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## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
held on Wednesday 18 May 2016 at 7.00 pm

### PRESENT:

#### **The Worshipful the Mayor**

Councillor Lesley Jones MBE B.Ed MA

#### **The Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Parvez Ahmed

### COUNCILLORS:

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

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Councillors Colacicco, Crane, Denselow, Hector, Mashari, Moher and J Mitchell Murray

1. **Procedural motion**

Councillor Warren moved a procedural motion to amend the seating plan and requested a recorded vote. The motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

Voting was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Davidson, Shaw and Warren

AGAINST: Councillors Aden, Agha, Allie, Bradley, Butt, Carr, Chan, Chohan, Choudhary, Choudry, Collier, Colwill, Conneely, Daly, Dixon, Duffy, Eniola, Ezeajughi, Farah, Harrison, Hirani, Hoda-Benn, Hossain, Hylton, Kabir, Kansagra, Kelcher, Long, Mahmood, Marquis, Maurice, McLeish, McLennan, Miller, W Mitchell Murray, Naheerathan, Nerva, M Patel, R Patel, Pavey, Perrin, Pitruzzella, Shahzad, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Southwood, Stopp, Tatler and Thomas

ABSTENTIONS: The Mayor and Deputy Mayor

2. **To elect the Mayor of the borough for the municipal year 2016/17**

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Jones called for nominations for the office of the Mayor of the Borough for the municipal year 2016/2017.

Councillor Butt nominated Councillor Ahmed and this was seconded by Councillor McLennan.

There being no other nominations it was

RESOLVED:

that Councillor Ahmed be and is hereby elected, Mayor of the London Borough of Brent, for the municipal year 2016/2017.

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

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

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

The Mayor then thanked Members of the Council for his election and stated that the charities he would be supporting would be Brent Centre for Young People, Sufra North West London and Community Action on Dementia Brent.

3. **Appointment of a councillor of the borough to be Deputy Mayor**

The Mayor announced the appointment of Councillor Chohan as Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Brent for the municipal year 2016/2017.

4. **Vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor**

Councillor McLennan moved a vote of thanks, which was unanimously supported.

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 her tireless work across the borough in raising the profile of the Mayorality, the Council and her charity, Brent Young Carers. Councillor Butt stated that Councillor Jones had, in addition to her ward work, attended many charitable, community and faith events representing the Borough, most significantly, she ensured a fitting tribute to mark Remembrance Sunday and the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. He also reminded members that in her Mayoral year Councillor Jones had collected her MBE for services to the local community.

Councillors Colwill, Warren and Carr congratulated the new Mayor on his appointment and paid tribute to the work Councillor Jones had undertaken during her year as Mayor. Other councillors added their words of appreciation for the work carried out by Councillor Jones during her Mayoral year.

RESOLVED:

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

Councillor Jones, having been invested with the past Mayor's Badge, congratulated Councillor Ahmed, thanked councillors for their tributes and support and reflected on her year in office. She was pleased to have been able to help raise the profile of Brent Young Carers and she thanked the officers who had supported her. Councillor Jones pointed out the importance of all councillors taking an active part in supporting Mayoral events for the benefit of the charities involved.

## 5. **By election result**

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Pitruzzella to her first Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the result of the Kilburn by election held on 5 May 2016 be noted.

## 6. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

None declared.

## 7. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 February 2016 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

**8. Matter arising - former Councillor Oladapo**

The Chief Executive read to the meeting a statement about the death of former Councillor Tayo Oladapo in order to clarify the Council's understanding of events surrounding his death, and specifically the timing of when the Council received official notification of his death.

The meeting stood in silence for one minute in memory of Tayo Oladapo.

The Mayor offered his condolences to the family and friends of Tayo Oladapo. Councillors Butt, Colwill and Warren spoke on behalf of their groups in tribute to Tayo Oladapo and other councillors spoke of his humour, sincerity and the hard work he put into being a councillor for his local area.

**9. Notification of Executive appointments**

It was noted that the Cabinet at its meeting on 23 May 2016 would make appointments to the Barham Park Trust Committee.

RESOLVED:

that the appointments to the Cabinet and Highways Committee, as tabled, be noted.

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

Councillor Warren requested that his group be allocated the Opposition place on the General Purposes, Planning and Equalities Committees and that his group be treated as the principle opposition group. The nominations put forward for appointments to committees under the following item indicated that the Conservative Group also wished to take the Opposition place on the General Purposes, Planning and Equalities Committees. Councillor Butt proposed that the Conservative Group be designated the principle opposition group. Councillor Warren requested a recorded vote on the matter.

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:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Brent Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>
General Purposes	8	7	1	0	0

Planning	8	7	1	0	0
Audit	5*	4	0	1	0
Standards	5*	4	0	1	0
Corporate Parenting	5	4	0	1	0
Equalities	5	4	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other committees</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Labour</b>		<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>
Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee#	8	7	1	0	0
Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	8	7	0	1	0
Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing	15	13	1	1	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;
- (iii) that the Conservative Group comprising Councillors Colwill, Kansagra and Maurice be designated the Principal Opposition Group for the purposes of the Members Allowance scheme.

Voting on (iii) above was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Aden, Agha, Allie, Bradley, Butt, Chohan, Choudhary, Choudry, Colwill, Conneely, Daly, Dixon, Eniola, Ezeajughi, Farah, Harrison, Hirani, Hoda-Benn, Hossain, Hylton, Kabir, Kansagra, Khan, Mahmood, Maurice, McLeish, McLennan, Miller, W Mitchell Murray, Naheerathan, M Patel, Pavey, Pitruzzella, Shahzad, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Southwood, Tatler, Thomas and Van Kalwala

AGAINST: Councillors Davidson, Shaw and Warren

ABSTENTIONS: The Mayor and Councillors Carr, Chan, Collier, Duffy, Jones, Kelcher, Long, Marquis, Nerva, R Patel, Perrin and Stopp

(this minute was amended by the meeting on 11 July 2016 to include the above recorded vote)

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

Councillor Duffy declined his appointment to the Tricycle Theatre.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the appointment of Chairs, Vice-Chairs and the memberships of committees be as set out in Appendix A to these minutes;
- (ii) that the following statutory co-optees be appointed to the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2016/17:

Alloysius Frederick	Catholic faith
Mother Christine Cargill	Church of England faith
Iram Yaqub	Primary School Parent Governor

- (iii) 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 Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2016/17;
- (iv) that Sheila Darr be appointed as a non-statutory co-opted member of the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2016/17;
- (v) that Mendip Johal be appointed as an Independent Person for the Standards Committee;
- (vi) 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.

[Appendix A](#)

[Appendix B](#)

**12. Calendar of meetings**

Amendments to the calendar of meetings were tabled. The date shown in paragraph 3.6 of the report for the September Council meeting was amended to 19<sup>th</sup> to reflect that shown in the attached calendar.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the dates for Full Council and other meetings to take place during the municipal year 2016/2017, as set out in the calendar attached to the submitted report, as amended, 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.

**13. Urgent business**

None.

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm

COUNCILLOR PARVEZ AHMED  
Mayor

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## **Statement about the death of former Cllr Tayo Oladapo**

As Chief Executive of Brent council, I have received numerous enquiries about the sad death of former Cllr Tayo Oladapo.

The matter has also been the subject of press coverage. I feel it to be very important for me to put on record the facts as they are known to me. I do this as a matter arising from the minutes of the last meeting which recorded both Cllr Oladapo's absence and agreed his continued absence due to his ill health.

My aim is to clarify the Council's understanding of events surrounding his death, and specifically the timing of when the Council received official notification of his death.

To be absolutely clear, I believe that the report considered by Full Council on 22 February was written in good faith on the understanding that Cllr Oladapo's ill health was ongoing. It was submitted to Council as the previous report received in January required that this happen. You will all remember that Cllr Oladapo, according to the report, was expected to return to his work at the Council for that meeting in January following his release from hospital.

In fact, there had been a deterioration to his health which resulted in his return to hospital and by the time of the council meeting in February it was believed that he had returned to his family in Nigeria to pass away. This was not, however, confirmed and so would have been inappropriate to put in a public report.

I believe, therefore, that the Full Council considered and approved Cllr Oladapo's ongoing absence in all good faith based on what was known on that date and what was included in the report.

At the beginning of March 2016, I became aware of concerns that Cllr Oladapo had in fact passed away. I sought confirmation and despite best efforts to confirm his death, no formal confirmation was forthcoming, which would have left me able to call a by-election.

As we were unable to obtain clarification, on 8 March, I asked Registrar colleagues to make enquiries in Camden. They were unable to confirm if Cllr Oladapo had

indeed died as no death had been registered.

Additionally, I wrote to his family but the only address held by the Council was an address in Harlesden and I doubt that they have ever received the letter. We made all reasonable enquiries possible, including trying to contact family members in both Nigeria and the USA. We were not able to get official confirmation of his death.

On 9 March I contacted the Police to request their help.

In the early evening of 10 March 2016, I received police confirmation that Cllr Oladapo had indeed sadly passed away on 29 January 2016 but that his death had not been registered.

On 11 March, the Council issued a statement about his death, lowered the flags and issued tributes from the Mayor of Brent and the Leader of the Council.

Just last week, on 11 May, Mrs Oladapo, Cllr Oladapo's mother, registered his death at Camden Council. She subsequently came to see myself and the Leader and I was able to pass on the Council's sincerest condolences for her tragic loss. Councillor Oladapo's funeral will take place soon.

Clearly this whole episode raises issues regarding the noting of absences when councillors cannot attend meetings along with the frequency of reports to Council requesting leave of absence for Council.

I shall arrange for an independent person to urgently review the whole episode, going back to the start of Councillor Oladapo's illness and his absences from council meetings and will ensure that their report to me is submitted to the Constitutional Working Group for their consideration.

They in turn will be able to make any relevant recommendations to full Council. I sincerely apologise on behalf of the Council for any misunderstanding which has arisen out of our actions which I repeat I believe were undertaken in good faith.

Finally it is important to remember that this all relates to the very distressing story of a young man, elected to serve his community and who died tragically from a long

illness. Although I had never met Tayo, I have only ever heard positive things about how warm, kind and conscientious he was.

As is customary, I would encourage members to use the opportunity of the first full council meeting since his sad death, when requested by the Mayor, to pay tribute to Cllr Oladapo.

**Carolyn Downs**  
**Chief Executive**

**20 May 2016,**

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