

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 8.05 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2017

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

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Shafi Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Andrew Cregan	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Julia Dockerill	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Gulam Robbani
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Andrew Wood

The Speaker of the Council Khales Uddin Ahmed in the Chair

1. ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Before commencing his address, the Speaker of the Council welcomed to the Council meeting, Unmesh Desai, the Greater London Authority Member for the City and East London Constituency

He was also sad to report that former Councillor Ashek Ali passed away in April. He was the first elected Bangladeshi Labour Councillor in Tower Hamlets. The Council's thoughts and wishes were with his family and friends at this time.

The Speaker of the Council stated that he was grateful to have had this opportunity to serve as Speaker over the previous year and had enjoyed the

experience very much. He reported that he had received overwhelming support from the community at the many events he had supported and was proud to have had the honour of recognising the achievements of citizens at the Civic Awards ceremony.

He had held two successful events to raise money for his charities. He hoped to raise around £50,000 for his charities. These were the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Apasen, SOUL (the Social Organisation for Unity and Leisure) and the BBPI Foundation. He thanked all those who had supported these events, especially the Canary Wharf Group, who had supported the Speaker over many years, fellow Councillors and the newly established Speaker's Cadets. He hoped that future Speakers would continue with this initiative. He expressed support for the campaign to make Tower Hamlets a Royal Borough given its special features and hoped that the Deputy Lieutenant for Tower Hamlets, Leslie Morgan would continue to work for this. Finally, he wished his successor good luck and thanked staff for supporting him during the year.

The Mayor John Biggs and the Opposition Group Leaders then responded to the Speaker's address. They thanked him for all his hard work over the previous year and for presenting a positive image of the Borough to the community. It was clear from his time in Office that he cared passionately and was very dedicated to the Borough. They also congratulated him on his charitable fundraising, his community work, especially his work with the young Mayors, and the manner in which he had presided over Council meetings.

The Speaker then called for nominations to serve as Speaker of the Council for the coming year.

It was **moved** by Mayor John Biggs, **seconded** by Councillor Rachael Saunders, and:

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Sabina Akhtar be elected to serve as Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council Meeting in May 2018.

Mayor John Biggs and Councillor Rachael Saunders then came forward to witness the Speaker of the Council signing the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Sabina Akhtar in the Chair

The incoming Speaker, Councillor Sabina Akhtar thanked the Council for electing her as Speaker. She reported that she would be one of the youngest Councillors and the first ever Bengali woman to hold the position. She hoped that this achievement would inspire the younger generation to play an active role in politics.

In the year ahead she would be working to encourage citizens to participate in the life of the borough especially young people. For this reason, she had chosen the following charities to support this year: The Tower Hamlets Education Support in Sylhet Trust, the Boundary Employment Project, the Stifford Centre Trust, the Docklands Sailing Centre Trust and Wise Youth Trust. She would be supported by her husband and her family. She hoped to raise as much money as possible for her charities. However, she stated that she would not be setting a specific fund raising target so as not to detract from her primary goal of providing a link between the Council and the community.

The respective political leaders and other Councillors then congratulated Councillor Akhtar on her appointment.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker sought nominations to serve as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year. It was **moved** by Mayor John Biggs, **seconded** by Councillor Sirajul Islam, and:

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Ayas Miah be elected to serve as Deputy Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council meeting in May 2018.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of

- Councillor Candida Ronald

4. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 March 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

6. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On behalf of the Council, the Speaker of the Council thanked Aman Dalvi, who would shortly retire from the Authority, for his services as the Corporate Director Place, and formerly Corporate Director, Development and Renewal. She advised that Mr Dalvi arrived at the Council in February 2009 with many years of experience in housing and urban regeneration. His notable achievements included securing the regeneration of both the Ocean Estate and Blackwall Reach as well as embarking on an ambitious house building programme.

The Mayor, Opposition Groups Leaders and fellow Councillors also paid tribute to Mr Dalvi, praising his contributions and achievements.

The Council wished him well for the future.

7. MAYOR'S CABINET AND EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Governance and Interim Monitoring Officer (circulated in a supplementary agenda) setting out the Mayor's Cabinet appointments and other arrangements in respect of Executive Decision Making.

The recommendation was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED

1. That the Mayor's Executive Decision Making scheme be noted.

8. PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Governance and Interim Monitoring Officer proposing the establishment of the Council's committees for 2017/18 and setting out the review of proportionality and the allocation of places on those Committees and sub committees.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was resolved:

RESOLVED

That the Council agrees:

1. The review of proportionality as at section 3 of the report and the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels for the Municipal Year 2017/18 as set out at paragraph 4.2 of the report.
2. The Committees and Sub-Committees established for the municipal year 2017/18, and places be allocated on those Committees and Sub-Committees, as set out at paragraph 4.2 of the report.

3. To note the proposed arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees.

9. COMMITTEE CALENDAR 2017/18

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Governance and Interim Monitoring Officer setting out a revised calendar of meetings for the Council, Committees and other meetings for the municipal year 2017/18.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

1. That the proposed amended calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2017/18 be approved as set out in Appendix A of the report.
2. That the Corporate Director Governance be delegated the authority to agree meeting dates for any new Committees or Panels that are set up subsequent to this report being presented to Council, subject to appropriate consultation with Members.

10. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director of Governance and Interim Monitoring Officer regarding the appointment of members to the Council's Committees and Panels, and Chairs where appropriate, including those established under item 8 above. The list of nominations received was tabled at the meeting.

Following the receipt of two nominations for the position of Chair of the Pensions Committee, the nominations were put to the vote and Councillor Clare Harrison was elected to that position.

In addition, at the meeting the Independent Group asked that Councillor Mahbub Alam be added as their representative on the Grants Scrutiny Sub – Committee.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

1. That members and substitute members be appointed to the committees and sub-committees of the Council and other bodies for the municipal year 2017/18 as set out in the list of tabled nominations as amended at the meeting .

2. That the Chairs of Committees for 2017/18 be appointed from amongst the list of tabled nomination subject to the appointment of Councillor Clare Harrison to the position of Chair of the Pensions Committee.
3. That in relation to any unfilled places within the seats allocated to a particular political group, the Council note that the Corporate Director, Governance has delegated authority subsequently to agree the appointments to those places in accordance with nominations from the relevant political group.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

Speaker of the Council