, Resources & Customer Services (No.1) seeking Council approval to determine the constitution and political balance of the committees, joint committees and panels that had been set up for discharge of the Council's functions.

AGREED

- (1) that the seats allocated to each political party on the committees and boards to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 apply, be approved as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- (2) in accordance with paragraph 3.3 of the report, Council resolves (without dissent) that the rules of political proportionality should not apply to those bodies marked with an * in Appendix A of the report.

15

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL BODIES FOR 2015/2016

1.1 Appointment of Council Bodies 2015/16: Committee Membership list

Councillor Stewart moved and Councillor Achilleas Georgiou seconded the list of Council bodies to be established and membership appointments for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

AGREED

(1) to the establishment of the Council bodies for the 2015/16 Municipal Year and appointment of their memberships, as set out on the yellow list tabled at the meeting.

(2) the amendments to membership of the following bodies:

(a) **Green Belt Forum**

Councillor B.Charalambous to fill vacancy identified

(b) **Member Governor Forum**

Councillor B.Charalambous to fill vacancy identified

1.2 Appointment of Council Bodies 2015/16: Terms of Reference

AGREED to confirm the Terms of Reference of those bodies set out in Part 2 of the Constitution.

16

REPRESENTATIONS ON OTHER BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS 2015/16

Councillor Stewart moved and Councillor Achilleas Georgiou seconded the list of nominations for appointments to outside bodies for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

AGREED

(1) the Council's representation on outside bodies, as detailed on the green list tabled at the meeting.

(2) the amendments to representation on the following bodies:

(a) **London Councils: Pension Common Investment Vehicle (CIV) Sectoral Joint Committee**

Councillor Simon to fill the vacancy identified.

(b) **North London Waste Planning Members Group**

Councillor Anderson to be replaced by Councillor Simon.

17

COUNCIL SCHEME OF DELEGATION

AGREED the authority's Scheme of Delegation, as set out in Part 3 (pages 3-2 to 3-13) of the Constitution.

18

COUNCILLORS' QUESTION TIME (TIME ALLOWED - 30 MINUTES)

1.1 Urgent Questions

The Mayor informed Council of the receipt of an urgent question from Councillor Neville relating to the content of a letter from Secondary School head teachers during purdah and the costs associated with legal advice obtained on it. Members were advised that having considered the reasons for urgency, the Mayor had decided not to accept submission of the question under the urgency procedure.

1.2 Questions by Councillors

NOTED

1. The forty nine questions on the Council's agenda which had received a written reply from the relevant Cabinet Member, Associate Cabinet Member or Committee Chair.
2. The following supplementary questions and responses received for the questions indicated below:

Question 1 (Cycle Enfield Partnership Board membership) from Councillor Laban to Cabinet Member for Environment.

Will the newly appointed Cabinet Member commit to invite more Resident Associations to sit as members on the Cycle Enfield Partnership Boards, given that there are many more Associations in existence than currently serving as members of the established Boards.

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

Given that I have only been serving in the role as relevant Cabinet Member for less than an hour I will need to consider and evaluate the request made.

Whilst having the opportunity I would also like to pay tribute to Councillor Bond, as my predecessor in the role as Cabinet Member. Councillor Bond is a formidable presence and performed this role with dignity honour and talent alongside his hard work as a ward councillor. He will be a tough act to follow and I wish him every success in his new role as chair of Licensing Committee and hope that I can follow in his footsteps providing my own contribution in the role of Cabinet Member.

Question 3 (Enfield West Cycle Partnership Board membership) from Councillor Laban to Cabinet Member for Environment

Will the new Cabinet Member please confirm whether he will also allow, in the spirit of fairness, the newly re-elected M.P. for Enfield Southgate to be invited to attend the Enfield West and North Cycle Partnership Boards due to the anomaly identified in terms of the boundaries covered by each Board as they compare to the Parliamentary and Ward Constituency boundaries.

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

I refer the councillor to the response I made to her first supplementary question.

Question 7 (School crossing patrol – Parsonage Lane/Baker Street) from Councillor Laban to Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member advise whether he will be prepared to consider the provision of a school crossing patrol officer at the junction identified, given the cost identified of approx. £50k as opposed to more expensive alternative traffic calming or junction remodelling works.

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

I refer the councillor to the original written response provided.

Question 14 (Housing Zone application) from Councillor R.Hayward to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration.

I understand we are expecting good news in this area. Would the Cabinet Member like to take the opportunity to spread the word?

Reply from Councillor Oyken:

All I can say at this stage is that we are confident and are anticipating good news in terms of an announcement and sign off by the Mayor for London shortly.

Question 15 (action to tackle drivers racing on A10) from Councillor Dines to the Cabinet Member for Environment

Can I ask the Cabinet Member to consider the use of a Public Space Protection Order as a means of assisting to tackle the problems being caused by drivers meeting in the car parks of MacDonalds and Krispy Kreme in the A10 retail outlet in order to race along the A10. Other Councils have sought to use this same power in order to prevent car parks being used as meeting venues. All available powers need to be used by the Council working alongside TfL and Police in order address the problems being caused.

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

I am happy to look at all possible measures available.

Question 40 (expenditure on Temporary Accommodation) from Councillor Smith to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration.

I would take this opportunity to congratulate Councillor Oyken on his reappointment as Cabinet Member for Housing and look forward to working with him on this area again in future. In the written response to my question there is reference to the 2015/16 forecast for Nightly Paid Accommodation assuming the achievement of £5m worth of mitigation savings. Can he indicate how these savings will be achieved?

Reply from Councillor Oyken:

We are looking towards the Government for additional funding, which I'm sure Councillor Smith would support and be willing to support me in looking to secure.

Question 42 (Assets of Community Value – former Middlesex University site, Trent Park) from Councillor J.Charalambous to the Leader of the Council

My written question was submitted prior to what I feel is this Council's disgraceful decision to reject the nomination of both the former Middlesex University site in Trent Park and the former Green Dragon Public House as Assets of Community Value. The Council waited until the very end of the statutory deadline to provide its response which was a short one paragraph rejection. In my opinion, this wasn't in the spirit of local opinion and the campaign groups are now very seriously looking at challenging the decisions, as there appears to be no right of appeal against the decision by the campaign groups available under the Council's procedure. Can I therefore ask the Leader of the Council what mechanisms are available to challenge and appeal against what was an internal officer decision to reject the nominations in respect of both sites?

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

Councillor Charalambous will be aware that the process set up for dealing with Assets of Community Value is one that follows the Regulations laid down. I do, however, share many of the sentiments expressed about the process and am therefore going to approach Councillor Neville (as Leader of the Opposition) to see if we can discuss improvements that can be made and the way that we do it. At the end of the day though, we have to be mindful that the legislation is clear. In terms of immediate options I can see at least two possible alternatives for the campaign groups (a) to follow the judicial review process; (b) unlike some of our neighbouring boroughs, we have not got a restriction on anyone resubmitting a nomination following an initial rejection, if there are further grounds for reconsideration.

I will, however, reiterate that the process established does require some re-consideration and I will discuss with the Leader of the Opposition how we can achieve this within the legislative requirements.. It is unusual to have a decision-making process without any form of democratic accountability so this democratic deficit does need to be addressed to allow a greater level of member input within the current rules allowed, which may require a change in Regulations for the scheme as it currently stands.

Question 49 (Planning Committee High Court Judgement) from Councillor Neville to Chair of the Planning Committee

Having seen the revised response circulated in advance of the meeting I still do not think that this answers my original question. I've assumed that Councillor Simon has seen the court order or at least been advised of it so how can he explain the assertion that the Council accepted a technical error but is not able to provide an estimate of the legal costs.

Reply from Councillor Simon:

The document to which Councillor Neville refers is a judgement on costs not a judgement on the specifics of the decision. I have taken legal advice in relation to the issue of costs and I believe my revised response does answer his question and is accurate about the Council's position.

**19
MOTIONS**

None received.

**20
AMENDMENT TO MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

The Mayor advised Members that this item had been withdrawn from consideration at the meeting.

**21
MEMBERS STANDARDS FRAMEWORK - EXTENSION OF TERM OF OFFICE OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON**

Councillor Stewart moved and Councillor E.Hayward seconded the agenda item seeking approval to the extension of the term of office for Christine Chamberlain as one of the Independent Persons supporting the Council's Standards Framework

NOTED

1. the invaluable support and advice provided by the Independent Persons to the Councillor Conduct Committee and Monitoring Officer.

2. The extension to the term of office would be for a two year period, effective from 30 June 2015, and had been recommended to Council by the Councillor Conduct Committee.

AGREED to approve the extension of the term of office for Christine Chamberlain as an Independent Person under the revised Standards Framework introduced by the Localism Act 2011 for an additional two year period to expire on 30 June 2017.

22

USE OF COUNCIL URGENCY PROCEDURE

NOTED

1. The decision taken by the Leader of the Council on 4th May 2015 under the Council Urgent Action Procedure to agree a scheme of delegation (as detailed in the paper circulated with the agenda) for the newly formed Council Housing and Strategic Services Division within Regeneration & Environment.
2. The reasons for urgency, as detailed under the agenda item.

23

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

NOTED the calendar of meetings included indicative dates for future meetings of the Council up until May 2017.

AGREED

- (1) the calendar of meetings of the Council, including the next Council meeting, which had been scheduled for Wednesday 24 June 2015.
- (2) that approval of any further amendments to the calendar be delegated to the Director of Finance, Resources and Customer Services, in consultation with both party groups.

24

CALLED IN DECISIONS

None received.

25

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NOTED that the next meeting of the Council would be held at 7pm on Wednesday 24 June 2015 at the Civic Centre.