

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 8.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2015

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

Members Present:

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

Note on attendance:

The following were in attendance only at the meeting on 20 May 2015:

- Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Councillor Mahbub Alam, Councillor Chris Chapman and Councillor Rabina Khan.

The following were in attendance only at the meeting on 24 June 2015:

- Mayor John Biggs, Councillor Suluk Ahmed, Councillor Sabina Akhtar, Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Councillor Abjol Miah, Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah and Councillor Gulam Robbani.

Note on Adjournment and order of business

The order of business was varied from the printed agenda by the Council during the meeting. In addition, the meeting was adjourned at 7.35 p.m. on 20th May 2015 and reconvened, following the Mayoral and Stepney Green Ward by-elections, at 8.00 p.m. on 24th June 2015.

For ease of reference these minutes list the agenda items in the same order as the agenda. Where relevant, each agenda item records the proceedings and/or decisions taken at both sessions of the meeting.

Note on Nomination of Chair to preside over election of Speaker

Councillor M.A Mukit (Speaker) and Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed (Deputy Speaker) remained outside the meeting until the Council had elected a Speaker.

The Service Head, Democratic Services opened the meeting and sought nominations for a Councillor to temporarily Chair the meeting to preside over the election of the Speaker.

It was **moved** by Councillor Rachael Saunders, **seconded** by Councillor Shiria Khatun, and:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Rajib Ahmed be elected to chair the meeting for the election of the Speaker.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE, in the Chair**1. ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

Following the re-election of Councillor M. A. Mukit to serve as Speaker for the municipal year 2015-16 at the Annual Council meeting held on 20th May 2015, the Service Head Democratic Services invited Councillor Mukit to address the meeting about his year in office.

He reported that it had been a wonderful experience and a great privilege to serve as the Speaker over the year affording him the opportunity to attend many events with fellow civic colleagues. He had tried his best to attend as many as possible. There were so many unique experiences worth highlighting including: attending the Queen's Garden Party, the local government anniversary event at Westminster Abbey and the London Mayor's and Borough Mayors services. Other activities included raising money for the Poppy Appeal, participating in charity events, visiting Bangladesh to promote joint initiatives, welcoming esteemed visitors to the Borough from all over the world and celebrating cultural and educational achievements.

The Speaker also reported on his attendance of the recent civic awards ceremony, praising the work of the volunteers honoured who gave their time to community work.

Regarding his chosen charity, the Tower Hamlets Foodbank, he expressed gratitude for the kind contributions to the project. In particular, he thanked staff for contributing so generously to their Christmas appeal. He had worked hard to support the charity. He also referred to the Speaker's Charity Ball and his tour of Tower Hamlets with London Borough Mayors. In total, he had raised over £30,000 for his charity.

Finally, he thanked all those who had supported him throughout the year. This included colleagues, residents, his wife and daughter who had accompanied him as his consorts at events, as well as Council staff, particularly Patricia Attawia and everyone in Member Support and his drivers.

The respective political group leaders and the Mayor in turn each responded to the Speaker's address, sharing some of their own favourite memories of his year in office and praising the personal quality that he brought to the role. They also congratulated him on his achievements over the year and thanked him for being a fantastic ambassador of the Borough.

The Speaker of the Council then addressed the meeting on his plans for his second year in office. He stated that it was a great honour to be re - elected for a second year running giving him more time to do all the things he wanted to do. He had chosen to support two charities during the forthcoming year in office. These were Mind in Tower Hamlets, that delivered a programme of services to people with mental health needs and the Surjamuki Project that provided services for young Asian people with moderate disabilities. He hoped that the Council would join him in supporting these charities. He also reported that once again, his wife and daughter would be his consorts for the year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Mahbub Alam
- Councillor Rabina Khan
- Councillor Chris Chapman
- Councillor Ohid Ahmed

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held on 15th April 2015 were confirmed at the Annual Council meeting held on 20th May 2015.

5. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL

The Speaker of the Council welcomed the new Mayor John Biggs and invited him to address the meeting.

The Mayor began by wishing all a happy Ramadan. He then listed some of his early achievements since taking up office and his aspirations for the future.

Following the Mayor's address, the Speaker welcomed the new Councillor for Stepney Green Ward, Councillor Sabina Akhter to her first Council meeting. The Speaker also congratulated Councillor Peter Golds on his award of CBE in the recent honours list.

6. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker sought nominations to serve as Deputy Speaker of the Council following Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed's resignation from this position.

It was **moved** by Councillor Sirajul Islam, **seconded** by Councillor Shiria Khatun, and:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Rajib Ahmed be elected to serve as Deputy Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council for the municipal year 2015/16.

7. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, setting out the review of proportionality and proposing the establishment of the Council's committees and allocation of seats on these Committees for 2015/16 as set out in the supplemental pack for the 24th June 2015 Council meeting.

The recommendations were put to the vote were **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

1. That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 of the report be noted and the Council agree allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2015/16 as set out at paragraph 4.2 of the Committee report.
2. To note that Member and deputy appointments to serve on those committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups will be considered at Agenda Item 9 'Appointments to Committees and Panels'.

8. DCLG COMMISSIONERS DECISION MAKING

There was no business to be transacted under this agenda item.

9. 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.

Following the receipt of two nominations for the position of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the nominations were put to the vote and Councillor John Pierce was elected to that position.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committees Chairs for 2015/16 be appointed as listed at Appendix A to the tabled report of the Service Head, Democratic Services subject to the appointment of Councillor John Pierce to the position of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. That the members and deputy members be appointed to the committees and panels of the Council and other bodies for the municipal year 2015/16 as set out at 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.

10. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services concerning the appointment of Co-opted Member to the Standards Advisory Committee as set out in the supplemental pack for the 20th May 2015 Council meeting

Following debate, the recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

That pursuant to (i) the decision of the Council on 25th February 2015 that Mr Daniel McLaughlin be appointed as a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee in the event of any further vacancy arising for a co-opted member during the municipal year to May 2015; and (ii) the resignation of Mr Barry O'Connor on 18th March 2015 giving rise to such a vacancy; the Council note the appointment of Mr Daniel McLaughlin as a co-opted member of the

Standards Advisory Committee for a four year term of office from 20th May 2015.

11. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2015/16

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 2015/16 be approved.

12. COUNCIL SCHEME OF DELEGATION 2015/16

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services regarding the Council's Scheme of Delegation as set out in the supplementary pack for the 20th May 2015 Council meeting agenda.

RESOLVED

That the the scheme of delegation be agreed as set out in those sections of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution that relate to Council functions, for the municipal year 2015/16 or until a further decision of the Council, whichever is the sooner.

13. EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Mayor's report, setting out the Executive Scheme of Delegation and Cabinet appointments, was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED

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

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

Speaker of the Council