

COUNCIL MINUTES

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2025



PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Sharon Holder
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Daryl Brown

Councillors:

Jose Afonso	Laura Janes	Rowan Ree
Aliya Afzal-Khan	Adam Peter Lang	Helen Rowbottom
Paul Alexander	Amanda Lloyd-Harris	Alex Sanderson
Adronie Alford	Omid Miri	Max Schmid
Stala Antoniadis	David Morton	Asif Siddique
Jackie Borland	Nimmo	Nikos Souslous
Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler	Genevieve Nwaogbe	Dominic Stanton
Florian Chevoppe-Verdier	Adrian Pascu-Tulbure	Sally Taylor
Stephen Cowan	Ashok Patel	Nicole Trehay
Jacolyn Daly	Paynter	Frances Umeh
Wesley Harcourt	Natalia Perez	Mercy Umeh
Rebecca Harvey	Zarar Qayyum	Rory Vaughan
Lisa Homan	Patricia Quigley	Patrick Walsh

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

7.07pm – Councillor Patricia Quigley, as the outgoing Mayor, took the Chair at the start of the meeting.

Councillor Max Schmid proposed, seconded by Councillor Genevieve Nwaogbe, that Councillor Sharon Holder be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

There being no further nominations, the proposal was formally put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendation was declared **CARRIED**.

7.10pm – RESOLVED

That Councillor Sharon Holder was duly elected Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, following which she made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the statutory undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

The Mayor then made a brief speech thanking her constituents, her fellow Councillors, the outgoing Mayor Patricia Quigley, and her family for their support. She announced that she was appointing Nubian Life, Fulham Good Neighbours, and the Fulham Pearly Kings and Queens as her charities for the Mayoral year.

The Mayor announced that she was appointing her husband, Jim Shoesmith, to act as her Consort for the Mayoral year.

Councillor Stephen Cowan moved, seconded by Councillor Max Schmid, that the past Mayor's badge be presented to Councillor Patricia Quigley in recognition of her service to the Council in undertaking the office of Mayor, and in carrying out other associated civic duties as a Councillor, which was unanimously agreed. Councillor Quigley was taken ill and had to leave the meeting.

Speeches of thanks were given to the outgoing Mayor by Councillors Stephen Cowan, Jose Afonso, Nicole Trehy, and Stala Antoniadis.

A vote of thanks was given to the past Consort, Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier in undertaking his civic role in support of the past Mayor. Councillor Chevoppe-Verdier then came forward to receive the past Consort's badge and a gift of appreciation.

The Mayor announced that she had appointed Councillor Daryl Brown to be Deputy Mayor for the 2025/26 Municipal Year and she had appointed Mr Benito Brown to act as her Deputy Mayor's Consort.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

7.43pm – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ann Rosenberg, Lucy Richardson, Bora Kwon, Andrew Jones, Trey Campbell-Simon, Ross Melton, Liz Collins, Alex Karmel, and David Morton.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Laura Janes (who joined at 8.16pm).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

7.44pm – There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

7.44pm – RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

5. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resignation of Councillor Andrew Dinsmore

7.44pm – The Mayor noted that Andrew Dinsmore had resigned as a councillor of Fulham Town ward earlier in May. On behalf of the Council, she thanked him for his hard work over the years, serving his local community.

Speeches were made by Councillor Stephen Cowan (for the Administration) and Councillor Jose Afonso (for the Opposition).

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Party Appointments for the 2025/26 Municipal Year

7.47pm – The report on the appointments made by the party groups on the Council for 2025/26 was noted.

6.2 Review of the Constitution

7.47pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillor Max Schmid (for the Administration) and Councillor Adrian Pascu-Tulbure (for the Opposition).

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

7.51pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council approve the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks for Councillors policy attached as Appendix 1.
2. That Full Council create a General Purposes Committee with the membership and terms of reference as detailed in Appendix 2.
3. That Full Council approve the changes to the size of the membership of the Standards Committee from 6 to 5.
4. That Full Council approve the changes to Lead Member responsibilities detailed in paragraph 10.

6.3 **Appointment by the Leader of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet**

7.51pm – The report on the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members was noted.

6.4 **Allocation of Seats and Proportionality on Committees**

7.52pm – The report on the allocation of seats and proportionality on committees was noted.

6.5 **Appointment of Chairs and Committee Memberships**

7.52pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

7.52pm – RESOLVED

1. That the Council agrees the appointments of Chairs and Memberships of Regulatory, Policy and Accountability and other Committees under its Constitution for the Municipal Year 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 1.
2. This Council also notes their respective portfolios and terms of reference, as set out in the constitution.

6.6 **Council Appointments to Local Government Organisations and Outside Bodies**

7.52pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

7.52pm – RESOLVED

1. That the Council's appointments to Local Government Organisations for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 1, be agreed.
2. That the Council's appointments to Outside Bodies for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 2, be agreed.

6.7 **Members Allowances Scheme Annual Review 2025/26**

7.52pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR:	30
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	10

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

7.54pm – RESOLVED

1. That the recommendations of the Independent Panel on the remuneration of Councillors in London (January 2024) outlined in Appendix 2 be noted.
2. That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2025/26 as set out in the report and attached as Appendix 1, be approved.
3. That the Members' basic allowance be increased in line with the average basic allowance paid across London for the previous year and the special responsibility allowance be uplifted in line with the national local government pay settlement for employees.

6.8 **Appointment of Independent Person**

7.54pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

7.54pm – RESOLVED

1. That His Honour Judge John Rylance be re-appointed as Independent Person for another 2 years fixed term.
2. That the Council pay each appointed person a flat rate allowance of £1000 per annum payable in line with the Members' Allowance scheme.

6.9 **Dispensation of Absence**

7.54pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

7.54pm – RESOLVED

1. That a special dispensation be granted to Councillor Alex Karmel for non-attendance at meetings of the authority due to ill health pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

6.10 The Leader's Annual Report (Verbal)

7.55pm – The Council received a verbal report from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan. The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Jose Afonso, made a speech on behalf of the Opposition.

6.11 Redevelopment of Avonmore Primary School and Building New Homes

8.04pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Frances Umeh and Alex Sanderson (for the Administration) and Councillors Aliya Afzal-Khan and Jose Afonso (for the Opposition).

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR:	30
AGAINST:	9
NOT VOTING:	1

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

8.17pm – RESOLVED

That Full Council:

1. Agrees that appendix 1 is not for publication on the basis that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
2. Approves a capital budget to deliver the new homes and new school which will include contingency and internal costs, as set out in exempt appendix 1.

7. INFORMATION REPORTS - TO NOTE

7.1 Annual Report of the Policy and Oversight Board and Policy and Accountability Committees 2024/25

8.17pm – Councillor Lisa Homan made a speech on the report.

8.22pm – The Annual Report of the Policy and Oversight Board and the Policy and Accountability Committees 2024/25 was noted.

7.2 Special Urgency Decisions - Monitoring Report

8.22pm – The Special Urgency Decisions Monitoring Report was noted.

7.3 Petitions Monitoring Report 2024/25

8.22pm – The Petitions Monitoring Report was noted.

Meeting started: 7.07 pm
Meeting ended: 8.23 pm

Mayor