

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2009

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Philip Briscoe, Alex Heslop, Shirley Houghton and Abdul Matin.

DECISION

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Please see minutes.

3. MINUTES

DECISION

That the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 9th February and Wednesday 4th March 2009 be confirmed as correct records of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Please see minutes.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

DEPUTATIONS

5.1.1 Deputation re: Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning

Mr. Robert Foth addressed the meeting in support of the deputation.

DECISION

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Children's Services for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Kevan Collins, Corporate Director, Children's Services)

5.1.2 Deputation re: establishment of a Tesco Metro store in Poplar

Mr. Ajai Kapoor addressed the meeting in support of the deputation.

DECISION

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Aman Dalvi, Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

5.1.3 Deputation re: lighting to be installed in Brickfield Gardens, E14

Messrs. Craig Aston and Graham Collins addressed the meeting in support of the deputation.

DECISION

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Stephen Halsey, Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture)

PETITIONS

5.2.1 Petition re: Arnhem Wharf Primary School

Ms. Nazel Onder addressed the meeting in support of the petition.

DECISION

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Children's Services for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Kevan Collins, Corporate Director, Children's Services)

5.2.2 Petition re: Millwall Park rugby pitch

Mr. James Eason addressed the meeting in support of the petition.

DECISION

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Stephen Halsey, Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture)

5.2.3 Petition re: vandalism and management of the Exmouth Estate

Mr. Dave Coker addressed the meeting in support of the petition.

DECISION

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Aman Dalvi, Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**6.1** Question from Ms. Dinah Glover to the Lead Member for Culture, Councillor Rofique Ahmed re: the 'Get Active' Scheme

The above question and an oral supplementary question were put by Ms. Glover and responded to by the Lead Member, Culture.

(Action by: Stephen Halsey, Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture)

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**7.1** Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed re: the Council's participatory budget process.**7.2** Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis re: the current performance of Tower Hamlets Homes and RSLs in managing voids.**7.3** Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: policy and enforcement strategy with regard to businesses in Brick Lane and the adjacent area.**7.4** Question from Councillor Tim O'Flaherty to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: safety of residents in Bethnal Green.**7.5** Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins re: looked-after children.**7.6** Question from Councillor Rupert Eckhardt to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins re: fast food outlets in the vicinity of schools.

The above questions, and oral supplementary questions where put, were responded to by the relevant Lead Members.

Due to lack of time, questions 7 – 24 were not put. Written responses will be forwarded to the questioners.

(Action by: John S. Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services)

8. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

8.1 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 11th March 2009

Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12

DECISION

- (1) That the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12 be approved as attached at appendix A to the report of the Cabinet; and
- (2) That the proposed name change of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) to the Children and Families Trust be noted.

(Action by: Kevan Collins, Corporate Director, Children's Services)

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

9.1 Joint Arrangements

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

9.2 External Organisations

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Programme of meetings 2009/10

DECISION

That the proposed programme of meetings for the municipal year 2009/10 as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

(Action by: John S. Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services)

10.2 Review of the Constitution

DECISION

- (1) That subject to (2) below, the amendments to the Council's Constitution be agreed as set out in the schedule attached to the report, to take effect from the Annual Council on 20th May 2009.
- (2) That the proposed changes to the Scheme of Members' Allowances, as set out in the schedule be agreed with the following amendments:

Special Responsibility Allowances:

Leader of the Council: 25% reduction (£7000)
Cabinet Members: No inflation increase for 2009/10
Lea Valley RPA: Not implemented;

Resulting in a reduction of approximately £14,000 in the cost of the increased SRAs; and

- (3) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to make detailed drafting changes to the Constitution as necessary to put into effect the agreed amendments.

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Change to order of business

The meeting agreed under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 to vary the order of business within agenda item 11 as follows:-

- (i) Motion 11.11 re: the Bow Gurdwara fire to be taken first
- (ii) Motion 11.4 re: control over sex encounter venues to be taken second
- (iii) The remaining motions to be taken in order as listed in the agenda.

11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding Bow Gurdwara fire

The motion as printed in the agenda was moved by Councillor Fozol Miah and seconded by Councillor Abjol Miah.

An amendment moved by Councillor Ohid Ahmed and seconded by Councillor Lutfur Rahman was **accepted** by the mover and seconder who, with the consent of the meeting, altered their motion accordingly.

The substantive motion as amended was then **agreed** as follows:

DECISION

This Council notes

- a) the terrible fire which destroyed the Gurdwara Sikh Sangat, Harley Grove, Bow on 16th March 2009
- b) the anguish, upset and anger this has caused in the Sikh community
- c) the efforts of Council officers to ensure that facilities are found for the members of the Gurdwara to continue their worship
- d) that the Police are giving the investigation of the causes of the fire and the identification of any perpetrator a very high priority
- e) that the concerns for and sympathy with the Bow Gurdwara members and the Sikh Community extends across people of all faiths and none in Tower Hamlets

This Council urges

- a) anyone who knows anything about the fire to contact the police and to co-operate fully in their investigation
- b) the police and other authorities including the Council to continue to give this issue a very high priority and to provide all the help and support they can to the members of the Bow Gurdwara

This Council expresses the utmost sympathy and solidarity with the members of the Gurdwara Sikh Sangat and the wider Sikh community for this terrible fire which has destroyed a holy place revered across all faith communities and residents of Tower Hamlets.

This Council resolves to continue to offer whatever support is possible to the congregation of the Bow Gurdwara in finding alternative venues until such time as the permanent replacement can be found/constructed.

This Council resolves to do whatever it can to help in the reconstruction of the building or the conversion of an alternative site.

11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding control over sex encounter venues

The motion as printed in the agenda was moved by Councillor Abjol Miah and seconded by Councillor Harun Miah.

An amendment moved by Councillor Rachael Saunders and seconded by Councillor Rania Khan was **accepted** by the mover and seconder who, with the consent of the meeting, altered their motion accordingly.

The substantive motion as amended was then **agreed** as follows:

DECISION

This Council recognizes that the government has responded to the campaign led by Object and supported by Tower Hamlets to tighten up regulation on strip clubs, but is concerned that loopholes are being written into legislation.

Two issues are:

1. Venues providing lap dancing less than once per month will be exempt from the legislation. This will create a loophole for a growing number of venues that fall precisely into that category.
2. The legislation is adoptive. The result will be local residents face a postcode lottery over whether they have a say in lap dancing club license applications. While London local authorities are clearly leading the way in terms of working to gain greater control over lap dancing clubs, not all local authorities in England and Wales are similarly concerned and may choose not to adopt the legislation. In which case local people in those areas would continue to be denied a voice, and there would be an uneven licensing regime.

This Council supports the Fawcett Society and Object campaign to close these loopholes, and resolves to write to the Secretary of State accordingly.

This Council also resolves to provide more educational programmes to raise awareness of the impact of the objectification of women on young girl's self-esteem, body image and sexual bullying.

Urgent Motion

Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED** and Councillor Ahmed Hussain **SECONDED** that Rule 13.2 be suspended to allow a motion on Towing Company ELV and a recent incident on Rainhill Way to be put as a matter of urgency. This was **defeated**.

Motions 11.1 – 11.3, 11.5 – 11.10 and 11.12 – 11.15 as listed below were not considered due to lack of time, the meeting having closed in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 (Duration of meeting).

11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer regarding local bin taxes/Waste Incentive Pilot Schemes

11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Lutfur Rahman regarding the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial

- 11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding future provision of a Multi-Faith burial ground**
- 11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Golds regarding lighting in Brickfield Gardens**
- 11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Marc Francis regarding Strangers into Citizens campaign**
- 11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim O'Flaherty regarding eliminating excessive punishment for minor parking offences**
- 11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding market charges and parking**
- 11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding local pharmacies throughout the borough**
- 11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector**
- 11.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Sirajul Islam regarding condemning homophobia and prejudice**
- 11.13 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding proliferation of Tescos**
- 11.14 Motion submitted by Councillor Abdul Munim regarding housing crisis**
- 11.15 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding support for Lifelong Learning**

The meeting ended at 10.55 p.m.