

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 9 JANUARY 2006

Councillors: *The Mayor (Councillor Griffith), *The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Adamou);
Councillors *Adje, *Aitken, *Basu, *Bax, *Beacham, *Bevan, *Blanchard, *Bloch, *Herbie
Brown, *Jean Brown, *Bull, *Canver, Davidson, *Davies, *Dawson, *Diakides, *Dillon,
*Dobbie, *Dodds, *Edge, *Engert, *Featherstone, *Floyd, Gilbert, *Haley, *Hare, *Harris,
*Hillman, *Hoban, *GMMH Rahman Khan, *Knight, Krokou, *Lister, Makanji, *Manheim,
*Meehan, *Millar, *Milner, *Newton, Oatway, *Patel, *Peacock, *Erline Prescott, *Quincy
Prescott, *Reith, Reynolds, *Rice, Robertson, *Santry, Simpson, *Stanton, *Sulaiman,
*Williams, *Winskill and *Wynne.

* Members present

72. APOLOGIES: Apologies for lateness and possible non attendance was received from Councillor Robertson, and for absence from Councillors Gilbert, Makanji, Oatway and Reynolds.

73. LATE/URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS: See minutes 78, 82 & 83.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Members were asked by the Mayor to declare any personal interest in respect of items on the agenda. In accordance with Part 2 of the Members Code of Conduct set out in the Council Constitution, any Member disclosing a personal interest which was also prejudicial would be asked to withdraw from the Chamber during consideration of the item and neither were they to seek to improperly influence a decision on the said item.

No such declarations were made.

75. MINUTES:

Copies of the Minutes having been circulated, they were taken as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 November 2005 be signed as a true record.

76. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

1. The Mayor and the full Council congratulated the Stars in the Sky friendship service for adults with learning difficulties, which had won the top prize in the National Community Care Awards 2005.

The Mayor reported that this unique Haringey-based service was run by people with learning difficulties themselves, supported by Haringey Association for Independent Living, and funded by Social Services. He also advised that it was a fantastic project which fully deserved this top award, and stated his delight that Haringey had been able to support it from the start.

2. The Mayor congratulated the Council's Social Services' Home Care Night Service, which was regional winner and national finalist in the national Health and Social Care Awards announced just before Christmas 2005.

In reporting that the service was just a year old, the Mayor commented that

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the Authority's Home Care Services could now offer 24 hour personal care at home, helping older people stay in the community, in their own homes, or leave hospital knowing that their needs would be met.

At the national awards ceremony the team's commitment and dedication were described as "exemplary". They were at the front line of modern, high quality social care, and a credit to the council.

3. The Mayor reported of a number of local people being honoured in the New Year's Honours List. An MBE went to Richard Sumray who would be known to councillors for his work as chair of Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust and Joyce Levy with the Department of Trade and Industry

OBE's go to Dr Roberta Jacobsen, director of the London Health Observatory, Ann Robinson, principal of Woodhouse 6th form college in Finchley, Graham Stegmann, Department of International Development, and Professor Edmund Penning-Rowsell, for services to flood risk management.

4. The Mayor thanked all those who gave their time and services to help others during the Christmas Season. He attended numerous events across the borough over the last few weeks, and was very moved by the amount of time and care that was given to support and help the elderly and the vulnerable members of our society.
5. The Mayor regretfully announced the death of former conservative Councillor Terry Pope who passed away on 22 December 2005. The meeting observed a 1 minute's silence in his memory.

77. STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda item 6):

RESOLVED:

That the statement by the Leader of the Council in respect of welcoming a wonderful victory for Haringey Council in being awarded a 3 star status by the Audit Commission in their comprehensive performance assessment be noted. The Leader of the Opposition spoke in response.

78. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda item 7):

The Mayor agreed to admit the report as urgent business. The report dealt with matters considered at Party Group meetings within the last few days. These required approval to permit appointments to Council committees to be made.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Hoban and Hare be appointed to the two Liberal Democrat vacancies on the Alexandra Palace and Park Board.

79. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (Agenda item 8):

- (a) New Legislation affecting the Council in accordance with Article 18.03(h) of the Constitution

RESOLVED

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That the updated details of the new and forthcoming legislation as detailed in Appendix A of the report be noted.

(b) Recruitment of Independent Members for Standards Committee

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted together with the recommendations from the Standards Committee, that one new independent member be recruited from the current recruitment exercise to serve for 4 years from May 2006 ; and
2. That the endorsement of the recommendation of the Standards Committee that Nicholas Weber, Irene Francis and Roger Lovegrove be appointed to serve as independent Members on the Standards Committee from May 2006 for a period of two years, be endorsed.

80. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda item 9):

The meeting received a tabled addendum to the report.

RESOLVED:

That appointments to outside bodies as detailed in the attached appendix be agreed.

81. DEPUTATION AND PETITIONS (Agenda item 10):

There were no deputations or petitions.

82. QUESTIONS (Agenda item 11):

The Mayor agreed to the admission of this report as urgent business. Under Standing Orders, notice of questions was not requested until five 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 10 oral questions and 20 for written answer. Oral Questions 8-10 were not reached in the allotted time and written answers were supplied to these questions.

83. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Executive report number 12 was late because it was only considered by the Executive on 20 December 2005, following which decisions taken at that meeting were subject to a call in period.

The report was too urgent to await the next meeting because a decision of the full Council was required to approve the Housing Strategy so that a summary version could be produced for publication and dissemination.

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RESOLVED:

1. That reports 10, 11 and 12 /2005-6 of the Executive be received and the recommendation on the Housing Strategy be adopted;
2. That report 3 / 2005-6 of the General Purposes Committee be received;
3. That the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee of 19 December 2005 in respect of amendments to the Overview and Scrutiny provisions and the full Council provisions set out in Appendices 1,2,3,4 & 5 of the report be adopted and that Parts I.1,I.2, I.3, E.1 and E.7 of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly;
4. That the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee of 19 December 2005 in respect of amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers as set out in Appendix 6 of the report be adopted and that Parts F.7 of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly;
5. That the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee of 19 December 2005 in respect of recommended changes to the terms of reference of the Licensing Sub Committees be adopted as follows:
 - i. the 'Haringey Council – Local Licensing Procedure Rules for Hearings under the Licensing Act 2003' set out in Appendix 7 of the report be agreed as a new Section C.9 of the Council's Constitution;
 - ii. the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to officers as set out in Appendices 8 and 9 of the report be agreed and that Part F.7 of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly; and
 - iii. the amendments to the terms of reference of the Licensing Sub-Committees as set out in Appendix 10 of the report be agreed and Part E7 of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.

84. MOTION I (2005/06):

It was moved by Councillor Adje and seconded by Councillor Sulaiman that:

"This Council welcomes the recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment Ratings which gives Haringey Council 3 stars out of a possible 4 stars. This Council notes that the new rating system provides a tougher assessment than previous years. This makes the Council's three star success an even greater achievement.

This Council believes that this success has only been possible with the hard work, initiative and dedication of all Council staff. We thank them for their wonderful efforts in securing this achievement and congratulate them on helping to make a better Haringey.

Haringey received 3 stars in 4 out of 6 core service areas: Children and Young People, Social Care (adults), Benefits and Culture. In addition Haringey kept its 3 stars for Use of Resources which includes areas such as value for money and financial management.

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This Council has been recognised as improving well with the CPA report noting “this year has seen positive outcomes in services for children and young people and for vulnerable adults”. Our borough contains large pockets of deprivation and the Council is particularly proud that the report acknowledges the targeting of resources to reflect local social, economic and demographic challenges. Haringey also performs well against equalities and diversity targets.

This Council believes that this achievement has been underpinned by a series of forward looking and prudent budgets since 2002. The Council has drawn up a successful strategy which is now getting the recognition it deserves. The Labour Manifesto in 2002 committed this Council to achieving “Good” status by 2006, and through careful planning, strategic budgets and hard work this pledge has been delivered.

A Labour Council working with a Labour Government has secured this improvement demonstrating the importance of a positive partnership between local and national government.

The CPA report notes that ‘the Council is improving well’, and this Council resolves to embrace the challenge for the next four years which is to move from Good to Excellent, because the people of Haringey deserve excellence”.

An amendment to the motion was MOVED by Councillor Williams, and seconded by Councillor Hoban proposing :

Delete all after “ This Council” and replace with:

“congratulates the continued hard work, dedication and initiative of all Council staff in achieving an improvement in the Corporate Performance Assessment Ratings to Three Stars at a time of turbulence and change within the Council.

This rating brings Haringey into line with the majority of Councils in London, with the new “Harder Test” CPA returning 23 of the 33 London Boroughs with a 3 or 4 star rating and all 33 judged to be improving with 28 placed in the upper categories of “improving strongly” or “improving well”.

However, Council acknowledges that although this belated elevation into the mainstream is welcome it is based upon an Inspection by the Audit Commission and counts for little if residents themselves do not feel that they are experiencing improved services. The 3 Star ratings for some services do not reflect real concerns from residents of Haringey about value for money, high Council Tax and failing services.

For example the 2 Star Rating for environmental services has come following expenditure increases of several millions, and a doubling of the budget for “spin” and publicity undermines the 2 Star Rating for value for money. A major overspend of £10m on Tech Refresh remains.

Therefore the Council calls for a complete overhaul of local Government Finance, an end to the league table culture dictated by Whitehall and the reallocation of resources to serve the needs of local residents as opposed to wasting time and resources on box-ticking and targets set by the Labour Government”.

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The Amendment was then put to the meeting and declared LOST.

The substantive Motion was then put to the meeting and declared CARRIED

85. MOTION J (2005/06):

The meeting accepted an alteration to the Motion (text in italics below).

It was moved by Councillor Adje and seconded by Councillor Williams that:

“This Council notes that Holocaust Memorial Day falls on 27 January.

Council believes that the Holocaust, an attempt at the industrialized slaughter of an entire people, was a uniquely evil event in world history.

Council believes that understanding and remembering the nature of the Holocaust is a powerful part of the effort to prevent its recurrence, and of the fight against racial and religious prejudice in all their forms.

Council notes the ceremonies being arranged by the Council for Holocaust Memorial Day, especially the commemorative ceremony at Bruce Castle on 24 January from 6.45–9.30pm, the special screening of *Hotel Rwanda* at Cineworld in Wood Green on 26 January at 7.00pm, and the exhibition of children’s art from the Czechoslovak concentration camp Theresienstadt, which will be displayed at Bruce Castle Museum, Hornsey Central Library and Wood Green Central Library in January, February, and March. *Furthermore, on the morning of 27 January at 11 am, children from local schools will be invited to a ceremony at Bruce Castle where Haringey’s Holocaust memorial flag will be raised.*

Council believes that elected representatives in a democracy have an ongoing and special responsibility to fight against fascism and racism wherever they occur, to ensure that the Holocaust is never repeated.

Council therefore affirms the collective and individual responsibility of councillors to combat Nazism and all other crimes of genocide, and thanks Council staff for organizing the events which will mark Holocaust Memorial Day this year in Haringey”.

A named vote was requested.

For: The Mayor (Councillor Griffith), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Adamou), Councillors Adje, Aitken, Bax, Beacham, Basu, Bevan, Blanchard, Bloch, Herbie Brown, Jean Brown, Bull, Canver, Davies, Dawson, Diakides, Dillon, Dobbie, Edge, Engert, Floyd, Haley, Hare, Harris, Hillman, Hoban, Khan, Knight, Lister, Manheim, Meehan, Millar, Milner, Newton, Patel, Peacock, E Prescott, Q. Prescott, Reith, Rice, Santry, Stanton, Sulaiman, Williams, Winskill and Wynne.

Against: Nil

Absent : Davidson, Dodds, Featherstone, Gilbert, Krokou, Makanji, Oatway, Reynolds, Robertson, and Simpson.

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86. MOTION K (2005/06):

It was moved by Councillor Canver and seconded by Councillor Bevan that:

“This Council welcomes the entry into force of further powers under the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Act 2005 on 18 October and looks forward to the final tranche of powers in April 2006.

This council believes the new powers given to courts to deal with fly-tipping are to be welcomed. This Council welcomes in particular the powers given to local authorities and the Environment Agency to recover their investigation costs from those convicted of offences, as well as the power for courts to award local authorities, the Environment Agency and landowners the costs of cleaning up fly-tipped waste, and believes this integrated approach will help to address the financial implications of tougher measures.

This Council believes that empowering local authorities to remove abandoned cars from the street immediately and to dispose of removed cars more quickly can only improve our neighbourhoods.

This council welcomes the new offences introduced by the Act to curb nuisance parking and fly-posting, the more stringent litter regulations and the amended provisions for dealing with fly-tipping which will go far to clean up our neighbourhoods, and therefore calls upon the Council to ensure that enforcement teams use these new powers to the full for a safer, cleaner, better Haringey”.

The Motion was then put to the meeting and declared CARRIED.

87. MOTION L (2005/06):

It was moved by Councillor Hillman and seconded by Councillor Haley that:

“In September 2003, the Council passed a motion on genetically modified (GM) crops. The motion asked officers to investigate whether or not it would be possible for Haringey to declare itself a GM free zone, and they reported that it was not.

Across the European Union, thousands of similarly minded local and regional government authorities want to exclude the growing of genetically modified crops in their area. The reasons for taking such an initiative include:-

- Concerns about the many scientific uncertainties surrounding the long term safety of GM foods and the effect on the environment of growing GM crops;
- The clear difficulties of growing GM crops without contaminating traditional, conventional, and organic crops, and the economic effects this will have on the agri-food sector;
- The demands from their citizens for GM-free food and a GM-free local environment.

Current European law fails to protect these local and regional government authorities, and internationally, there is increasing pressure to force GM crops into the European Union, especially via the US-led trade dispute at the World Trade Organisation.

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This Council believes that whilst genetic modification techniques may have significant advantages, for example in the production of human insulin for diabetics, but is concerned about the possible environmental consequences of GM crop cultivation.

This Council therefore believes that in order to protect our local economy, culture, environment and the health of our citizens, EU law must include the democratic right of local and regional government to decide whether GM crops can be cultivated in their given areas.

This Council also believes that there should be no EU wide approvals for the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) until these matters are resolved and that there should be strict labelling regulations for any presence of GMOs in food products, conventional and organic seeds at the practical detection limit.

This Council therefore instructs the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment Food, and Rural Affairs, and to the European Commission, to call for individual local authorities to be empowered to regulate the growing of GM crops in their areas”.

The Motion was then put to vote and unanimously declared CARRIED.

Councillor Griffith
Mayor