

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL
MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2008**

Councillors Dobbie (Mayor), Adamou, Adje, Aitken, Alexander, Allison, Amin, Baker, Basu, Beacham, Bevan, Beynon, Bloch, Bull, Butcher, Canver, Cooke, Demirci, Diakides, Dodds, Dogus, Edge, Egan, Engert, Gorrie, Griffith, Haley, Hare, B. Harris, C. Harris, Jones, Rahman Khan, Kober, Lister, Mallett, Meehan, Mughal, Newton, Oakes, Oatway, Patel, Peacock, Rainger, Reid, Reith, Santry, Stanton, Thompson, Vanier, Weber, Whyte, Williams, Wilson, Winskill and Scott

Apologies Councillor Davies

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CNCL47.	<p>MAYOR'S STATEMENT</p> <p>The Mayor expressed the Council's deep sorrow for the events which lead up to the death of "Baby P" and for the suffering he endured and for the failure of all the child protection agencies involved to protect him.</p> <p>The Mayor made a brief statement in respect of the conduct of the proceedings, the legal duty to safeguard against disclosure of confidential information, and webcasting of the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Whyte referred to the briefing note that had been circulated at the meeting covering the restrictions on debate for reasons of confidentiality. Councillor Whyte asked why the interaction between parties was an area of restriction. The Monitoring Officer responded explaining the basis for this restriction.</p>	
CNCL48.	<p>TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Davies.</p>	
CNCL49.	<p>TO ASK THE MAYOR TO CONSIDER THE ADMISSION OF ANY LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 100B OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972</p> <p>See Minutes 58 and 62.</p>	
CNCL50.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Councillor Kober declared a personal interest in Item 11,12 and 15 as she was an employee of Family Action in a policy role. The organisation had been involved in advising on this case.</p> <p>Councillor Lister declared a personal interest in Item 11,12 and 15 as he</p>	

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	<p>was an employee of UNISON. There may be implications for Council staff members of UNISON arising from the business under discussion.</p> <p>Councillor Dobbie declared a personal interest in Item 11,12 and 15 as he was an employee of the North Middlesex NHS Trust Eye Unit.</p> <p>Councillor Adje declared a personal interest in Item 11,12 and 15 as he was an employee of the LFCDA and a Branch Official of the GMB Union. There may be implications for Council staff members of GMB arising from the business under discussion.</p>	
<p>CNCL51.</p>	<p>TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2008 RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 October 2008 be signed as a true record.</p>	
<p>CNCL52.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE MAYOR MAY LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL</p> <p>1. The Mayor expressed his deep sadness at the death of much-loved colleague, Councillor Fred Knight.</p> <p>The Mayor advised that Councillor Knight had served on the former Tottenham Council from 1961 until Haringey became a Borough in 1965 and continually served on the Council in the Seven Sisters ward until his death two weeks ago.</p> <p>The Mayor advised that Councillor Knight had been the only Councillor to have served this Borough three times as Mayor, in 1974-75, 1989-90 and 1991-92 with his beloved wife Bella by his side. He was active in politics holding numerous positions on the Council, but always caring passionately about youth and sports services in the Borough and right up until the end believed firmly in Civic duty, hence his attendance at the Remembrance Day service.</p> <p>The Mayor commented that he knew that there would be many members who would have their own thoughts about Councillor Knight and would be sharing these at his funeral on Monday 8th December and memorial at the Fred Knight Centre in Tottenham afterwards.</p> <p>The Mayor commented that one of the nicest comments he had seen expressed was from one Councillor who wrote; "Although life is for a fixed period, the death of Councillor Fred Knight is a great shock to me. I found him to be an excellent Councillor who discharged the duties of Mayor several times with dignity and honour, also I found him "super" as the Chair with responsibility of voluntary and community organizations in Haringey. He was simple, responsible, not sectarian, very neutral, friendly and useful. I believe that we should follow his good qualities in governing the Borough of Haringey. I Pray for his eternal peace".</p>	

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	<p>The Mayor commented that he was certain that the comments expressed were something that the whole Council could agree upon and that the Council's deepest sympathies be passed to Councillor Knight's two daughters and family and to all who loved him.</p> <p>2. The Mayor also announced the death of former Councillor Glenys Atkinson. Councillor Atkinson had been born in Wales, but a Londoner for most of her life, who had been passionate in her desire to achieve a secondary education system that strove for high standards but included all young people. She had been in the forefront of the campaign to introduce Comprehensive Education in Haringey in the early 1960s, and later became an elected Councillor, representing West Green Ward from 1971-1982 and in her later years as a Councillor she was Chair of the Schools Sub-Committee, and Vice-Chair then Chair of the Education Committee.</p> <p>The Mayor quoted her former ward councillor colleague, Stephen Whittle; "She will be remembered for her vivaciousness and the dedication and enthusiasm that she showed in all of the tasks she undertook."</p> <p>3. The Mayor, further to his earlier comments at the commencement of the proceedings, informed the meeting that no one in Haringey and the Nation could have failed to have not been touched by the tragic death of baby "P". The Mayor stated that in the Council's sorrow for his death, it would be right to pause to reflect on the life that could have been and that to pray for his eternal peace.</p> <p>The Mayor commented that it was traditional following the death of people who served the council to observe a minute's silence, and that the Council should now stand for a minute's silence in memory of Councillors Knight, and Atkinson and also for the child who died in our borough.</p> <p>The Council stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of Councillors Knight and Atkinson and also for the child who died the Borough.</p>	
<p>CNCL53.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE A STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The meeting received a statement by the Leader of the Council in respect of the tragic death of Baby 'P' and gave, on behalf of the London Borough of Haringey Council an unreserved and heart felt apology for the death of 'Baby P'.</p> <p>The Leader of the opposition responded to the sentiments expressed.</p>	
<p>CNCL54.</p>	<p>CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS</p>	

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	<p>The Mayor reported that he had been advised of a proposal to vary the order of business to consider next the statement of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, followed by a response from Councillor Engert and then questions from members. This would be followed immediately by Opposition Business and then Motion K and amendments thereto.</p> <p>The meeting agreed to the variation of business.</p>	
<p>CNCL55.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE A STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People made a statement in relation to the death of Baby ‘P’ and stated once again how sorry she was that we failed to protect him. She also offered her personal apology and condolences to Baby P’s father.</p> <p>The meeting heard the outline of the tragic facts of Baby P’s short life.</p> <p>Councillor Santry concluded “that the important thing now was to make our child protection procedures as strong as possible. We need to wait until we know the outcome of the inspectors’ report and the Secretary of State’s decision in a week’s time. At that point in time we shall have further decisions to make. I say again how very sad we are about the death of Baby P and reiterate once again the Leader’s apology on behalf of the Council to all those close to the Baby P, the residents of Haringey, and the wider public”.</p> <p>Councillor Engert responded on behalf of the Oppositon.</p> <p>Councillor Santry responded to a number of questions and points of clarification from members.</p>	
<p>CNCL56.</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER OPPOSITION BUSINESS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO12.</p> <p>The opposition gave notice of their wish to debate Baby ‘P’.</p> <p>A number of Members spoke on behalf of the Opposition Group and Councillor Santry responded.</p>	
<p>CNCL57.</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NO. 13 <u>Motion K (2008/09)</u></p> <p>It was moved by Councillor Gorrie and seconded by Councillor Williams that:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This Council:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Expresses its profound regret over the tragic death of Baby P, and offers our greatest sympathy to all those who knew him and cared about him.</p>	

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Acknowledges the swift apologies made by police and local health services, recognising that they could have done more to help baby P.

Regrets that it took councillors in charge 48 hours to apologise on behalf of the Council for the death of Baby P and the lack of responsibility shown for the failures of their services.

Welcomes the investigation by the government as the beginning of the process to help restore public confidence in Haringey's children services but recognises that further actions are required.

Therefore:

Recognising that this is firstly an issue of leadership, given the failures of services for which they are responsible, and in light of their public response to this tragedy, this Council has no confidence in the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet member for Children and Young people.

Furthermore, calls for a fully independent public inquiry into this case and the state of Children's Services in Haringey in order that the residents of Haringey can have complete confidence in the protection of the most vulnerable members of our society.

An amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Reith and seconded by Councillor Lister as follows:

To leave out 'and the lack of responsibility shown for the failures of their services' at the end of the third paragraph.

To leave out the fifth and sixth paragraphs, beginning 'Therefore:'

To insert, as the fifth and sixth paragraphs:

'Therefore this Council:

Recognises that it is of the utmost importance that we are able to protect the children and young people of our borough and that the public has confidence in our ability to do so.

Resolves to implement, swiftly, decisively and fully, the recommendations of the Joint Area Review commissioned by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and will take whatever action is necessary to safeguard and protect our children.'

Other Members contributed to the debate.

Councillor Gorrie responded as mover of the original motion.

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A named vote was requested in respect of the amendment to the Motion.

For the Amendment: Councillors Adamou, Adje, Amin, Basu, Bevan, Bull, Canver, Cooke, Demirci, Diakides, Dobbie, Dodds, Dogus, Egan, Griffith, Haley, B, Harris, C. Harris, Jones, Khan, Kober, Lister, Mallett, Meehan, Patel, Peacock, Reith, Santry, Stanton, Thompson, and Vanier

Against the Amendment: Councillors Aitken, Alexander, Allison, Baker, Beacham, Beynon, Bloch, Butcher, Edge, Engert, Gorrie, Hare, Newton, Oakes, Oatway, Rainger, Reid, Scott, Weber, Whyte, Williams, Wilson, and Winskill.

The amendment to the MOTION was declared CARRIED 31 to 23.

Councillor Williams requested that Council Procedure Rules be suspended to permit the remaining two amendments to be put. This was put to the meeting and declared NOT CARRIED.

The meeting agreed that, as the overall time limit of 30 minutes for individual motions had been exceeded, the remaining two amendments be not taken and that the substantive Motion as amended be put.

The substantive Motion as amended was as follows:

This Council:

Expresses its profound regret over the tragic death of baby P, and offers our greatest sympathy to all those who knew him and cared about him.

Acknowledges the swift apologies made by police and local health services, recognising that they could have done more to help Baby P.

Regrets that it took councillors in charge 48 hours to apologise on behalf of the Council for the death of baby P.

Welcomes the investigation by the government as the beginning of the process to help restore public confidence in Haringey's children services but recognises that further actions are required.

Therefore this council:

Recognises that it is of the utmost importance that we are able to protect the children and young people of our borough, and that the public has confidence in our ability to do so.

Resolves to implement, swiftly, decisively and fully, the recommendations of the Joint Area Review commissioned by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and will take whatever action is necessary to safeguard and protect our

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	<p>children.</p> <p>A named vote was requested in respect of the substantive Motion as amended.</p> <p>For the Motion: Councillors Adamou, Adje, Amin, Basu, Bevan, Bull, Canver, Cooke, Demirci, Diakides, Dobbie, Dodds, Dogus, Egan, Griffith, Haley, B, Harris, C. Harris, Jones, Khan, Kober, Lister, Mallett, Meehan, Patel, Peacock, Reith, Santry, Stanton, Thompson, and Vanier.</p> <p>Against the Motion: Councillors Aitken, Alexander, Allison, Baker, Beacham, Beynon, Bloch, Butcher, Edge, Engert, Gorrie, Hare, Newton, Oakes, Oatway, Rainger, Reid, Scott, Weber, Whyte, Williams, Wilson, and Winskill.</p> <p>The substantive MOTION as amended was carried 31 to 23.</p> <p>The Mayor then adjourned the meeting for a 5 minute period. <i>The meeting adjourned at 21.45hrs and reconvened at 21.50hrs.</i></p> <p>On resuming, Councillor Gorrie stated that his Party did not consider it appropriate to continue with the business of the meeting and were going to leave.</p> <p>The Liberal Democrat Group left the meeting at this point.</p>	
<p>CNCL58.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE</p> <p>The Mayor agreed to admit the report as urgent business. The report could not be circulated earlier as information was awaited from the Party Groups. The report needed to be admitted in order that the vacancies on committees could be filled for the remainder of municipal year 2008/09.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Liberal Democrat membership of the following Committees be agreed as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Licensing Committee</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councillor Scott be appointed to replace Councillor Baker .</p>	
<p>CNCL59.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES</p> <p>There were no matters to report.</p>	
<p>CNCL60.</p>	<p>TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES</p> <p>There were no appointments to outside bodies.</p>	

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<p>CNCL61.</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS AND/OR PETITIONS AND, IF APPROVED, TO RECEIVE THEM There were no deputations or petitions.</p>	
<p>CNCL62.</p>	<p>TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, IF ANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NOS. 9 & 10 The Mayor agreed to the admission of this report as urgent business. Under Standing Orders, notice of questions was not requested until eight clear days before the meeting, following which matters raised had to be researched and replies prepared, in order to be given at the meeting. There were 8 oral questions and 25 for written answer. Oral Question 1 – 8 were not considered and written answer would be supplied to these questions.</p>	
<p>CNCL63.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES <u>CABINET REPORT 7 2008/09</u> RESOLVED: That the Cabinet report nos. 7 be received and adopted.</p>	
<p>CNCL64.</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER THE REMAINING MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NO. 13 Motions H, I and J (2008/09) were withdrawn from the proceedings.</p>	

COUNCILLOR ALAN DOBBIE

Mayor