



COUNCIL

— MINUTES —

(EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2005



PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Charlie Treloggan)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mercy Umeh)

Councillors:

Mike Adam
Colin Aherne
Chris Allen
Will Bethell
Brendan Bird
Min Birdsey
Nick Botterill
Charlie Boyle
Stephen Burke
Michael Cartwright
Dominic Church
Siobhan Coughlan

Stephen Cowan
Huw Davies
Sian Dawson
Gavin Donovan
Fiona Evans
Ivan Gibbons
Christine Graham
Stephen Greenhalgh
Greg Hands
Wesley Harcourt
Andrew Jones
Jafar Khaled

Antony Lillis
Amanda Lloyd-Harris
Mark Loveday
Reg McLaughlin
Charlie Napier
Colin Pavelin
Melanie Smallman
Frances Stainton
Tim Stanley
Jenny Vaughan
David Williams

10. The Mayor advised the Council that he had received a requisition, duly signed by the five Councillors indicated below, to call an Extraordinary Council meeting in order to discuss :

- Special Motion No.1 – Council Tax Revaluation
- Special Motion No.2 – Charing Cross Hospital

Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh
Councillor Nick Botterill
Councillor Frances Stainton
Councillor Antony Lillis
Councillor Mrs.Adronie Alford

The Mayor advised that he had decided that these items of business would be dealt with at an Extraordinary Council meeting called for 25 May 2005 at 7.15pm, or on the rising of the Annual Council meeting the same evening, whichever was the later.

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alford, Al-Uzaizi, Donald, Karian, Karmel, Neubert, Powell, Slaughter and Wicks.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Noted a declaration of personal interest by Councillor Burke on agenda item 4.2 – Special Motion No.2 – Charing Cross Hospital, as a non-executive Director of the Hammersmith & Fulham PCT.

Noted a declaration of personal interest by Councillor Greenhalgh on agenda item 4.2 – Special Motion No.2 – Charing Cross Hospital, as his father was Professor of Surgery at the hospital.

Noted a declaration of personal interest by Councillor Vaughan on agenda item 4.2 – Special Motion No.2 – Charing Cross Hospital, as a doctor working at the Charing Cross Hospital, although her contract of employment was held elsewhere.

13. SPECIAL MOTIONS

7.32pm – Special Motion No.1 – Council Tax Revaluation

Councillor Botterill moved, seconded by Councillor Bethell, the special motion :

“This Council notes that the introduction of a Council Tax revaluation in Wales has resulted in increased levels of Council Tax and that Council Tax revaluation in England is required in law for 1 April 2007, but the methodology is not yet agreed. This Council calls on the Government to guarantee that Council Tax revaluation will not result in an increase in total Council Tax payable for Hammersmith & Fulham residents.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Botterill and Bethell for the Opposition.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e)(vi), Councillor Burke moved, seconded by Councillor Cowan, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after "This Council"... and add:

"...is committed to continuing to keep council tax low for borough residents while delivering excellent services. This Council provides value for money to residents and its financial management has been recognised as 4/4 by the Audit Commission. Through years of efficiency savings, council tax in Hammersmith and Fulham is currently 12th lowest in London, with the fourth lowest increase in 2005-6.

This Council notes that council tax is a regressive tax, introduced by the Conservatives. We look forward to the outcome of the independent review of local government funding by Sir Michael Lyons and his proposals for reform of the council tax.

This Council supports the call by the ALG for a system of regional banding for council tax and a review of council tax benefit given London property values. This Council is committed to protecting the interests of council tax payers in Hammersmith & Fulham at all times and to no overall increase in the council tax burden following revaluation."

Speeches on the amendment to the motion were made by Councillors Burke, Cowan, Greenhalgh, and Aherne before it was put to the vote:

FOR – 23
AGAINST – 11
ABSTENTIONS – 0

The amendment to the motion was declared **CARRIED.**

Councillor Botterill made a closing speech on the debate before the substantive motion (as amended) was put to the vote:

FOR – 22
AGAINST – 11
ABSTENTIONS – 0

The motion as amended was declared **CARRIED.**

8.04pm – **RESOLVED:**

This Council is committed to continuing to keep council tax low for borough residents while delivering excellent services. This Council provides value for money to residents and its financial management has been recognised as 4/4 by the Audit Commission. Through years of efficiency savings, council tax in

Hammersmith and Fulham is currently 12th lowest in London, with the fourth lowest increase in 2005-6.

This Council notes that council tax is a regressive tax, introduced by the Conservatives. We look forward to the outcome of the independent review of local government funding by Sir Michael Lyons and his proposals for reform of the council tax.

This Council supports the call by the ALG for a system of regional banding for council tax and a review of council tax benefit given London property values. This Council is committed to protecting the interests of council tax payers in Hammersmith & Fulham at all times and to no overall increase in the council tax burden following revaluation.

8.05pm – **Special Motion No.2 – Charing Cross Hospital**

[Noted a declaration of personal interest by Councillor Burke on agenda item 4.2 – Special Motion No.2 – Charing Cross Hospital, as a non-executive Director of the Hammersmith & Fulham PCT. Councillor Burke remained at the meeting, and spoke and voted on the item]

[Noted a declaration of personal interest by Councillor Greenhalgh on agenda item 4.2 – Special Motion No.2 – Charing Cross Hospital, as his father was Professor of Surgery at the hospital. Councillor Greenhalgh remained at the meeting, and spoke and voted on the item]

[Noted a declaration of personal interest by Councillor Vaughan on agenda item 4.2 – Special Motion No.2 – Charing Cross Hospital, as a doctor working at the Charing Cross Hospital, although her contract of employment was held elsewhere. Councillor Vaughan remained at the meeting, and spoke and voted on the item]

Councillor Greenhalgh moved, seconded by Councillor Lillis, the special motion :

“This Council notes with concern the recent press speculation that Charing Cross Hospital is threatened with closure or having its services greatly reduced. The Charing Cross Hospital is currently the major trauma centre for the west of London which deals with serious injuries in the event of a disaster, requiring there to be a number of specialised services on the Charing Cross Hospital site. The Charing Cross also has one of the largest cancer care centres in the country. This Council calls on Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust to guarantee that these specialised services will remain at Charing Cross.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Greenhalgh and Lillis for the Opposition.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e)(vi), Councillor Burke moved, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after “This Council”... and add:

“.....condemns Conservative scaremongering about the future of Charing Cross Hospital. This has caused considerable distress to older and vulnerable residents and has wasted valuable NHS resources spent reassuring residents and staff.

This Council notes that Hammersmith Hospitals Trust has given clear undertakings that Charing Cross Hospital will not be closing. On the contrary it will be the subject of further investment in line with the Labour Government's investment of an extra £41bn per annum since 1997 and an extra £ 16bn per year in the next two years – budgets will have risen from £33bn in 1997 to £90bn in 2008. This will provide better NHS facilities and more NHS staff in London. This compares with 18 years of Tory neglect, including the closure of the West London Hospital by the Conservatives.

This Council will continue to work with the Hammersmith Hospitals Trust and Hammersmith & Fulham Primary Care Trust and their staff to ensure that local residents benefit from the best health services at Charing Cross and elsewhere in the borough."

Speeches on the amendment to the motion were made by Councillors Burke, McLaughlin, Stainton, Lloyd-Harris, Hands MP, Donovan, Cowan and Boyle before it was put to the vote:

FOR – 22
AGAINST – 11
ABSTENTIONS – 0

The amendment to the motion was declared **CARRIED.**

Councillor Greenhalgh made a closing speech on the debate before the substantive motion (as amended) was put to the vote:

FOR – 24
AGAINST – 11
ABSTENTIONS – 0

The motion as amended was declared **CARRIED.**

8.55pm – **RESOLVED:**

This Council condemns Conservative scaremongering about the future of Charing Cross Hospital. This has caused considerable distress to older and vulnerable Residents and has wasted valuable NHS resources spent reassuring residents and staff.

This Council notes that Hammersmith Hospitals Trust has given clear undertakings that Charing Cross Hospital will not be closing. On the contrary it will be the subject of further investment in line with the Labour Government's investment of an extra £41bn per annum since 1997 and an extra £ 16bn per year in the next two years – budgets will have risen from £33bn in 1997 to £90bn in 2008. This will

provide better NHS facilities and more NHS staff in London. This compares with 18 years of Tory neglect, including the closure of the West London Hospital by the Conservatives.

This Council will continue to work with the Hammersmith Hospitals Trust and Hammersmith & Fulham Primary Care Trust and their staff to ensure that local residents benefit from the best health services at Charing Cross and elsewhere in the borough.

* * * * * CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS * * * * *

Meeting ended: 8.56p.m. - Wednesday, 25 May 2005

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MAYOR

jpc/26/05/05