

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL
MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2008**

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

Apologies Councillor Dodds, Knight, Oakes, Patel and Reid

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CNCL33.	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dodds, Knight, Oakes, Patel, and Reid.	
CNCL34.	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 See Minutes 38, 40 and 44.	
CNCL35.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillor Dobbie declared a personal interest in Item 13 – Motion G as he was an employee of the North Middlesex Hospital. Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in Item 13 – Motion F as she was on the Executive of the Campaign for Electoral Reform.	
CNCL36.	TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 JULY 2008 RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 July 2008 be signed as a true record.	
CNCL37.	TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE MAYOR MAY LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL 1. The Mayor announced the death of former Councillor Max Morris who passed away in August. He represented White Hart Lane Ward from 1984 -1986. The Mayor, on behalf of the Council expressed the Council's condolences to his family. Councillor	

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Meehan spoke in memory of former Cllr Morris. The Council meeting then observed a minute's silence.

2. The Mayor welcomed Councillor Nigel Scott, who was elected on 9 October as Councillor for Alexandra Ward. The Mayor also passed on the Council's thanks to the outgoing Ward Councillor Wayne Hoban for his services to the residents of Alexandra Ward and the Liberal Democrat group.
3. The Mayor informed the meeting that he had been pleased to receive a plaque on behalf of the Council at the official handover of the Paralympics Games ceremony on 17 September. The plaque read "From Beijing to London the 2012 host City". The sentiments expressed on the plaque for Courage, Determination, Inspiration and Equality are those we are proud to support.
4. The Mayor offered, on behalf of the Council, congratulations to the Council's Bereavement Team, for a spectacular success at the National Customer Service Awards 2008. The team took the top award for "Front-line Customer Service Team of the Year" against stiff competition from big names including Vodafone, Scottish Widows and Cable & Wireless. The Mayor quoted the chair of judges Don Hales comments: "The team from Haringey Bereavement Services quite simply overwhelmed the judges with their determination to provide the best service for their customers at difficult times. This is a fantastic achievement by staff working in a sensitive and sometimes difficult area. The Mayor presented Diane Johnston – Head of the Bereavement Team with the award, to the applause of the meeting.
5. The Mayor also gave congratulations to the Haringey team who saw Tottenham Cemetery named the "Most Improved Cemetery" in the country at the National Cemetery Awards 2008. Judges had praised work including cleaning the lake and reinstating the waterfall, restoring the chapel and improving roads and paths, all of which took place as the Cemetery was celebrating its 150th anniversary. The Mayor presented Niall Thompson – Manager of the cemetery with the plaque on behalf of the service, to the applause of the meeting.
6. The Mayor gave his thanks to the members and staff of the Irish Centre for raising £600.00 for his charity at its Annual Dinner and Dance the previous week. The Mayor commented that he was laying down a challenge to all other Community Centres in the Borough to match this outstanding and generous achievement.
7. The Mayor reminded members that tickets were available for his forthcoming Quiz Night on Friday 24th October. The evening would start at 7.00pm and the £10 ticket included a Ploughman's supper.

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<p>CNCL38.</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the changes to Political Group composition be noted following the resignation of Wayne Hoban and the election of Councillor Nigel Scott on 9 October 2008 in Alexander Ward. 2. That the Liberal Democrat membership of the following Committees be agreed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Council and Employee JCC</u> Councillor Bloch to replace Councillor Baker <u>Disciplinary Pool</u> delete ex- Councillor Hoban <u>Muswell Hill Area Assembly</u> Councillor Scott appointed as Member 	
<p>CNCL39.</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>CNCL40.</p>	<p>TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES</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 outside bodies could be filled for the remainder of municipal year 2008/09.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the appointments to outside bodies as set out in the attached schedule be approved.</p>	
<p>CNCL41.</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS AND/OR PETITIONS AND, IF APPROVED, TO RECEIVE THEM</p> <p>The Chief Whip reported that following a recent press release there was no proposal to proceed with the Woodside House project but if the deputation wanted to be heard she was happy for the Council to receive them.</p> <p>The Council received a deputation from Mr Raj Doshi on behalf of users of Woodside House.</p>	

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	<p>Members asked questions of the deputation and received responses thereto.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Resources responded to the deputation.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the deputation for attending.</p>	
CNCL42.	<p>STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The Chief Whip moved and it was agreed by the meeting that a personal statement be received from the Leader of the Council in relation to recent financial events reported in the press.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council – Councillor Meehan read a statement in respect of the Council’s deposits in Icelandic banks. He referred to the communication sent to all Councillors, and also communicated to all staff the previous Thursday – 9 October 2008 and he felt that it was now appropriate now to provide Council with the latest information available and what the Council is doing. (Copies of the statement were circulated to the meeting following it being read, and a copy was available on the Council’s web site).</p> <p>In giving a detailed analysis of the situation the Leader stressed that the concerns expressed by local people about the situation, and the amount of money which was involved was fully recognised. The Leader gave his assurance to everyone that the day to day running of Haringey’s essential front line services was not affected. The Council was doing all that it possibly could together with other local authorities who had found themselves in a similar position, the Local Government Association and Central Government, to recover all of the money frozen by the Icelandic government and authorities. The Leader also reiterated that this situation was an unprecedented situation for the global economy, affecting institutions and business across the world.</p> <p>The Leader of the Opposition responded to a number of the points contained within the statement and asked that assurances be given to a full independent investigation as to how this situation had arisen, with representatives of the opposition group sitting on such an enquiry, and that the findings of such be reported back to the Full Council for debate. Other Members contributed to the comments expressed with regard to concerns of the workforce as to the possible non-payment of salaries, and the overall effect on the Council’s Pension fund.</p> <p>The Leader responded to a number of points by referring to the contents of his statement, which clearly stated that there were no issues as regards to the non-payment of workforce salaries, noting that the current pension fund investments were affected overall by the current global financial crisis but not by the particular investments in Icelandic Banks.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Leader for his statement and the contribution of Members.</p>	

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CNCL43.	<p>TO CONSIDER OPPOSITION BUSINESS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.12</p> <p>The opposition gave notice of their wish to debate Alexandra Palace.</p> <p>Councillor Gorrie spoke on behalf of the Opposition Group. Councillor Cooke responded on behalf of the Majority Group.</p> <p>The Mayor then allowed a statement from the Cabinet Member for Resources – Councillor Adje in respect of Alexandra Palace.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked Councillors for their contributions.</p>	
CNCL44.	<p>TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, IF ANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NOS. 9 & 10</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There were 8 oral questions and 24 for written answer.</p> <p>Oral Question 8 was not reached in the allotted time and a written answer would be supplied to this questions.</p>	
CNCL45.	<p>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES</p> <p><u>CABINET REPORTS 4, 5 & 6 2008/09</u></p> <p>The Leader gave a brief resume of the reports of Cabinet which were before the meeting for consideration. Members questioned details of the reports and the Leader responded accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Cabinet reports nos. 4, 5 & 6 be received and adopted.</p> <p><u>AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007/08 MUNICIPAL YEAR</u></p> <p>The Chair of the Audit Committee – Councillor Rahman Khan gave a brief resume of the Audit Committee Annual report for 2007/08 which were before the meeting for consideration.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p>	

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	<p>That the Audit Committee Annual Report For 2007/08 Municipal Year be received and adopted:</p>	
<p>CNCL46.</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NO. 13</p> <p>Councillor Butcher referred to the issue of the amendment submitted by the Majority Group to Motion E earlier that day and failure of officers to notify the opposition of the amendment by the given constitutional deadline.</p> <p>The Chief Executive apologised to Council Butcher for the failure of the administrative process and advised that current practices would be examined to ensure that this did not occur in the future.</p> <p><u>Motion E (2008/09)</u></p> <p>It was moved by Councillor Butcher and seconded by Councillor Newton that:</p> <p>“This Council;</p> <p>Is strongly opposed to the proposed third runway at Heathrow Airport on the grounds that it will result in hugely increased CO2 emissions and noise pollution for the residents of Haringey and will make it virtually impossible for the UK to hit its targets for reducing carbon emissions, which we must do if we are to hold global warming to below 2°C.</p> <p>Does not believe that maintaining a healthy economy in Haringey and London's position as a major financial centre is dependent on a third runway.</p> <p>And resolves to,</p> <p>To join the 2M (Two Million Voices) campaign against the Heathrow expansion as many other local authorities, such as neighbouring Camden and Islington, have already done”.</p> <p>An amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Reith, and seconded by Councillor Jones as follows:</p> <p>Insert after the second paragraph:</p> <p>“Recognises the hard work carried out by the ex-Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, and our local GLA representative, Joanne McCartney, in publicising the dangers of climate change; believes that the expansion runs contrary to the growing evidence we now have on the impact of aviation on climate change and has serious doubts about the current Mayor of London, Boris Johnson's plans for an airport in the Thames estuary”.</p>	

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	<p>On being put to the vote there were 29 in favour of the amendment, none against and 22 abstentions, the amendment was declared CARRIED.</p> <p>The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED unanimously.</p> <p><u>Motions F & G (2008/09) were withdrawn</u></p>	
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COUNCILLOR ALAN DOBBIE

Mayor

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Proposed Appointments to Outside Bodies
Council 13 October 2008

<u>Body name</u>	<u>No of Reps</u>			
<u>Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, The Conference</u>	5	Term of Office:	1 year	Category: Statutory Must be Cllr's
Granted Aid: no	3 LAB, 2 LIBDEM			
<u>Retiring Representative (s) / Expiry</u>				
	Councillor Sheila Rainger	19/05/08	31/05/09	
	Councillor Carolyn Baker	19/05/08	31/05/09	
	Councillor Jayanti Patel	13/10/08	30/05/09	new appointment
	Councillor Catherine Harris	13/10/08	30/05/09	new appointment
	LABOUR VACANT - 1	19/05/08	30/05/09	
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<u>Haringey Admissions & School Organisation Forum</u>				Category: Statutory
<u>14/saf</u>	3	Term of Office:	1 Year	
Granted Aid: no	2 LAB, 1 LIBDEM			
<u>Retiring Representative (s) / Expiry</u>				
	Councillor Liz Santry	19/05/08	31/05/09	
	Councillor Emma Jones	19/05/08	31/05/09	
	Councillor Errol Reid	13/10/08	31/05/09	new appointment
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<u>Groundwork North London</u>				Category: Trust
<u>Representative (s) / Expiry</u>	1	Term of Office:	1 year	
Granted Aid: no	1 LAB			
	Councillor Brian Haley	13/10/08	30/05/09	new appointment

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Haringey Council deposits in Icelandic banks: Statement by Cllr George Meehan, Leader of the Council, to the Full Council, 14.10.08.

Mr Mayor

Thank you for allowing me to make a statement to Council about the Council's deposits in Icelandic banks.

Last Thursday I sent a statement to all councillors on the situation. I think that it is appropriate now for me to provide Council with the latest information available and what the Council is doing.

I think before I go into the detail Mr Mayor I would like to say that I fully recognise the concern which local people have about the situation, and the amount of money which is involved.

I would like to assure everyone that the day to day running of our essential front line services is not affected.

And the Council is doing all that it possibly can, with other local authorities who find themselves in a similar position, with the Local Government Association and with Central Government, to recover all of the money frozen by the Icelandic government and authorities.

I would also like to reiterate that this is of course an unprecedented situation for the global economy, affecting institutions and business across the world.

And this particular situation, with the Icelandic banks, is affecting not only more than 100 local councils, with deposits of almost £800 million, but other public bodies, universities, police authorities and many charities. Haringey is just one of many, many organisations affected.

And as an organisation with a turn over of more than £1 billion, and sound finances overall, we are well placed to deal with these issues.

Turning to the detail, I would like to set out Mr Mayor a full picture for members so we are all fully informed, and can deal with a number of the rumours and a number of false statements that have been made.

Council's deposits

Mr Mayor the total amount of money with the Council has invested in Icelandic banks is £37 million. This money is spread across three banks:

- Landsbanki in which the Council has £15.2 million
- Glitnir Bank in which the Council has £2 million
- Heritable Bank, a UK registered bank, in which the Council has £19.8 million.

The dates these deposits were made range from December 2007 to September 2008. The maturity of the deposits also differ from 8 days to 364 days.

The only deposit in Glitnir was made in December 2007. The final deposits were made in Heritable Bank and Landsbanki on the 29 September 2008.

This is the normal and long-standing process of money management, investing balances with various institutions, to accrue interest for the benefit of the council tax payer each year.

This interest amounted to £8 million in 2007/8, equivalent to 8 % on Council Tax, or £94 per council taxpayer}

External advice, credit ratings and Council policy

As with all other investments which the Council makes, all of the deposits with the three banks, Landsbanki, Glitnir and Heritable at the time of making the deposit met the required thresholds provided by the independent credit rating agencies and the Council's external treasury management advisors.

The minimum threshold is rated as 'green' by our advisers. This includes only 'A' rated banks or above for long term deposits, and F1 rated for short term deposits. This is the highest credit rating for short term deposits. These ratings were in place for these banks at all times, and only changed in October.

The Council's investments are made in accordance with Council's Treasury Management Statement which was agreed by Council at its meeting on 4 February 2008.

The Statement is agreed every year by Council and is fully in line with government Guidance on Local Government Investments which was published in March 2004.

This guidance sets out what has been a legal requirement on local councils since 2003, to invest our money for a good return while spreading the risk.

That is what we have done.

Both Government and the LGA have recently confirmed none of the investments made in the Icelandic banks were either reckless or irresponsible.

Policies, guidance and advice were followed to the letter. Comment to the contrary is inaccurate.

Again, I would remind members that this is an unprecedented situation. Up until a few days ago, these banks were well rated by international credit agencies. Nobody could have anticipated the collapse of what were until very

recently safe deposits in A-rated banks, used by public authorities across the country.

Impact on the Council

Can I be absolutely clear to members as to the impact this situation is having on the Council – and again it is important to put the amount of money at risk in the context of our annual turn over of £1.1bn.

As we have made clear, to Councillors and Council Staff, the day to day running of frontline services will not be affected.

The Council still has the necessary level of cash flow, and to be absolutely clear again, payroll and services will not be affected. Contrary to press reports at the weekend, our payroll funds are not frozen, and staff will be paid.

Our pension fund and entitlements to fund members are not affected. Cash that was separately managed for the pension fund was not invested in any of these banks.

Any stories which you may have seen in the local or national press to the contrary are false and misleading, and anyone making speculative statements along these lines in respect of council payroll and services is acting irresponsibly.

I would advise all members that we have a responsibility in situations such as these to act with one voice and that is why I wanted to make a statement this evening to provide members with as much information as is available.

It is vital that the all Councillors act responsibly to establish the facts before rushing to comment.

Current situation

The three banks in which the Council has deposits have been put into receivership and are not yet declared insolvent. Our money is therefore not lost, and the Government is actively pursuing these funds.

As I have said, this is an issue for local government as a whole, and for national government, and for the country as a whole.

We are therefore also working through the LGA to lobby Government for assistance on any potential losses.

And the Council will do all that possibly can to work with other local authorities, charities and companies who have had assets frozen in Icelandic banks.

At the same time we have of course reviewed our other deposits, and the situation is being monitoring daily.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the day to day running of services will not be affected, and we are optimistic that these sums will be recovered.

We are also hopeful that there will be Government assistance, and we welcome the initiatives taken by the Government to date, on its own account and with the international community.

If we do have to action to mitigate some of this loss, it will be possible to manage this by a combination of money held in reserves and spreading the costs over a number of years in order to minimise the impact on front line services in the future.

I will continue to update Members as the situation develops.