

COUNCIL MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2024



PRESENT

Deputy Mayor Councillor Daryl Brown

Councillors:

Jose Afonso	Sharon Holder	Lucy Richardson
Aliya Afzal-Khan	Laura Janes	Helen Rowbottom
Paul Alexander	Andrew Jones	Alex Sanderson
Stala Antoniadis	Adam Peter Lang	Max Schmid
Jackie Borland	Amanda Lloyd-Harris	Asif Siddique
Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler	Ross Melton	Nikos Souslous
Florian Chevoppe-Verdier	Omid Miri	Dominic Stanton
Liz Collins	Genevieve Nwaogbe	Sally Taylor
Stephen Cowan	Adrian Pascu-Tulbure	Nicole Trehy
Jacolyn Daly	Ashok Patel	Frances Umeh
Andrew Dinsmore	Natalia Perez	Rory Vaughan
Wesley Harcourt	Zarar Qayyum	Patrick Walsh
Rebecca Harvey	Rowan Ree	

At the start of the meeting, Councillor Max Schmid moved, seconded by Councillor Genevieve Nwaogbe, a motion under Standing Order 8.2 that Councillor Daryl Brown (Deputy Mayor) preside over the meeting.

The motion was unanimously agreed, and Councillor Brown took the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Emma Apthorp, Patricia Quigley, Bora Kwon, Lisa Homan, Ben Coleman, Mercy Umeh, Ann Rosenberg, Trey Campbell-Simon, Alex Karmel, Adronie Alford, and David Morton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Sharon Holder declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6.1 as her mother used free home care services.

3. MINUTES

7.05pm – RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 July 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death of Monique Newton, founder of Smile Brigade

With much sadness, the Deputy Mayor announced the passing of Monique Newton, founder of Smile Brigade CIC, which provided over 90,000 meal and grocery bags to vulnerable residents in Hammersmith & Fulham during the pandemic.

Speeches of remembrance were made by Councillors Nikos Souslous and Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler.

Death of Gerald Wombwell, former Councillor and Opposition Leader

With great sadness, the Deputy Mayor informed the Council of the death of Gerald Wombwell, former Councillor and Leader of the Opposition.

Speeches of remembrance were made by Councillors Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler, Amanda Lloyd-Harris, Wesley Harcourt, and Stephen Cowan.

Death of Charles Treloggan, former Councillor and Mayor

With much regret, the Deputy Mayor informed the Council of the death of Charles Treloggan, former Councillor and Mayor.

Speeches of remembrance were made by Councillors Wesley Harcourt, Rory Vaughan, Sally Taylor, Stephen Cowan, and Amanda Lloyd-Harris.

The Deputy Mayor then led the Council in a minute of silence in memory of Monique Newton, Gerald Wombwell and Charles Treloggan.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)

The Deputy Mayor thanked the residents who submitted questions. Question 1 was taken in the meeting. The Deputy Mayor explained that as the second questioner was unable to attend they would receive a written response. The questions and responses can be found at Appendix 1.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Free Home Care – Ten Years On

7.49pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for noting by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Alex Sanderson.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Rory Vaughan, Natalia Perez, Stala Antoniadis and Asif Siddique (for the Administration).

8.12pm – RESOLVED

That Full Council:

1. Recognised the significant and major achievement in the delivery of the unique free home care services for our residents for almost a decade (in the face of major financial challenges).
2. Acknowledged the work of members, staff, public partners and care providers in the delivery of the home care services.
3. Noted that this policy of the Council has reduced the financial pressures on public finances and avoided costs for our public sector partners.

6.2 **H&Fs Productivity Plan**

8.12pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for noting by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, Councillor Rowan Ree.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Jacolyn Daly and Rowan Ree (for the Administration).

8.22pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council noted and commented on the report.

6.3 **Youth Justice Plan 2024-25**

8.22pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Alex Sanderson.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Alex Sanderson and Adam Peter Lang (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.29pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council noted and approved the contents of the report and attached Youth Justice Plan.

6.4 **Digital Transformation Projects**

8.29pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for noting by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, Councillor Rowan Ree.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Florian Chevoppe-Verdier and Rowan Ree (for the Administration).

8.39pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council noted and commented on the report.

6.5 Review of the Constitution

8.39pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.40pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council approved the creation of a new Lead Member for Energy and Decarbonisation role as detailed in the report and appointed Councillor Ross Melton to the role.

7. SPECIAL MOTIONS

7.1 Special Motion 1 - Additional Support for Low-Income Pensioners

8.40pm – Councillor Adrian Pascu-Tulbure moved, seconded by Councillor Amanda Lloyd-Harris, the special motion in their names.

“This Council calls on the Administration to provide additional support for low-income pensioners in the Borough who have had their Winter Fuel Allowance cut.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Adrian Pascu-Tulbure and Amanda Lloyd-Harris (for the Opposition).

Under Standing Order 15(e)(6), Councillor Rowan Ree moved, seconded by Councillor Rebecca Harvey, an amendment:

“Delete all text after “This council” and replace with:

...regrets that the last H&F Conservative administration introduced home care charges for older and disabled people. The Conservative administration also increased charges for meals on wheels by over 80%, increasing the cost of the service by over £700 per year.

This council proudly notes that the current Labour administration provides £5.3m of support to pensioners through the council tax support scheme, has overseen 10 years of free home care and cut the charge for meals on wheels by 56%. This council regrets the lack of support of the Conservative opposition for the budgets that put these positive measures in place.

This council further notes that the current administration has invested heavily in third-sector organisations that support older people and, in the last budget, invested an additional £1 million in cost-of-living support schemes. It helped thousands of older people across the borough through the winter-ready home schemes, winter support fund, fuel energy support, and pensioner benefit take-up campaigns.

This council welcomes the new government’s commitment to the pension triple lock and the extension of the Household Support Fund over winter, abolished by the previous government, which will provide vital support, such as fuel vouchers to vulnerable pensioners in H&F.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Rowan Ree and Rebecca Harvey (for the Administration) and Councillor Adrian Pascu-Tulbure (for the Opposition).

Councillor Ree then made a speech winding up the debate before the amendment was put to the vote:

FOR	30
AGAINST	8
NOT VOTING	1

The amendment was declared **CARRIED**.

A speech on the amended motion was made by Councillor Jacolyn Daly (for the Administration).

Councillor Pascu-Tulbure made a speech summing up the debate.

Opposition Councillors called for a named vote:

FOR	AGAINST	NOT VOTING
Alexander	Afonso	Brown (Deputy Mayor)
Antoniades	Afzal-Khan	
Chevoppe-Verdier	Borland	
Collins	Brocklebank-Fowler	
Cowan	Dinsmore	
Daly	Lloyd-Harris	
Harcourt	Pascu-Tulbure	
Harvey	Stanton	
Holder		
Janes		
Jones		
Lang		
Melton		
Miri		
Nwaogbe		
Patel		
Perez		

Qayyum		
Ree		
Richardson		
Rowbottom		
Sanderson		
Schmid		
Siddique		
Souslous		
Taylor		
Trehy		
Umeh (Frances)		
Vaughan		
Walsh		
30	8	1

FOR	30
AGAINST	8
NOT VOTING	1

The amended motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.16pm – RESOLVED

This Council regrets that the last H&F Conservative administration introduced home care charges for older and disabled people. The Conservative administration also increased charges for meals on wheels by over 80%, increasing the cost of the service by over £700 per year.

This council proudly notes that the current Labour administration provides £5.3m of support to pensioners through the council tax support scheme, has overseen 10 years of free home care and cut the charge for meals on wheels by 56%. This council regrets the lack of support of the Conservative opposition for the budgets that put these positive measures in place.

This council further notes that the current administration has invested heavily in third-sector organisations that support older people and, in the last budget, invested an additional £1 million in cost-of-living support schemes. It helped thousands of older people across the borough through the winter-ready home schemes, winter support fund, fuel energy support, and pensioner benefit take-up campaigns.

This council welcomes the new government’s commitment to the pension triple lock and the extension of the Household Support Fund over winter, abolished by the previous government, which will provide vital support, such as fuel vouchers to vulnerable pensioners in H&F.

9.16pm – Councillor Max Schmid moved, seconded by Councillor Genevieve Nwaogbe, a motion under Standing Order 15(e)(3) to change the order of the remaining special motions as follows: 4, 2 and 3.

The motion was agreed.

7.4 **Special Motion 4 - Building a stronger, safer and kinder borough**

9.16pm – Councillor Rebecca Harvey moved, seconded by Councillor Nikos Souslous, the special motion in their names.

“The Council notes that in July 2024 the National Police Chiefs Council reported that there is an epidemic of violence against women and girls, with nearly 3,000 crimes reported every day in what they termed a “national emergency”. This council welcomes the new Labour Government’s commitment to tackle this.

The Council takes the safety of women and girls extremely seriously and is investing in services to support women and girls across our borough including Advance, the Angelou Partnership and Refuge.

The Council notes that following a public consultation with overwhelming support, in July 2024 the borough introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), making street sexual harassment an offence. The Council is pleased to note that the PSPO has already been used to fine those who have harassed women and girls who live, work and visit our borough.

The Council thanks officers who are delivering the No More Sexual Harassment campaign with valued partners, including the youth council, schools, football clubs, businesses, community groups and residents.

The Council welcomes the work of the borough’s public protection teams to tackle violence against women and girls, including:

- *The 72-strong Law Enforcement Officers, who have undertaken specialist training to support victims and hold perpetrators to account;*
- *The CCTV network with over 2,000+ CCTV cameras collecting evidence used to prosecute offenders;*
- *The Gangs, Violence & Exploitation Unit; and*
- *The Community Safety, Antisocial Behaviour and Trading Standards teams.*

The Council is proud of the work being done to make the borough’s streets safer. It has invested millions of pounds in community safety and works closely with partners, including the police, probation and prison services, and the violence reduction unit.

The Council calls on all members to support this work to make Hammersmith and Fulham a stronger, safer and kinder borough.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Rebecca Harvey, Jacolyn Daly and Stephen Cowan (for the Administration) – and Councillors Andrew Dinsmore and Aliya Afzal-Khan (for the Opposition).

Councillor Harvey then made a speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote:

FOR
AGAINST

UNANIMOUS
0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.40pm – RESOLVED

The Council notes that in July 2024 the National Police Chiefs Council reported that there is an epidemic of violence against women and girls, with nearly 3,000 crimes reported every day in what they termed a “national emergency”. This council welcomes the new Labour Government’s commitment to tackle this.

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The Council calls on all members to support this work to make Hammersmith and Fulham a stronger, safer and kinder borough.

7.2 Special Motion 2 - Unlocking the Benefits of Decarbonisation in Hammersmith and Fulham

9.40pm – Councillor Ross Melton moved, seconded by Councillor Omid Miri, the special motion in their names.

“This Council welcomes the new Government’s robust and rapid actions to accelerate decarbonisation and growth of the UK economy, including:

- 1. The launch of the cross-Government Clean Power 2030 Mission, headed by Chris Stark.*

2. *The launch of a state-owned renewable generation developer, GB Energy, chaired by Jurgen Maier, headquartered in Aberdeen, and tasked with commercialising new low carbon generation technologies.*
3. *The launch of a £7.3 billion National Wealth Fund with the aim of galvanising more than 10 times more private investment in low carbon infrastructure.*
4. *The end of the moratorium on onshore wind in England, with the largest renewables allocation ever through the AR6 generation auction.*
5. *The approval of 1.35GW of solar generation within days of the 2024 General Election.*
6. *The closure of the UK's last coal-fired powerplant in Ratcliffe-on-Soar in Nottinghamshire.*

As one of the London Boroughs most vulnerable to the negative affects of climate change, accelerating decarbonisation of the UK energy sector and wider economy is of vital importance to the residents of Hammersmith and Fulham.

In addition, the economic growth opportunity of decarbonising the UK economy is irrefutable, with the previous Government's Skidmore Review identifying the green economy as the fastest growing contributor to UK GDP, valued at over £41.2 billion in 2023 and employing almost half a million high skilled UK workers.

Decarbonising energy will deliver a win-win-win: reduce the UK's vulnerability to volatile energy imports, driving down household bills, and unlocking economic opportunities for millions of Britons.

Hammersmith and Fulham is at the forefront of the transition towards a green economy, investing in rooftop solar and retrofitting insulation and energy efficiency technologies into council-owned buildings. The Borough's modern industrial strategy is fostering the next generation of low carbon innovations. Our planning team continues to support thoughtful, low carbon development across the Borough.

This Council resolves to continue to support the new Government's strategy of driving rapid economic growth through decarbonisation of the economy, while providing an example of local leadership on the road to Net Zero."

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Ross Melton, Omid Miri and Wesley Harcourt (for the Administration) – and Councillors Jose Afonso and Andrew Dinsmore (for the Opposition).

The guillotine fell at 10pm. Councillor Melton made a short speech summing up the debate before the motion was put to the vote:

FOR	30
AGAINST	8
NOT VOTING	1

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

10.03pm – RESOLVED

This Council welcomes the new Government's robust and rapid actions to accelerate decarbonisation and growth of the UK economy, including:

1. The launch of the cross-Government Clean Power 2030 Mission, headed by Chris Stark.
2. The launch of a state-owned renewable generation developer, GB Energy, chaired by Jurgen Maier, headquartered in Aberdeen, and tasked with commercialising new low carbon generation technologies.
3. The launch of a £7.3 billion National Wealth Fund with the aim of galvanising more than 10 times more private investment in low carbon infrastructure.
4. The end of the moratorium on onshore wind in England, with the largest renewables allocation ever through the AR6 generation auction.
5. The approval of 1.35GW of solar generation within days of the 2024 General Election.
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7.3 **Special Motion 3 - Commending the Government on Planning Reform**

The special motion was withdrawn.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 10.03 pm

Mayor

Appendix 1 – Public Questions and Responses

Question 1

From: Donald Grant, Resident

Question:

When will the cycle lanes on Wandsworth Bridge Road be restored?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm, Councillor Sharon Holder:

Due to the changes in the highway code for cycling, the correct safer cycling position for cyclists is known as the control position. The original markings in WBR were only advisory and whilst they enabled cyclists to overtake on the inside during traffic queues, it did create safety issues at junctions and the pedestrian islands.

As Wandsworth Bridge Road is now 20mph, interim measures have been installed to get traffic speeds down to the speed limit and improve both cycle and pedestrian safety, with the added benefit of providing amenity to high street businesses.

Follow-up Question:

I'd like to ask about the imposition of the parklets outside our homes on Wandsworth Bridge Road and place the cycle lanes on a busy A road. It's a busy A road which is being made in busier by the two LTNs and the ongoing closure of Hammersmith Bridge. I think the previous cabinet meeting when the council leader and deputy leader encouraged residents of Wandsworth Bridge Road to become involved in further interventions on Wandsworth Bridge Road and follow-up correspondence. Why were these imposed without the community involved? Is this because the Leader is still presiding over the disorganised chaotic regime, described such by a former employee?

Response from Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Mr Grant, I was at the meeting when the Leader did consult you and other people in the Wandsworth Bridge Road area or the South Fulham area to be exact, to partake in what was then the Clean Air Neighbourhood Programme and as you're well aware, the programme has been agreed and the agreement that has been reached with the South Fulham residents has been that we will improve the South Fulham area to fit in with the Clean Air Neighbourhood programme and that included changes to Wandsworth Bridge Road, changes that were consulted upon as you're fully aware on many occasions including the Wandsworth Bridge Road Fairs that we've had during that period.

So, I'm going to make it clear when I say I don't think that your question is correct. I think that we have fully demonstrated that we've consulted with the South Fulham Clean Air Neighbourhood residents and most of which are very happy with the changes that are being made, including a number of the businesses who are looking forward to the parklets being erected.

I do accept however, that those parklets have taken longer than originally anticipated, largely because the manufacturers couldn't deliver some of the goods that we wanted at the time, in the time frame that we wanted, but I can assure you if there are any questions about

the introduction of the parklets other than what has been previously discussed and agreed with the local community, I'm more than happy to answer them when they come up.

Question 2

From: Caroline Shuffrey, Resident

Question:

In October 22 Cabinet approved a borough wide programme of Clean Air Neighbourhoods also known as LTNs. To date only two LTNs have been established, both in South Fulham. Has the Council now abandoned its plans to create LTNs across the rest of the borough, instead concentrating on increasing its revenues through a massive hike in parking charges?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm, Councillor Sharon Holder (provided as a written response):

The council does not install LTNs as LTNs are designed to restrict the movement of residents. The H&F clean air neighbourhood as a concept, looks at the wider community when trying to reduce through traffic from residential streets that create a nuisance to our residents and impacts on their quality of life. The agreed Clean Air Neighbourhood programme was always based on being resident led and developed only when neighbourhood residents were in majority support.

The parking changes introduced is to make behavioural changes to motoring in the borough which help deliver our climate and air quality targets. And moreover, for clarity, both clean air schemes and parking changes have been introduced for policy reasons and not for revenue raising.