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LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

**Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 20 May 2015 at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Kana Naheerathan

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Lesley Jones B.Ed MA

COUNCILLORS:

Aden	Agha
Ahmed	Bradley
Butt	Carr
Chohan	S Choudhary
A Choudry	Colacicco
Collier	Colwill
Conneely	Daly
Davidson	Denselow
Dixon	Duffy
Eniola	Ezeajughi
Farah	Filson
Harrison	Hector
Hirani	Hoda-Benn
Hossain	Hylton
Kabir	Kansagra
Kelcher	Khan
Long	Mahmood
Marquis	Mashari
Maurice	McLeish
McLennan	Miller
Moher	J Mitchell Murray
Nerva	M Patel
RS Patel	Pavey
Perrin	Shahzad
Ms Shaw	Krupa Sheth
Southwood	Stopp
Tatler	Thomas
Van Kalwala	Warren

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Councillors Allie, Crane, W Mitchell Murray,

1. To elect the Mayor of the borough for the municipal year 2015/16

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Naheerathan called for nominations for the office of the Mayor of the Borough for the municipal year 2015/2016.

Councillor Butt nominated Councillor Jones and this was seconded by Councillor Harrison.

There being no other nominations it was

RESOLVED:

that Councillor Jones be and is hereby elected, Mayor of the London Borough of Brent, for the municipal year 2015/2016.

Councillor Jones was robed and invested with the Mayor's chain. Councillor Naheerathan received his past Mayor's badge.

The past Mayor, Councillor Naheerathan vacated the Chair which was taken by the newly elected Mayor.

Councillor Jones signed the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor.

The Mayor then thanked Members of the Council for her election and stated that the charity she would be supporting would be Brent Young Carers.

2. Appointment of a councillor of the borough to be Deputy Mayor

The Mayor announced the appointment of Councillor Ahmed as Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Brent for the municipal year 2015/2016.

3. Votes of thanks

Councillor Pavey moved a vote of thanks, which was unanimously supported. He added that everyone who freely gave of their time to help serve the community should be thanked. These included those involved in the work of the Scrutiny Committee, Brent Youth Parliament and Hope not Hate and those who had campaigned on a range of issues.

RESOLVED:

that the Council place on record their thanks and regard for the outstanding public service rendered by the co-opted members, independent members, observers and others who have served on council committees, sub-committee, consultative committees, boards, governing bodies, resident associations etc during the past municipal year.

Councillor Butt moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor for his services to the community. He recalled the efficient and skilful manner in which he had presided

over some difficult Council meetings and his tireless work in support of his charities – Brent Mencap and Prostate Cancer UK. Councillor Butt stated that, in addition to his full time job, Councillor Naheerathan had attended many charitable, community and faith events representing the Borough; most significantly, he ensured a fitting tribute to mark Remembrance Sunday and the centenary of the First World War.

Councillors Warren and Kansagra congratulated the new Mayor on her appointment and paid tribute to the work Councillor Naheerathan had undertaken during his year as Mayor.

RESOLVED:

that the Council records its appreciation of the outstanding service rendered by Councillor Kana Naheerathan as Mayor of Brent during the past Municipal Year. The Council also appreciates his attendance at a vast number of community events and functions and his service to all sections of Brent's diverse community.

Councillor Naheerathan, having been invested with the past Mayor's Badge, congratulated Councillor Jones, thanked councillors for their tributes and support and reflected on his year in office. He made reference to his absent wife who was in Sri Lanka to care for her mother and thanked officers, particularly the mayoral staff, for their support.

4. By election result

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Maurice to his first Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the result of the Kenton by election held on 5 March 2015 be noted.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 March 2015 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None declared.

7. Long Service Citation

The Mayor presented Councillor Shaw with a citation marking her 25 years of service on the Council. Councillor Shaw acknowledged her award and thanked the residents of Brondesbury Park for their support over the years.

8. Notification of Executive appointments

RESOLVED:

that the appointments to the Cabinet and Highways Committee be noted.

9. **Representation of political groups on committees**

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the size of the committees to be established by the Council and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups be as follows:

Committee	Size	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrats
General Purposes	8	7	1	0
Planning	8	7	1	0
Audit	5*	4	1	0
Standards	5*	4	1	0
Corporate Parenting	5	4	1	0
Equalities	5	4	1	0
Totals	36	30	6	0
Other committees	Size	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrats
Scrutiny Committee#	8	7	1	0
Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing	15	13	2	0

*plus 1 non voting co-opted member

#plus 4 statutory co-opted members and 2 non statutory co-opted members

- (ii) to note that the political balance on sub-committees will be reviewed at the first meetings of the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee and General Purposes Committee.

10. **Appointments to committees and outside bodies and appointment of chairs/vice chairs**

Councillor Warren referred to the allocation of seats under the previous item and the advice he had received that the two Conservative groups had three weeks within which to agree the allocation of seats between themselves otherwise Council on 22 June would take the decisions. He expressed the view that his group should be allocated the Opposition place on General Purposes and Planning Committees.

Councillor Duffy questioned the allocation of committee places to members across the council.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the appointment of Chairs, Vice-Chairs and the memberships of committees be as set out in Appendix A to these minutes;
- (iv) that the following statutory co-optees be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2015/16:

Alloysius Frederick	Catholic faith
Mother Christine Cargill	Church of England faith

- (v) that Dr J Levison, representing the Jewish faith, and Payam Tamiz, representing the Muslim faith, be appointed as non-statutory co-opted members of the Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2015/16;
- (vi) that Sheila Darr be appointed as a non-statutory co-opted member of the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2015/16;
- (v) that David Ewart be appointed as a non-statutory co-opted member and chair of Audit Committee;
- (vii) that appointments/nominations to outside bodies be made as set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

11. **Calendar of meetings**

A revised calendar of meetings was circulated.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the dates for Full Council and other meetings to take place during the municipal year 2015/2016, as set out in the tabled version of the calendar be agreed in principle;
- (ii) that the Head of Executive and Member Services be authorised to make any alterations deemed necessary to the municipal calendar during the course of the municipal year having consulted the Leader of the Council; the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group and the Chair of the affected meeting.

12. **Member's absence from meetings**

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Councillor Oladapo's absence from meetings of the Council since 27 November 2014 be approved on the basis of his ongoing ill-health and that the position be reviewed, if required, at the Full Council meeting in September 2015;
- (ii) that the Council's wishes for a speedy return to good health be passed on to Councillor Oladapo.

13. **Changes to the constitution**

Members considered the circulated report which set out proposed changes to the Constitution; these included the need to determine which political group was the

Principal Opposition Group, the establishment of a new Equalities Committee, recording the establishment of a Pensions Board and a Local Safeguarding Board and the establishment of Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation; delegating certain powers to the Chief Executive to act in cases of urgency and delegating to the Chief Legal Officer certain powers to make changes to the constitution.

Councillor Warren submitted that his group should be recognised as the principal opposition group. He expressed support for the establishment of an Equalities Committee and put forward himself to serve on it. Councillor Warren also submitted a number of additional suggested amendments to the constitution.

Councillor Kansagra argued against the position put by Councillor Warren and maintained that his group properly represented the Conservative Party.

Councillor Butt stated that it was not for the Conservative Party to interfere with how the Council structured itself politically and that a decision had to be taken on which of the two Conservative opposition groups was to be recognised as the principal opposition group. He drew a comparison with the consistency of the Conservative Group whose members had stood as Conservatives at the 2014 elections and maintained that position with the group now called the Brent Conservatives who, having stood as Conservative candidates, once elected named themselves as the Brondesbury Park Conservatives and had now changed the name of their group to the Brent Conservatives. Regarding the amendments proposed to the constitution by Councillor Warren, Councillor Butt proposed that these be further considered outside the meeting before any final decisions were taken.

A view was expressed that the way Council meetings operated needed to be reviewed to enable more backbench councillors to participate.*

Councillor Warren requested that a recorded vote be taken on recommendation (i) in the report submitted.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Conservative Group comprising Councillors Colwill, Kansagra and Maurice be recognised as the Principal Opposition Group for the purposes of the Members' Allowance Scheme;
- (ii) that an Equalities Committee be established on the basis set out in the report submitted;
- (iii) that the Constitution be changed as shown in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 47(c) the voting on (i) above was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Aden, Agha, Ahmed, Bradley, Butt, Chohan, Choudry, Choudhary, Colacicco, Collier, Colwill, Conneely, Daly, Denselow, Dixon, Duffy, Eniola, Ezeajughi, Farah, Filson, Harrison, Hector, Hirani, Hoda-Benn, Hossain, Hylton, Kabir, Kansagra, Kelcher, Khan, Long, Mahmood, Marquis, Mashari,

Maurice, McLeish, McLennan, Miller, Moher, J Mitchell Murray, Naheerathan, Nerva, M Patel, R Patel, Pavey, Perrin, Shahzad, Krupa Sheth, Southwood, Stopp, Tatler, Thomas and Van Kalwala (53)

AGAINST: Councillors Carr, Davidson, Shaw and Warren (4)

ABSTENTIONS: The Mayor, Councillor Jones (1)

*the above minute was amended at the meeting on 22 June (amendment incorporated)

14. **Urgent business**

None.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

COUNCILLOR LESLEY JONES
Mayor

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