

# **LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**At the Annual Meeting of the COUNCIL of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets held at the TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON E14 2BG on WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2003**

**No. 394**

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Salim Ullah, Mayor, in the Chair

Councillor Helal Abbas

Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Councillor Manir Ahmed

Councillor Rofique Ahmed

Councillor Alan Amos

Councillor Abdul Asad

Councillor Richard Brooks

Councillor Bethelene Chattopadhyay

Councillor Jainal Chowdhury

Councillor Barrie Duffey

Councillor Judith Gardiner

Councillor Ray Gipson

Councillor John Griffiths

Councillor Shafiqul Haque

Councillor Sirajul Islam

Councillor Denise Jones

Councillor Michael Keith

Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan

Councillor Khaled Reza Khan

Councillor Janet Ludlow

Councillor Abdul Matin

Councillor Rajib Ahmed

Councillor Nigel McCollum

Councillor Ashton McGregor

Councillor Fanu Miah

Councillor Kevin Morton

Councillor Ghulam Mortuza

Councillor Timothy O'Flaherty

Councillor Hilary Phelps

Councillor Akikur Rahman

Councillor Helal Rahman

Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Councillor Martin Rew

Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique

Councillor Mumtaz Samad

Councillor James Sanderson

Councillor A A Sardar

Councillor Julian Sharpe

Councillor Abdus Shukur

Councillor Brian Son

Councillor Shahab Uddin

Councillor Doros Ullah

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Councillor Marian Williams

## **OPENING OF MEETING**

Councillor Salim Ullah welcomed everyone to the meeting. He outlined his achievements during the past year, including raising approximately £18,000 for his charities and thanked everyone for the wonderful support they had given him throughout his year as Mayor.

Councillor Abbas thanked the outgoing Mayor for the good work he had done on behalf of the Borough. He said he had represented the Borough on a number of projects and organisations and the work he had done had been a credit to him. He also expressed his thanks to the Deputy Lieutenant, John Ludgate, who had also done a tremendous amount to promote the borough and to support the Civic Awards Scheme.

1. **TO ELECT A MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN 2004**

Councillor Abbas, seconded by Councillor Jones, moved the nomination of Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar of 38 Biscott House, Devas Street, London E2 as Mayor. By a vote of 31 in favour and none it against it was

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar of 38 Biscott House, Devas Street, London E2, be appointed Mayor to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2004.

**Councillor A A Sardar, Mayor, in the Chair**

Councillor Sardar then took his place on the dias and presented the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Ullah, with a Past Mayor's Badge. In the presence of the mover and seconder of the motion, Councillors Abbas and Jones, the Mayor then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Sardar addressed the meeting, thanking those present for the honour they had bestowed on him in appointing him as Mayor. He thanked the outgoing Mayor for all his hard work and said he had done a great job in raising money for the borough and raising its profile. He said he was looking forward to meeting all sectors of the community and wanted to use his term of office to promote a more inclusive society in Tower Hamlets. He said he was committed to making Tower Hamlets a safe and pleasant place in which to work and live.

2. **TO APPOINT A DEPUTY MAYOR TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN 2004**

Councillor Abbas, seconded by Councillor Jones, moved the appointment of Councillor Manir Uddin Ahmed of 11 Foley House, Tarling Street, London, E1 as Deputy Mayor. By a vote of 31 in favour and none it against it was

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Manir Uddin Ahmed of 11 Foley House, Tarling Street, London E2 be appointed as Deputy Mayor to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2004.

3 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chief Executive reported that apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillors Edgar, Mainwaring and Alexander. Apologies had been received for lateness from Councillor Gipson.

4 **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PROCEDURES AT MEETINGS**

4.1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4.2 To note the method of voting.

The Mayor said that, as usual, voting would be by show of hands and formal vote.

5 **MINUTES**

5.1 To approve as an accurate record, the draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

**RESOLVED**

That, with the addition to the final paragraph on page 16, fourth line down of the words ‘for residential development in a commercial area’ after the word ‘floors’, the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5.2 To approve as an accurate record the draft minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2003

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

6 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

6.1 Council Meetings

The Mayor referred to the tabled schedule of proposed meeting dates for the Council in 2003/4. He also reminded Members of the extraordinary meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That the schedule of dates for the Council in 2003/04 be agreed.
- 2) To note the date of the extraordinary meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

6.2 MATT - Statement by the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive made a statement relating to MATT. She also referred to an independent investigation commissioned by the Council, a police investigation and separate action by the Labour Party involving the suspension of three Members of the Labour Group.

The Chief Executive stated that she had been advised by lawyers to remind Members of the absolute need for confidentiality in relation to MATT, in the light of the police investigation and she therefore asked Members to respect the sensitivity of this matter and exercise restraint by not discussing it nor making statements about it at the meeting as such a discussion could have the effect of prejudicing the investigation and as such could not be deemed to be in the public interest.

7 **TO ELECT THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Election of Leader

Councillor Julian Sharpe, seconded by Councillor Helal Rahman, moved the appointment of Councillor Helal Abbas as Leader of the Council.

By a vote of 31 for and 0 against it was

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Helal Abbas be elected as Leader of the Council to hold office from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2003 until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2004.

Election of Deputy Leader

Councillor Julian Sharpe, seconded by Councillor Helal Rahman, moved the appointment of Councillor Denise Jones as Deputy Leader of the Council.

By a vote of 31 for and 0 against it was

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Denise Jones be elected as Deputy Leader of the Council to hold office from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2003 until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2004.

8 **TO CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CABINET AND TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE CABINET**

Councillor Abbas, seconded by Councillor Jones, moved and by a vote of 31 for and 0 against it was

**RESOLVED**

That the Cabinet should comprise of ten Members and that those Members set out in the schedule tabled, with the named portfolios, be appointed as follows:

Councillor Helal Abbas	-	Leader of the Council
Councillor Denise Jones	-	Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Lutfur Rahman	-	Lead Member, Education
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	-	Lead Member, Environment
Councillor Betheline Chattopadhyay	-	Lead Member, Equalities and Social Exclusion
Councillor Richard Brooks	-	Lead Member, Finance and Audit
Councillor David Edgar	-	Lead Member, Housing
Councillor Helal Rahman	-	Lead Member, Leisure
Councillor Michael Keith	-	Lead Member, Regeneration & Community Partnership
Councillor Sirajul Islam	-	Lead Member, Social Services

9 **TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES/PANELS**

Councillor Abbas, seconded by Councillor Jones, moved

"(1) That the Council reconstitute the Cabinet and all existing Committees/Panels, with their current membership and terms of reference, save that the following be varied as shown:

<b><u>Committee/Panel</u></b>	<b><u>Existing membership</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed membership</u></b>
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8	9
Appeals Committee	8	10

(2) That the quorum for meetings of the Appeals Committee be "no less than three Members".

(3) That the Council's Constitution and Code of Corporate Governance be amended accordingly."

On a vote of 31 for and 0 against it was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Council reconstitute the Cabinet and all existing Committees/Panels, with their current membership and terms of reference, save that the following be varied as shown:

<u>Committee/Panel</u>	<u>Existing membership</u>	<u>Proposed membership</u>
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8	9
Appeals Committee	8	10

2. That the quorum for meetings of the Appeals Committee be "no less than three Members".
3. That the Council's Constitution and Code of Corporate Governance be amended accordingly."

10. **TO REVIEW THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES TO POLITICAL GROUPS.**

It was moved by Councillor Abbas and seconded by Councillor Jones and

**RESOLVED**

That the tabled review of the allocation of seats on Committees to political groups be agreed (appendix 1 of these minutes).

11. **TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEES/PANELS**

Councillor Abbas, seconded by Councillor Jones moved the appointment of Labour Group Members to Standing Committees/Panels as per the tabled schedule.

Councillor Ludlow, seconded by Councillor Barry Duffey, moved the appointment of Liberal Democrat Members to Standing Committees/Panels as per the tabled schedule.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

That the appointments to Standing Committees and Panels be agreed as per the tabled schedule (appendix 2 to these minutes).

12 **TO APPOINT CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES/  
PANELS.**

Councillor Abbas, seconded by Councillor Jones, moved the tabled schedule of appointments and by a vote of 31 for and 0 against it was -

**RESOLVED**

That the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs be agreed as per the tabled schedule (appendix 3 to these minutes).

13 **TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO EXTERNAL  
BODIES.**

Councillor Ohid Ahmed declared an interest as an employee of Leaside Regeneration.

At the suggestion of the Mayor, Members agreed all the appointments where a vote was not required. Councillor Abbas withdrew the nomination of Councillor Helal Rahman for Bethnal Green & Victoria Park Housing Association leaving Councillor John Griffiths as the sole nominee. Councillor Williams' nomination to the Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust was withdrawn. Councillor McCollum questioned whether the Council still needed to appoint to the Asia Urbs organisation and the Leader, Councillor Abbas, confirmed that it did. In response to a question from Councillor Sanderson concerning the number of representatives on Tower Hamlets Community Housing, Councillor Abbas confirmed that if there was one too many Labour nominees, he would ask one of his Labour colleagues to stand down. The Mayor then took a vote on those appointments where there were more nominations than places vacant. Voting was as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Labour group nominations Councillor</b>			<b>Liberal Democrat group nominations Councillor</b>		
Asia Urbs	R U Ahmed K R Khan	31 31		N McCollum	14	
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood	D Jones A Asad	31 31		H Phelps	14	
Bethnal Green Training Centre	G Mortuza H Rahman	30 31		J Sanderson	14	
Cityside Regeneration Ltd	F Miah S Haque	31 31		T O'Flaherty	14	
Futures Charitable Trust	L Rahman	30		R Ahmed	14	
Greenwich & Docklands Festivals	O Ahmed R Brooks	31 31		L Alexander	14	
Leeside Regeneration Co Ltd	D Edgar A McGregor	30 30		J Ludlow	14	
Leeside Partnership Board SRB6	M A Salique	30		J Ludlow	14	
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	J Gardiner K R Khan (dep)	31		R Gipson	14	
London Arts	D Jones H Rahman	31 30		L Alexander H Phelps	14 14	
Mile End Park Partnership Company	D Jones H Rahman	31 30		M Rew	14	
New Beginnings New Settlements	K R Khan F Miah G Mortuza	30 30 30		R Ahmed A R Khan	14 14	



Ocean New Deal for Communities	R U Ahmed M S Uddin	31 31		J Chowdhury R Ahmed	13 12	
Oxford House	S Ullah			A Rahman		
Rich Mix Cultural Foundation	M Keith F Miah	31 31		L Alexander	14	
Spitalfields Market Community Trust	H Abbas G Mortuza L Rahman	31 31 31		L Alexander	14	
SRB 5 - Bethnal Green Local Area Board	S Islam S Ullah	31 31		A Rahman J Sanderson	14 14	
Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust	M S Uddin S Ullah	31 31		N McCollum	14	
Tower Hamlets/ Canary Wharf Further Education Trust	L Rahman A Asad	31 31		H Phelps	14	
The Henderson Charity	Ms C Tuitt	31		T O'Flaherty	14	
Tower Hamlets College	H Rahman	31		H Phelps	14	
Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust	S Islam	31		T O'Flaherty	14	
Whitechapel Art Gallery	M Keith	29		N Mc Collum	15	
Women's Library Council	D Jones	31		L Alexander	15	

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

That the appointments to external bodies be made as per the attached list (appendix 4) & for the contested places as per the voting in the above list.

**END OF MEETING**

The Mayor thanked those present for attending the meeting. He invited everyone to join him on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor for refreshments.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm