

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2014

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

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Clare Harrisson
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Alibor 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
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	

The meeting commenced at 7.34 p.m.

The Speaker of the Council, Lesley Pavitt, in the Chair

1. ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Speaker of the Council, Lesley Pavitt, addressed the meeting about her year in office.

Before commencing her address, the Speaker invited Commander John Ludgate, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, to speak on the subject of the 70th commemoration ceremony of the D-Day landings, which took place on 6th June 1944.

The Speaker then reported to the Council on the many wonderful events she had attended during the year and the many examples of good work in the borough she had witnessed. In relation to the Borough's senior citizens, she reported she had particularly enjoyed visiting their events, social clubs and tea dances.

Former Councillor Pavitt explained that she had been to a wide range of events with too many highlights to mention them all. Examples included, seeing the work of the carers centre providing support to carers in the community, visiting Ability Bow and seeing the inspirational gym performances of their disabled visitors, and many wonderful sports events, concerts and the civic awards ceremony. She thanked all the Councillors who had supported the various events throughout the year.

The Speaker also reported on her attendance at Citizenship Ceremonies where it had been a pleasure to meet the new citizens. She recommended these events as something all Councillors should attend at least once a year.

Reporting on her work for her two charities, Magic Me and Cardboard Citizens, she stated that she had enjoyed offering support to their work over the year, in particular at the Speaker's Ball. In total she had raised over £25,000 for her charities. She thanked everyone who had helped including Canary Wharf Group for their support for the Speaker's Ball.

Former Councillor Pavitt further reported on her visits outside of the Borough and links with other civic leaders throughout London. In particular, she had enjoyed inviting all the civic leaders for a tour of the Borough and she thanked Councillor Peter Golds for acting as tour guide.

Finally, she thanked all those who had supported her through her year, in particular Patricia Attawia and everyone in Member Support and her drivers.

The respective political group leaders and Mayor Rahman in turn each responded to the Speaker's address and recorded their thanks to her for the dignified and fair way in which she had discharged her duties over the past year.

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

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

RESOLVED

That Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE be elected to serve as Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council Meeting in May 2015.

Councillors Rachael Saunders and John Pierce then came forward to witness the Speaker of the Council signing the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE, in the Chair

The incoming speaker thanked Former Councillor Lesley Pavitt for her hard work over the last year and thanked those who had supported his nomination as Speaker. He said it was an honour to be the Speaker, a role with a long history but still so important to our community today. As Speaker he would make it his role to ensure that everyone had a voice and could help shape the community.

He stated that he looked forward to working with Councillors on all sides and that he would be firm but fair in Council meetings. In particular he called on all Councillors and visitors to avoid interrupting the meeting and to show respect to all participants.

He reported that he would be working to raise funds for the Tower Hamlets Food Bank, a very worthy organisation that worked to ensure families did not go hungry.

Finally, Councillor Mukit reported that his wife and daughter would be his official consorts for the year.

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 Councillor Shiria Khatun, **seconded** by Councillor Danny Hassell, and:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed be elected to serve as Deputy Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council meeting in May 2015.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

5. MINUTES**RESOLVED**

That the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 March 2014 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

There were no announcements.

7. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP, REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

The Council considered the tabled report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, setting out the review of proportionality and proposing the establishment of the Council's committees for 2014/15.

RESOLVED

1. That the Membership of the Authority and review of proportionality as set out in the tabled report of the Service Head, Democratic Services be noted.
2. That committees and panels be established for the Municipal Year 2014/15, and places be allocated on those committees and panels, as set out in Paragraph 4.2 of the report.

8. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered the tabled report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, setting out the nominations to committees and panels of the Council as notified by the political groups.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee Chairs for 2014/15 be appointed as listed in Appendix A to the tabled report of the Service Head, Democratic Services.
2. That the members and deputy members be appointed to the committees and panels of the Council and other bodies for the municipal year 2014/15 as set out in Appendix B to the tabled report of the Service Head, Democratic Services.

3. That in relation to any unfilled places within the seats allocated to a particular political group, the Council note that the Director of Law, Probity and Governance has delegated authority subsequently to agree the appointments to those places in accordance with nominations from the relevant political group.

9. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services along with tabled amendments to the meeting dates.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the tabled amendments, the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2014/15 be approved.

10. APPOINTMENT OF POLITICAL ADVISORS

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services concerning the appointment of political advisors to support the political groups represented on the Council.

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Shiria Khatun **seconded**, a set of amended recommendations to the report. After discussion the amended recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the Council agree to re-establish for the duration of the current administration, posts of political assistant (known as Political Advisors) to those political groups that qualify for such a post in accordance with Section 9 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
2. That this should be on the basis of 1 FTE post for each of the Labour Group and the Tower Hamlets First Group.
3. That, should the Conservative Group increase in size to at least 5 Councillors, a 0.5 FTE post be then allocated to that group.

11. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP AND EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

A report was tabled setting out the Mayor's Executive Scheme of Delegation including the Executive appointments made by the Mayor.

RESOLVED

That the Mayor's Executive Scheme of Delegation be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.07 p.m.

Speaker of the Council