

# COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING Minutes

**Place** Held Remotely

**Date** Wednesday 13 May 2020

**Time** 7.33pm

**Present** **The Worshipful Mayor**  
Councillor Mick Hayes

## **Councillors:**

Olu Babatola	Patricia Greenwell	Dominic Mbang
Linda Bird	Matt Hartley	Sarah Merrill
Stephen Brain	Ian Hawking	Matthew Morrow
Geoffrey Brighty	John Hills	Anthony Okereke
Peter Brooks	Denise Hyland	Maureen O'Mara
Matthew Clare	Mark James	Gary Parker
Angela Cornforth	Rajinder James	Linda Perks
Ann-Marie Cousins	Sizwe James	Denise Scott-McDonald
Charlie Davis	Adel Khaireh	Aidan Smith
Gary Dillon	Mehboob Khan	Jackie Smith
Spencer Drury	Chris Kirby	David Stanley
John Fahy	Averil Lekau	Roger Tester
Leo Fletcher	Chris Lloyd	Danny Thorpe
Nigel Fletcher	Mariam Lolavar	Ivis Williams
Bill Freeman	Clive Mardner	Miranda Williams
David Gardner	Christine May	

A webcast of the meeting of the Council is displayed on the Royal Greenwich YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKh7IHUUzdo&feature=youtu.be&t=1875> for a period of twelve months subsequent to the meeting.

## Minutes

**Item**   **Item**  
**No.**

**1**      **Election of Mayor**

Councillor Danny Thorpe proposed, and Councillor Nigel Fletcher seconded, that Councillor Linda Bird be Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich for the municipal year 2020/21.

Councillor Nigel Fletcher gave thanks to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Mick Hayes.

Councillor Nigel Fletcher spoke in memory of Councillor Christine Grice. He thanked Council staff and key workers for their work during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Councillors Danny Thorpe and Nigel Fletcher wished Councillor Linda Bird well going forward as the new Mayor.

The matter was put to the vote and it was unanimously

**Resolved –**

That Councillor Linda Bird be appointed as the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich for 2020/21, to take up office on 14 June 2020.

As Councillor Linda Bird was not able to hold an inauguration immediately following the Annual Meeting due to the ongoing pandemic, the Mayor asked her to say a few words.

Councillor Linda Bird gave thanks to Councillor Mick Hayes outgoing Mayor, noting his work supporting community groups and charity organizations, particularly the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice; and acknowledged the support given by the Mayor's wife.

Councillor Bird indicated that her priority as Mayor was to support the Council's plans as they came out of the Coronavirus crisis. She said that as Mayor her job would be to find and capture a sense of hope and optimism for everyone living in the Borough. She wanted to help improve life for people most disadvantaged, those citizens who found themselves hardest hit in their physical health, their mental wellbeing, their finances and family circumstances. She stated that her main charity as Mayor would be Metro Greenwich, the equality and diversity charity, which was based in Woolwich. Metro provided health, community and youth services across the Borough and beyond. She would also be giving some support to Greenwich Starting Blocks, the charity supporting local young athletes to achieve their dreams and hopes.

## **2 Appointment of Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Linda Bird stated that she intended to appoint Councillor Denise Hyland as her Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2020/21.

### **Resolved -**

That Councillor Linda Bird had given notice that she intended to appoint Councillor Denise Hyland as her Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21 be noted.

## **3 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Norman Adams.

## **4 Declarations of Interest**

### **Resolved -**

That the list of Councillors' membership (as Council appointed representatives) on outside bodies, joint committees and School Governing Bodies is noted.

## **5 Announcements**

There were none.

## **6 Appointment of Cabinet Members**

The Leader of the Council, Council Danny Thorpe, informed the Council of the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet for 2020/21.

### **Resolved -**

That the Members of Cabinet, as appointed by the Leader of the Council, be noted as follows:

Councillor Danny Thorpe - Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet  
Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald – (Interim) Deputy Leader and Vice-Chair of Cabinet  
Councillor Sizwe James  
Councillor Adel Khaireh  
Councillor Chris Kirby  
Councillor Sarah Merrill  
Councillor Matthew Morrow  
Councillor Anthony Okereke  
Councillor Jackie Smith  
Councillor Miranda Williams

## **7 Delegations and Executive Responsibilities**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Danny Thorpe, informed the Council that the Members detailed in the report have been appointed to the Cabinet and that portfolios had been assigned. Furthermore, the appendices set out the delegation of executive functions to individual Cabinet Members, Cabinet, joint committees and Chief Officers, and also the appointments to outside bodies which undertake executive functions or advise on executive matters.

Councillor Nigel Fletcher welcomed that responsibility for children's services was now a full portfolio, and that the detailed responsibilities of all Cabinet Members had been published.

**Resolved -**

1. That the allocation by the Leader of the Council of Cabinet portfolios, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report be noted.
2. That the Leader's General Scheme of Delegation for 2020/21, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report be noted.
3. That the appointments made by the Leader of the Council to serve on joint committees and outside bodies which exercise executive functions or which advise on executive matters, as detailed in appendix 3 of the report be noted.

**8 Notification from Party Groups as to Members appointed as Council Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition (largest Minority Group), other party leaders and party whips.**

The Mayor moved the report.

Councillor Matt Hartley, as the former Leader of the Opposition, congratulated Councillors Nigel Fletcher and Charlie Davis in their new roles. Councillor Hartley thanked all Members for their work together over the last five years. Councillor Hartley paid tribute to Council staff during the pandemic, and he thanked Cabinet for their leadership in dealing with the crisis.

Councillor Nigel Fletcher thanked Councillor Hartley for his work as Leader of the Opposition

**Resolved -**

That the appointment of Members by their Party Groups to the offices listed below for the 2020/21 Municipal Year be noted:-

Council Chief Whip	Councillor Angela Cornforth
Deputy Chief Whip	Councillor Ann-Marie Cousins
Leader of the Opposition	Councillor Nigel Fletcher
Deputy Leader of the Opposition	Councillor Charlie Davis
Chief Whip of the Opposition	Councillor Geoffrey Brighty

**9 Establishment of Member-level Bodies for 2020/2021 to deal with matters neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions.**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Danny Thorpe, moved that the Member-level bodies for 2020/21 to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions, be constituted as detailed in the report, together with their Terms of Reference. He further moved that the allocation of seats on these Member-level bodies, as set out in Appendix A, be agreed and also formally moved the other decisions required as detailed in the report. He drew Members' attention to the fact that the Council was not currently able to hold by-elections.

Councillor Nigel Fletcher moved, and was seconded by Councillor Charlie Davis, an amendment that the Chair of the Regeneration, Transport and Culture Scrutiny Panel be Councillor Matt Clare.

The Mayor put the amendment to the vote and with the minority group in favour and the majority group against it was not carried.

The Mayor put the recommendations in the report to the vote and it was

**Resolved -**

- I. That it be agreed to establish the following Member-level Bodies for 2020/21 to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions:

Standing Member-Level Bodies

Audit and Risk Management Panel  
Borough-wide Housing Panel (Vice-Chair only)  
Corporate Parenting Board  
Eltham and Kidbrooke Area Planning Committee  
General Purposes Committee  
Greenwich Area Planning Committee  
Health and Well-Being Board  
Highways Committee

Licensing Committee  
Local Housing Panels (Vice Chairs only)  
Margaret McMillan Field Study Centre Sub-Committee  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Overview and Scrutiny Call In Sub-Committee  
Pension Fund Investment and Administration Panel  
Planning Board  
Scrutiny Panels (x6)  
Standards Committee  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)  
Woolwich Area Planning Committee

#### Consultative Bodies

Greenwich Council Joint Committee  
Schools Forum

2. That the allocation of seats on Member-level bodies as set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed.
3. That the terms of reference of all Member level bodies for 2019/20 (Appendix B of the report) and that Part 3 of the Constitution (Responsibility for Functions) be updated accordingly be agreed.
4. That the Chairs of the Scrutiny Panels for 2020/21 (Appendix C of the report) be agreed
5. That Dr Susan Blackall be appointed as Chair of the Standards Committee (and consequently Vice-Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Panel) and that Dr Susan Blackall (vice-chair) be appointed as an independent member of the Standards Committee be agreed.
6. That the Chief Executive be authorised to (a) establish, in consultation with the Party Group Leaders, individual Appointment Panels based on the requirements of the post; and (b) appoint, in consultation with the Leader and Party Whips, Members to Appointment Panel that agreed.

7. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the relevant Party Whip, be authorised to appoint to any vacancies on the bodies listed above or any that may arise during the Municipal Year 2020/21 be agreed.
8. That Council is not in a position to replace Members through by-elections until 2021 be noted

## **10 Appointment of Members to serve on Member-level Bodies, and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for 2020/2021**

The Chief Whip, Councillor Angela Cornforth, moved the report. Councillor Cornforth welcomed John Armstrong to the post of Independent Member on the Standards Committee.

The Mayor put the recommendations in the report to the vote and it was

### **Resolved -**

1. That the Members appointed to the Member-Level Bodies that deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions for the 2020/21 Municipal Year, as detailed in the report and in the addendum be noted
2. That John Armstrong be appointed to the Standards Committee as a non-voting independent member, and that the remaining vacancy on the Standards Committee will be re-advertised in the Autumn be noted

## **11 Meeting scheduling 2020/21.**

The Mayor moved the report. The Mayor noted that meetings were subject to new regulations brought in under the Coronavirus Act.

### **Resolved -**

1. That the Regulations that have been issued in relation to local authority meetings in response to Coronavirus be noted.



2. That the remotely held meetings which have been scheduled, or which are intended to be scheduled, listed at Appendix I of the report be noted
3. That a full outline calendar of meetings of the Council and other Member Level Bodies for the Municipal Year 2020/21 will be submitted to the next meeting of Council be noted

## **12 Appointment of Members to serve on Outside Bodies for 2020/2021**

The Chief Whip, Councillor Angela Cornforth, moved the nominations of the Chief Whip for the Royal Borough of Greenwich's representatives on outside bodies, as detailed on the addendum report, for the Municipal Year, 2020/21, with an amendment that Councillor Stephen Brain be nominated as deputy to the Greenwich Village Management Board

The Opposition Whip, Councillor Geoffrey Brighty, moved the Conservative Group's alternative nominations as stated in the appendix to the report. The Mayor put them to the vote and with the minority Group voting in favour and the majority Group voting against they were not carried.

The Mayor put the Chief Whip's nominations, with the amendment that Councillor Stephen Brain be appointed deputy to Greenwich Village Management Board , to the vote and it was

### **Resolved -**

That the appointment of Members to serve on outside bodies for the Municipal Year 2020/21, in accordance with the Chief Whip's Nominations as listed in the appendix to the report with an amendment that Councillor Stephen Brain be appointed as a deputy to Greenwich Millennium Village Management Ltd be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm

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Mayor