



**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY  
(ORDINARY MEETING)**

MINUTES of the Open section of the meeting of the Council Assembly meeting held on WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY 2004 at 7.00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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**PRESENT:**

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Columba Blango

Councillor Alfred Banya	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Michael Barnard	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Beverley Bassom	Councillor Kenny Mizzi
Councillor Paul Bates	Councillor Alison Moise
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Catriona Moore
Councillor David Bradbury	Councillor Vicky Naish
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Gavin O'Brien
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Dr. Abdur-Rahman Olayiwola
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor Michelle Pearce
Councillor Stephen Flannery	Councillor Caroline Pidgeon
Councillor John Friary	Councillor Richard Porter
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Mark Pursey
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Aubyn Graham	Councillor Tony Ritchie
Councillor James Gurling	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Andrew Simmons
Councillor Alun Hayes	Councillor Tayo Situ
Councillor Jeffrey Hook	Councillor Bob Skelly
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Robert Smeath
Councillor Kim Humphreys	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Jonathan Hunt	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Richard Thomas
Councillor Billy Kayada	Councillor Dominic Thorncroft
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Jelil Lapido	Councillor Neil Watson
Councillor Lorraine Lauder	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Danny McCarthy	Councillor Sarah Welfare
Councillor Dermot McInerney	Councillor Lorraine Zuleta
Councillor Linda Manchester	Councillor Anne Yates

## **1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

### **1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Mayor reported that one current Councillor, Maggie Ambrose and two former Councillors, Graham Nash and Debbie Welch had died since the last meeting.

Councillor Ambrose had represented East Walworth Ward since May 2002 and had a long record of community service with the Heygate Tenants Association, the Elephant Links Community Forum and the Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations.

Former Councillor Debbie Welch had been a well known community advocate and was a former Deputy Leader of the Council and Liddle Ward representative.

Former Councillor Graham Nash had been a Bricklayers Ward member from 1990 to 2002 representing both the Liberal Democrat and Labour parties.

Councillors Denise Capstick, Ian Wingfield and Kim Humphreys paid tribute to Graham Nash.

Councillors Danny McCarthy, Tony Ritchie, Michelle Pearce and Aubyn Graham paid tribute to Debbie Welch.

Councillors Mick Barnard, Lorraine Zuleta, Catherine Bowman, Graham Neale, Demot McInerney and Kim Humphreys paid tribute to Maggie Ambrose.

All present observed a one-minute silence in memory of Maggie Ambrose, Debbie Welch and Graham Nash.

The Mayor also added his congratulations to two persons with Southwark connections who had been recognised in the New Year Honours List. Mrs Diane Crouch, a Teaching Assistant at Friary Primary School had received an OBE for services to education. Charles Edward Robson had been given an MBE for services to the local community.

### **1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS AS URGENT**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor Vicky Naish declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Item 8.3:Standards Boards Findings as a Ward Councillor.

Councillors Jonathan Hunt and Peter John both declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Item 8.10:Greendale as members of the Dulwich Hamlet Supporters Trust.

Councillor Mark Glover declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Motion 8.11: Communication Strategy as his employer used to be retained by Southwark.

### **1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor William Rowe. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Lewis Robinson and Stephen Flannery.

## **2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Open Minutes of the Ordinary Council Assembly meetings held on Wednesday 26th November 2003 be agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting subject to the following amendments:

Page 8 Item 7.6 should read 'Neale'.

Page 10 Item 7.9 should read 'Charlie Smith'.

## **3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (see page 1 )**

Two members of the public submitted questions and one was present to ask a supplemental question of the Executive Member for Regeneration. A copy of the questions and answers is attached as Appendix 1.

## **4. DEPUTATION REQUESTS**

### **4.1 DEPUTATION REQUEST : BLACK AWARENESS GROUP (see pages 2-3)**

Council Assembly agreed to accept the deputation. Members were addressed by the deputation's spokesperson, Mr. Raymond Stevenson, following which Councillors Dominic Thorncroft, Vicky Naish, and Jonathan Hunt asked questions.

The Mayor indicated he would refer the points made by the delegation to Officers.

## **5. MEMBERS QUESTION TIME (see pages 4 - 11, and blue and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)**

Urgent questions were submitted by Councillors Ian Wingfield and Kim Humphreys to the Leader of the Council. A copy of the questions and answers is attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Forty questions were submitted and answers to thirty nine were circulated around the chamber on yellow paper. Question 37 was withdrawn. Within the time available, 29 supplementary questions were asked. A copy of the questions and answers is attached as Appendix 3 to these minutes.

## **6. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE FOR INFORMATION**

### **6.1 REPORT BACK ON CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY (see pages 12-19)**

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received.

## **7. OTHER REPORTS**

### **7.1 THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2004/05 (see pages 20 – 37)**

The Mayor formally moved the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Michelle Pearce, seconded by Councillor Andy Simmons, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Lorraine Zuleta, Dermot McInerney and Graham Neale), Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Councillor Toby Eckersley, seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys, moved Amendment B. With the consent of the meeting the mover added the following text to his amendment:

“and that the figures in Paragraph 2 be amended accordingly”.

Following debate (Councillors Nick Stanton and Michelle Pearce), Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:** 1. That the Council Tax collection rate for 2004/2005 be estimated at 97.5 % and that the figures in Paragraph 2 be amended accordingly.

2. That the formal resolution and calculations shown in Appendices D to H be approved and the Council Tax Base for 2004/2005 be set at:

For the parish of St. Mary Newington	12,867.22
For the parish of St. Saviour's	1,065.10
For the whole of the borough excluding the parishes of St. Mary Newington and St. Saviour's	74,133.97
For the whole borough	88,066.29

3. That the “second homes discount” be reduced to the statutory minimum of 10% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004.

4. That the long term void Council Tax discount be abolished with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004.

## **7.2 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH** (see pages 38 - 42)

The Mayor formally moved the recommendations contained within the report.

Following debate (Councillors Kim Humphreys, David Hubber, Danny McCarthy, Aubyn Graham, Tony Ritchie, Alun Hayes and Kenny Mizzi), the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:** That the award of Freedom of the Borough be made to Douglas Bartles-Smith, and Norman Grigg.

## **8. MOTIONS** (see pages 43 to 57 and Supplemental Agenda No.1)

### **8.1 MOTION NO.1 – ALG SCRUTINY NETWORK** (see page 44)

Councillor Kim Humphreys, seconded by Councillor David Bradbury, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Eliza Mann and Ian Wingfield) the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:** That the Leader of the Council be requested to support moves to formally establish the ALG Scrutiny Network as a committee of the ALG.

**8.2 MOTION NO.2 – HEYGATE ESTATE** (see pages 44-45 and Supplemental Agenda no.1)

Councillor Paul Bates, seconded by Councillor Ian Wingfield, moved the motion.

Councillor Catherine Bowman, seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Andy Simmons, Graham Neale, Peter John, James Gurling, Danny McCarthy, Michelle Pearce, Kim Humphreys, Beverley Bassom and Tony Ritchie), Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Council believes that regeneration of the entire Elephant and Castle area is vital for the economic success of Southwark, and that a successful masterplan will have London-wide implications in terms of economic and social development.
  2. Council further believes that 30 years of neglect by previous administrations has left the fabric of the Heygate Estate in a deplorable condition.
  3. Consequently, Council instructs officers to bring a report to Executive indicating how the plan to build new, local, high quality homes for Heygate tenants and residents can be expedited.
  4. Council notes the unprecedented amount of consultation that has already been undertaken on the Heygate and instructs officers to report to the Executive how the Council can continue to ensure that residents are fully consulted on all relevant issues relating to provision of their new homes.

**Note:** The above resolution stands referred to the Executive for consideration.

**Note:** In accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.17 (5) the following Members requested that their vote against the substantive motion be recorded:- Councillors Alfred Banya, Mick Barnard, Paul Bates, Fiona Colley, Dora Dixon-Fyle, John Friary, Norma Gibbes, Mark Glover, Aubyn Graham, Barrie Hargrove, Alun Hayes, Peter John, Billy Kayada, Lorraine Lauder, Adbul Mohamed, Alison Moise, Vicky Naish, Michelle Pearce, Tony Ritchie, Andy Simmons, Tayo Situ, Robert Smeath, Charlie Smith, Dominic Thorncroft, Veronica Ward, Sarah Welfare and Ian Wingfield.

**8.3 MOTION No.3 - STANDARDS BOARD FINDINGS** - (see page 45 and Supplemental Agenda No.1)

Councillor Mark Pursey, seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Jonathan Hunt, Danny McCarthy, Dermot McInerney, Kim Humphreys, David Hubber and Tony Ritchie), the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Council notes with disapproval that the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group has been found by the Standards Board for England of using council resources for political gain.
  2. Council notes that Cllr Wingfield was investigated by the Standards Board for two separate offences. In December 2002 he wrote to all Tenants and Residents Associations in Southwark at the council's expense. In the same month, Cllr Wingfield used Council resources to send a Brunswick Park 'Winter Report' to those living in his ward. Both mailings were designed to affect support for the Labour Group.
  3. Council notes that the Members' Code of Conduct clearly prohibits members from using council resources for political purposes and that both investigations by the Standards Board found that "Cllr Wingfield therefore failed to comply with this protocol.....in breach of the code of conduct".
  4. Council notes the advice of the District Auditor that "the most appropriate course of action ... could include seeking a voluntary repayment of the money spent by the Council..."
  5. Council therefore calls on Cllr Wingfield to make a public apology to Southwark residents.

**Note:** In accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.17 (5) the following Members requested that their vote in abstention on the motion be recorded:- Councillors Toby Eckersley, Kim Humphreys, Kenny Mizzi and Lewis Robinson.

**8.4 MOTION NO.4 – LEASEHOLDERS** (see pages 45 – 46)

This item was withdrawn.

**8.5 MOTION No.5 – PARKS SERVICE** (see pages 46 – 47)

This motion was not considered and in accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.13 (6) will be referred to the Council Assembly meeting on Wednesday 18th February 2004.

**8.6 MOTION No.6 - TUITION FEES** (see pages 47-48)

This motion was not considered and in accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.13 (6) will be referred to the Council Assembly meeting on Wednesday 18th February 2004.

**8.7 MOTION No.7 – EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION** (see pages 49 – 50)

This motion was not considered and in accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.13 (6) will be referred to the Council Assembly meeting on Wednesday 18th February 2004.

**8.8 MOTION No.8 - STREET WARDENS** (see pages 50-51)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Alfred Banya and seconded by Councillor Barrie Hargrove.

In accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.13 (5), Council Assembly signified that the motion was unopposed. The motion was therefore declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:** 1. That the Council is committed to high standards for its Street Wardens schemes and therefore welcomes the Government's invitation to Local Authorities to apply for its Wardens Quality Standards Award, which assesses organisational performance and plans relating to:

- achieving the results the scheme has signed up to;
- leadership of the scheme including a vision of the area's potential; and a strategy for its improvement;
- management performance including communication and open decision making;
- financial management;
- staff management including training;
- working with the community to ensure all benefit equally from warden support regardless of disability, race, religion, gender, sexuality or age.

2. To show its commitment to high standards, the Executive be requested to ensure that the London Borough of Southwark makes an application for the Wardens Quality Standards Award.

**Note:** The above resolution stands referred to the Executive for consideration.

**8.9 MOTION NO.9 – SUPER BOROUGHES** (see pages 51 - 53 )

This motion was not considered and in accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.13 (6) will be referred to the Council Assembly meeting on Wednesday 18th February 2004.

**8.10 MOTION NO.10 – GREENDALE** (see pages 53 - 54 )

This motion was not considered and in accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.13 (6) will be referred to the Council Assembly meeting on Wednesday 18th February 2004.

**8.11 MOTION NO.11 – COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY** (see pages 54-56)

This motion was not considered and in accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.13 (6) will be referred to the Council Assembly meeting on Wednesday 18th February 2004.

**8.12 MOTION NO.12 – AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT** (see page 56-57 )

In accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 3.9 (3) this motion stands referred to the Executive for consideration.

**9. ADJOURNMENT DEBATES** (see pages 122 – 123 and Supplemental Agenda No.2, pages 109 – 110)

**9.1 BALLOT FOR 31st MARCH 2004 COUNCIL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNMENT DEBATES**

The Mayor drew the names of the following Councillors in the ballot for Adjournment Debates for 31st March 2004:-

1. Councillor Alison Moise
  2. Councillor Alfred Banyan
  3. Councillor Veronica Ward
- 1st Reserve - Councillor Vicky Naish  
2nd Reserve – Councillor Jeff Hook  
3rd Reserve – Councillor Billy Kayada

**9.2 ADJOURNMENT DEBATE No.1 – COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY (VILLAGE WARD)**

Councillor Toby Eckersley sought assurances that consideration would be given to the amenity of local residents which he believed would be threatened by the holding of major events at the Herne Hill Velodrome.

The debate was responded to by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Caroline Pidgeon. She explained the annual Good Friday meeting was the only large scale event planned for the Velodrome. Although the stated intention was to increase user numbers, cycling was not a mass spectator sport and the range of new activities planned should not lead to a degradation of local amenities. She reported Herne Hill had already been ruled out as an Olympic 2012 venue on technical grounds.

**9.3 ADJOURNMENT DEBATE No.2 – COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM (THE LANE WARD)**

Councillor Aubyn Graham expressed his concern at the perceived shortage of arts venues in Southwark. He promoted the Peckham Wharf site as a suitable arts venue.

The debate was responded to by the Executive Member for Education and Culture, Councillor Bob Skelly. He said the Executive would be considering a report on arts provision in March, but he warned any new venture would have to pass stringent tests regarding its viability. He welcomed the new performance space at the Peckham Academy which would seat 300 people.

**9.4 ADJOURNMENT DEBATE No.3 – COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY (VILLAGE WARD)**

Councillor David Bradbury outlined problems caused by the lack of short term parking outside the parade of shops at Herne Hill. He said the matter had been debated at the Dulwich Community Council but little progress had been made as it appeared conflicting advice was being offered by officers at the Boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark.

The debate was responded to by the Executive Member for Environment and



Transport, Councillor Richard Thomas. He stated the proximity of the site to the borough boundary had led to confusion but he knew that in the past year two Traffic Management Orders had been advertised there by the Borough of Lambeth. He indicated he would be prepared to investigate the matter further.

The meeting closed at 11.52 p.m.

**MAYOR:**

**DATED:**