

MINUTES OF MEETING Full Council HELD ON Thursday, 28th September, 2023,7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Anna Abela, Peray Ahmet, Ibrahim Ali, Emily Arkell, Zena Brabazon, Cathy Brennan, Lester Buxton, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Lotte Collett, Pippa Connor, Culverwell, Lucia das Neves, Isidoros Diakides, Erdal Dogan, George Dunstall, Sarah Elliott, Ruth Gordon, Mike Hakata, Emine Ibrahim, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Sue Jameson, Adam Jogee, Cressida Johnson, Ahmed Mahbub, Khaled Moyeed, Sean O'Donovan, Ajda Ovat, Reg Rice, Joy Wallace, Elin Weston, Matt White and Sarah Williams

ALSO ATTENDING:

31. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor referred to the notice of filming at meetings and members noted this information.

32. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from

Cllr Barbara Blake
Cllr Gunes
Cllr Stennett
Cllr Bevan
Cllr Peacock
Cllr Barnes
Cllr Rossetti
Cllr Opoku
Cllr Simmons- Safo
Cllr Hymas
Cllr Bartlett
Cllr Carlin
Cllr Chandwani
Cllr Worrell
Cllr Mason
Cllr M Blake
Cllr Lawton
Cllr Harrison- Mullane
Cllr Amin

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

34. MEMORIAL TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR JULIE DAVIES

The Mayor expressed that this Full Council was convened, this evening, in memory of former councillor Julie Davies . The Mayor welcomed Julie's family – her sons Harry and Ted, her sister Jennie Duffy, her brother Michael Harris , and niece Amie Wilsdon-Tagg to the meeting. He also welcomed many of Julie's friends who were in attendance.

The Mayor continued to welcome to the meeting: the Right Honourable David Lammy, Member of Parliament for Tottenham , Ed Harlow, Tony Hartney, Kevin Coutney, Will Wawn, Stuart McNamara and Joanne McCartney who was watching online.

The Mayor expressed to those present that he had only known Julie a short time but found her warm, supportive and always positive, her words and experience were deeply comforting.

Julie was first elected in 2018 to St Ann's ward and before being elected to the Council, Julie worked as an English teacher in Haringey schools, where she also served as branch secretary for the National Union of Teachers. Her passion for improving outcomes for young people inspired Cllr Davies to serve as a school governor for five different Haringey schools.

The Mayor was from a family of teachers and knew the hard work and dedication that comes with it. There were many teachers in Haringey and beyond that were deeply thankful for Julie's work.

The meeting continued to hear from community colleagues, school representatives and trade union representatives on Julie's work for the borough and her unwavering focus on making Haringey a better borough to live and learn.

The Rt Hon David Lammy, MP for Tottenham, recalled his first interactions with Julie. The MP felt that Julie had taken him under her wing much like she did with her students. He expressed his gratitude for her unwavering support for over 23 years and her enthusiasm to support people generally. David often felt Julie should have been a sketch writer or a columnist and was a steward for the community with a fearless belief in the power of education. He described Julie as tremendous friend and great ally.

Ed Harlow recalled Julie's ability to be fearless whilst maintaining an incredible sense of humour and stoicism. He described how Julie was always on the side of the underdog. She was a committed helper to people of need. Julie had an enormous legacy in the borough with schools, and the unions. The local districts had set up a bursary in her name, to bring through young female trade union activists in her honour.

Councillor Ahmet joined others present in offering heartfelt condolences to Julie's family who were present. She described Julie as an unstoppable force, a true champion at everything she did. Her impact in Haringey through her many years of teaching, helped young people get the best start at life. Her compassion and dedication to teachers, gave teachers a voice and provided support to those in desperate need. Julie was a natural community hero, who always put residents first. As a Cabinet Member she was a force of nature and a real asset to the administration.

Tony Hartley expressed his gratitude to Julie and spoke of her being a passionate straight forward speaking woman, committed to fairness and for the underdog. Tony recalled that Julie loved her family who were in attendance. Julie had a wondrous humour and Tony was pleased that those in attendance had also felt the loving side to her. Tony wanted all those in attendance to recognise the giant contributions Julie had made and her great efforts to making education across the borough better.

Councillor Hakata joined others in acknowledging that Julie was an incredible and a very generous person. One of the elements of her generosity was with her knowledge and with her understanding. As a Councillor, she was always fighting for the best for some of the most vulnerable residents. Julie had the courage to say things as they are. As a mother, she was fiercely proud of her sons and as a friend, she was fiercely loyal. Julie was an amazing person, an amazing Co-Ward Councillor and an incredible friend and would be missed by all.

Kevin Coutney noted that those who knew Julie felt that they had lost Julie far too early. Julie was a fighter, a friend, a socialist and a feminist. She was brave, she argued for what she believed in. Kevin noted that he missed Julie and acknowledged that those in the room would also feel the same. He expressed the honour and privilege of being at Julie's funeral service where family and friends shared memories of Julie. She was absolutely forthright in stepping up her opinions and was always willing to step up.

Councillor Luke Cawley-Harrison expressed the honour he felt about being able to remember Julie with others present. Councillor Cawley-Harrison and Julie were elected in the same year in 2018 and slowly built up a friendship. He spoke about her having a presence in the room . Julie was accessible and always happy to talk. Julie always did what she thought was right. She was a woman of conviction, ready to defend her point of view and that was always done with a very big heart. She always wanted to work with you for the interest of the borough and the interest of its residents. She would be greatly missed by so many people in the Council.

Councillor Willaims expressed that Julie was a passionate straight forward speaking woman. Julie carried out work with Women's charities and was a passionate advocate for empowering women, who did not want to be the only woman in the room, and wanted to empower every woman in the room. Julie was a very powerful and authoritative woman. Councillor Williams mentioned that her daughter loved Julie and that her kindness touched a lot of people. Not only was Julie a clever politician, but her work was able to positively impact a lot of people and their families. The Councillor noted that she missed the opportunities to talk to Julie now and thanked everyone in attendance for wonderful speeches.

Will Warn thanked those who were in attendance for the speeches and articulating eloquently personal memories of Julie. Will noted that it was an honour and a privilege to be invited to share memories. Will read out a speech prepared by James Lane the former Headteacher at Welbourne, Seven Sisters and other schools who had worked closely with Julie. James noted that he had known Julie throughout his headship career, nearly 20 years, there were regular clashes between them and the two were on two different ends of debates over several matters. During the time James spent at Seven Sisters school, they struck up an unlikely friendship. James wanted to express the gratitude for Julie's passion and determination that made her formidable, the commitment to the teachers and children in the school was undoubtable. James mentioned that Julie expressed that she wanted her ashes to be scattered through fireworks and rockets somewhere in the countryside. They had both shared a common passion for shopping and he paid homage to Julie by wearing a velvet jacket. Many would remember that Julie championed individuals, values and education within Haringey and her memory lives on.

Stuart McNamara recalled first meeting Julie at a protest on the forced academisation of the school, they shared a joke that the protest was a very powerful argument in favour of devolution. Stuart noted that they would often share jokes around these matters. Julie's passion for local government and trade union representation was apparent. Julie was committed to priorities that she respected in other Councillors such as making a difference, helping the vulnerable, being open to new viewpoints and asking tough questions of those in positions of power. Members of the Council will be aware that Julie was always willing to ask tough questions. When Julie became a Councillor, she was supported by other Councillors, colleagues, teachers and was immensely proud to be a part of a cabinet with so many capable women. Her generosity and advice had helped thousands, her idea of relaxing was a juicy bit of casework, and she was a first-class alumna of Haringey.

Councillor Brabazon made the closing statement and thanked everyone for sharing their memories of Julie. Cllr Brabazon regarded Julie as a dear and loved friend for 25 years. Councillor Brabazon was honoured that others would often refer to them as a pair, Julie and Zena, and recalled that their immediate affinity when first meeting and their continuing friendship which was based on a genuine shared solidarity, shared politics, socialism, feminism and an unshakeable duty to public services. Julie had the skills and determination and was at the epicentre of many campaigns, making a massive contribution to political and civic life for many. Those in attendance will remember that she was an active and well-informed school governor who worked hard for the Labour party and as a Councillor for St. Ann's. She was audacious, irreverent a rebel with a cause, witty with a wicked sense of humour and devoted herself to building the NEU in Haringey. Cllr Brabazon closed her tribute by reading out the poem "When great Trees Fall" by Maya Angelou.

Councillor Ahmet to MOVED the MOTION.

Councillor Cawley- Harrison to SECONDED the MOTION.

The MOTION was carried unanimously.

Motion C

That this Council formally places on record its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Councillor Julie Davies who died on the 27 April 2023.

This Council wishes to record the enduring care and compassion with which Councillor Julie Davies undertook her duties during her term of office from May 2018 to April 2023, in her role as Ward Councillor for the St Ann's Ward (2018-2022) and Hermitage and Gardens Ward (2022-2023).

This Council also notes the crucial work that Julie carried out as a member of Cabinet serving as Cabinet Member for employment, skills and corporate services from May 2021, and for communities and civic life from May 2022.

This Council wishes to remember Julie's strong work ethic; character, moral values and principles. We recognise and applaud her unwavering dedication to improving education for our children, and also for promoting opportunities and prospects for the residents of Haringey as a teacher, trade unionist and politician.

This Council recognises Julie's contribution as a teacher both abroad and locally including Northumberland Park School and South Haringay School. The Council would also like to acknowledge and thank Julie her for long and dedicated service as Branch Secretary for Haringey NEU National Education Teachers (NEU), her work on the union's national executive committee, and the General Teaching Council.

This Council also acknowledges Councillor Julie Davies' dedication and loyalty to the Labour movement over forty years, including her commitment to Haringey Labour Group, across the borough and across the country. Her impact will be remembered by the UK Labour Party, Trade Unions and Councillors - both past and present from both political groups. We note the high esteem and regard in which Cllr Davies was held by local residents and council officers.

This Council also formally wishes to express its deepest condolences at the loss of such a wonderful and great woman to Councillor Julie Davies' children Harry and Ted, her siblings, Jennie and Michael, her nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Members of this Council and residents of Haringey will remember Julie as the dear friend, colleague and campaigner who touched the lives of so many, and we thank her for her service as a dedicated and compassionate public servant. Her legacy will not be forgotten.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date