



**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY MEETING)**

MINUTES of the Open section of the meeting of the COUNCIL ASSEMBLY held on Wednesday 15th September 2004 at 7.00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Anne Yates

Councillor Alfred Banya	Councillor Dermot McInerney
Councillor Mick Barnard	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Beverley Bassom	Councillor Vicky Naish
Councillor Paul Bates	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Gavin O'Brien
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Mark Pursey
Councillor David Bradbury	Councillor Dr. Abdul Rahman Olayiwola
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Michelle Pearce
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Caroline Pidgeon
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Richard Porter
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Stephen Flannery	Councillor Tony Ritchie
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Aubyn Graham	Councillor William Rowe
Councillor James Gurling	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Andrew Simmons
Councillor Alun Hayes	Councillor Tayo Situ
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Robert Skelly
Councillor Kim Humphreys	Councillor Robert Smeath
Councillor Jonathan Hunt	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Nicholas Stanton
Councillor Billy Kayada	Councillor Richard Thomas
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	Councillor Dominic Thorncroft
Councillor Jelil Ladipo	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Lorraine Lauder	Councillor Neil Watson
Councillor Linda Manchester	Councillor Sarah Welfare
Councillor Eliza Mann	Councillor Lorraine Zuleta
Councillor Danny McCarthy	

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS
1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

With sadness, the Mayor reported the recent death of former Councillor Sandra Dunk. Councillors Caroline Pidgeon, Kim Humphreys, Vicky Naish, and Jonathan Hunt paid tributes.

The Mayor also remembered the deaths of former Bermondsey Mayor, Edward Albert Rowe, Private Lee O'Callaghan, and Mr. Hunt, the father of Councillor Jonathan Hunt.

Thereafter a one minute silence was observed for former Councillor Sandra Dunk, Edward Albert Rowe, Private Lee O'Callaghan, and Mr. Hunt.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Richard Thomas on his recent marriage.

The leader of the council announced Lord Herman Ouesley of Peckham Rye would lead the review of the council's equality and diversity framework which had been agreed by council assembly in July. He said the terms of reference of the review would be circulated to all members the following day.

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

The Mayor reported she had received a late deputation request from the Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations but had declined the request as it had been received late and there were other opportunities for the deputation to voice their concerns; specifically the executive, which was the more appropriate body to consider the matter.

There were therefore no matters of urgent business.

At 7.27pm the Mayor adjourned the meeting for a period of ten minutes.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Tony Ritchie declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Item 7.1 because as a leaseholder he had been the recipient of council double glazing.

Councillor Richard Thomas declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Item 7.1 through his employment by the Association for the Conservation of Energy which promoted double glazing and accepted donations from double glazing companies.

Councillor Catherine Bowman declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Item 8.2 as a resident of an estate in Chaucer ward which was to be discussed in the adjournment debate.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Kenny Mizzi, Jeffrey Hook, Catriona Moore, Norma Gibbes, Alison Moise and Ian Wingfield. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Tony Ritchie and William Rowe.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2004 be

confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to minute 1.3 being amended in respect of Councillor David Bradbury's declaration of interest being amended to read .

“Councillor David Bradbury – declared that he did not consider that he had a prejudicial interest despite being named in the District Auditor's report.”

3. PETITIONS

The Mayor accepted a petition from Councillor Nick Stanton opposing the closure of the Abbey Street Post Office, a summary of which has been referred to the executive member for regeneration & economic development and the chief executive.

4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (see page 1)

Two members of the public (Ms Joan Olgun and Ms Lucia Hinton) asked a supplemental question of the executive member for housing & community safety and the leader of the council, a summary of which is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

5. DEPUTATION REQUEST (see pages 2 – 3)

5.1 DEPUTATION FROM BLACK AWARENESS GROUP

Council assembly agreed to accept the deputation. Members were addressed by the deputation's spokesperson, Mr Raymond Stevenson, following which Councillors Vicky Naish, Toby Eckersley and Columba Blango asked questions of the deputation. Thereafter the deputation withdrew to the public gallery.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS (see pages 4 – 11)

One urgent question was submitted by Councillor Kim Humphreys to the Leader of the Council. A copy of the question and answer is attached as Appendix 2

Forty one questions were submitted and answers circulated around the chamber. Twenty nine members opted to ask supplementary questions. A copy of all questions and the answers received is attached as Appendix 3

7. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

7.4 MOTION No.4 – POST OFFICE CLOSURES (see pages 17 – 18 and supplemental agenda No. 1, pages 28 - 30)

At 8.41pm the meeting was adjourned for 12 minutes to allow the reproduction and circulation of an executive decision taken the previous evening on a reference from the overview and scrutiny committee on the Post Office Urban Reinvention Programme.

Councillor Denise Capstick, seconded by Councillor Linda Manchester, moved the motion.

Councillor Fiona Colley, seconded by Councillor Andy Simmons, moved Amendment D.

Following debate (Councillors James Gurling, Bob Skelly, Nick Stanton, Kim

Humphreys and Alfred Banya), Councillor Denise Capstick exercised her right of reply.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Councillor Kim Humphreys, seconded by Councillor Toby Eckersley, moved Amendment E.

Following debate (Councillors Michelle Pearce and James Gurling), Councillor Denise Capstick exercised her right of reply.

Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Following debate (Councillor Kim Humphreys), the substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED

1. That council is concerned that the Abbey Street, Bermondsey Street, Crystal Palace Road and Rosendale Road post office branches have been earmarked for closure.
2. That council believes that post offices are of fundamental importance to the well being of many of the most vulnerable members of our community.
3. That council notes:
 - Many of the sections of our community most dependant on post offices ie the elderly or disabled, are those who will also suffer the most from increased distances to alternative post offices if there are closures;
 - Proposed receiving branches do not have sufficient extra capacity to support the increased demand;
 - That Post Office Ltd should guarantee any works to receiving branches are completed prior to any closure of the proposed branches. The Post Office Ltd should ensure in these improvements they have considered data of users, for example the demographics of the area, volume of small businesses etc., and that any improvement in receiving branches is relevant and appropriate.
 - There are many regeneration schemes happening across the borough, some of particular relevance to the post office urban reinvention programme, for example the regeneration of Bermondsey Spa. This may lead to an increased volume of business. Post Office Ltd should consider further information provided by the council.
 - The Post Office Ltd consider the impact upon small businesses, particularly in Bermondsey, and work with the Local Chamber of Commerce to address

this.

- Southwark Pensioners Action Group has voiced concerns, particularly around longer journeys and queuing times, and Post Office Ltd should ensure it addresses these concerns, for example through the investment made in receiving branches.

- 4 That council therefore urges the Post Office consultation team to take the case for the maintenance of these branches seriously; requests the leader of the council to make representations to this effect and would support a campaign to preserve their status should they be in jeopardy.

7.1 MOTION NO.1 – DOUBLE GLAZING COSTS (see page 13 – 14 and supplemental agenda No. 1, page 25)

Councillor William Rowe, seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys, moved the motion.

Councillor Alfred Banya, seconded by Councillor Charlie Smith, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Peter John, Tony Ritchie, and Gavin O'Brien), Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes that double-glazing costs remain a very high component of major works costs borne both by the housing revenue account and by leaseholders and that there remains widespread concern that these costs are excessive.
2. That council assembly notes that the cross party capital working group agreed that officers would investigate this issue in early 2002 but that no report has been provided to members as of yet.
3. That council assembly requests the executive to obtain a report from officers by the end of November 2004 setting out how significant savings in this area of cost could be made. The report should address;
 - How other major landlords (including public sector, social rented and private sector) purchase double glazing: for example via general building contractors, from specialist suppliers, or by direct deals with manufacturers setting out the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative approach.
 - The cost implications of different

“environmental standards” applied to double glazing (UPVC, timber & metal frames etc) – setting out alternatives and their costs clearly.

- Benchmarking data available on double glazing costs.
- Any other information pertinent to obtaining reliable double-glazing at a reasonable cost.
- Proposals for steps to be taken by the council to obtain better value for money on its double-glazing purchases.

Note: The above recommendation stands referred to the executive for consideration.

7.2 MOTION NO.2 – SHELTERED HOUSING (see pages 14 – 16 and supplemental agenda No.1 page 26)

At 10.11pm the meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes to allow the borough solicitor to further consider Amendment B and rule on its legality.

Councillor Sarah Welfare, seconded by Councillor Michelle Pearce, moved the motion.

Councillor Denise Capstick, seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton, moved Amendment B.

Following debate (Councillors Andy Simmons, Aubyn Graham, Michelle Pearce and Toby Eckersley), Councillor Sarah Welfare exercised her right of reply.

Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

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

RESOLVED

1. That council assembly registers its concern that:

- Sheltered housing residents as old as 91 years of age were recently locked out of their homes at Harry Lambourne House in the absence of any warden
- Proposals for re-organising the sheltered housing warden service are being rushed in on the basis of cost savings rather than the interests of residents
- There does not appear to have been any prior consultation with tenants nor adequate preparation to ensure changes have no negative impact on residents
- The re-organised service seems likely to result in the loss of the most

experienced permanent wardens and increased usage of agency staff.

2. That council assembly therefore calls for a full investigation into the failures at Harry Lambourne House and requests that a full report-back is presented to council as quickly as practicably possible.
3. That recalling the 1996 sheltered housing scrutiny, council assembly further requests overview & scrutiny committee to establish a new scrutiny into the proposed arrangements for sheltered housing (including the alarm scheme and the proposed arrangements with regard to wardens), plus a comprehensive review of the financial advice provided to Members in this area during the budget setting process.

Note: The above recommendations stands referred to the overview and scrutiny committee for consideration.

7.5 MOTION NO.5 – COUNCIL PROPERTY

This motion was withdrawn.

7.3 MOTION NO.3 – PARKING REDUCTION CONSULTATION (see page 16 and supplemental agenda No. 1, page 27)

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

Councillor Richard Thomas, seconded by Councillor Stephen Flannery, moved Amendment C

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED: That this council assembly is concerned ward councillors and some members of the public have suggested that, in relation to initial council proposals to reduce parking in Half Moon Lane in connection with the London Bus Priority network, consultation with local residents was not wide enough and did not fully cover the area that would have been affected by displacement and therefore requests that the executive review its policy towards such consultations in the future.

Note: The above recommendations stands referred to the executive for consideration.

7.6 MOTION NO.6 – COUNCIL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS (see pages 20 - 21)

This motion was withdrawn.

8. ADJOURNMENT DEBATES

8.1 The following councillors were selected in the ballot for adjournment debates for 20 October 2004:-

1. Councillor Dermot McInerney
2. Councillor Paul Kyriacou
3. Councillor Robert Smeath
- 1st Reserve - Councillor Caroline Pidgeon
- 2nd Reserve – Councillor John Friary
- 3rd Reserve – Councillor Tayo Situ

8.2 Adjournment Debate No.2

Proposed by Councillor Dr Abdur Rahman Olayiwola (community facilities in Chaucer ward and the role of council officers) and responded to by the leader of the council, Councillor Nick Stanton.

The meeting closed at 10.52 p.m.

MAYOR:

DATED: