

Minutes of a meeting of the COUNCIL on Monday 6 February 2017



Members:

Councillor Altaf-Khan (Lord Mayor)	Councillor Humberstone (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Councillor Brown (Sheriff)	Councillor Cook
Councillor Abbasi	Councillor Anwar
Councillor Azad	Councillor Brandt
Councillor Chapman	Councillor Clarkson
Councillor Coulter	Councillor Curran
Councillor Fooks	Councillor Fry
Councillor Gant	Councillor Goddard
Councillor Goff	Councillor Haines
Councillor Hayes	Councillor Henwood
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Iley-Williamson
Councillor Kennedy	Councillor Landell Mills
Councillor Lloyd-Shogbesan	Councillor Lygo
Councillor Malik	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Paule	Councillor Pegg
Councillor Pressel	Councillor Price
Councillor Rowley	Councillor Sanders
Councillor Simm	Councillor Simmons
Councillor Sinclair	Councillor Smith
Councillor Tanner	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Tidball	Councillor Turner
Councillor Upton	Councillor Wade
Councillor Wilkinson	Councillor Wolff

Apologies:

Councillors Tarver and Taylor sent apologies.

62. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

63. Minutes

With a change to Minute 58 to note that the Board Member's response to Sarah Lasenby's address was on behalf of all councillors from all political groups, Council agreed to **approve** the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 5 December 2016 as a true and correct record and that the Lord Mayor should sign these as such.

64. Appointment to Committees

There were no changes to appointments.

65. Announcements

The Lord Mayor announced

- the Christmas carol concert raised nearly £3000
- he had welcomed Princess Anne at the annual Farming conference and had welcomed the Indonesian ambassador on his visit to the city
- activities to mark World Cancer Day 4 February
- the holding of the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony
- there would be an event to mark 1 Day without us on 20 February
- the annual Oxclean would take place on 3 to 5 March

The Leader announced:

- he had asked the organisers of the excellent one-day exhibition on Holocaust Memorial Day if this could be displayed for a longer period;
- congratulations to the council's tenancy involvement team and the active leisure team in community services on their recent awards.

66. Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting

There were no addresses or questions.

67. Devolution Update – Combined Authority and directly Elected Mayor proposal

Council considered a report submitted to the City Executive Board on 15 December 2016 which recommended Council to support in principle the submission of a devolution bid with a governance model based on the current two-tier structure for local government with a combined authority and elected mayor.

Council resolved to approve the inclusion of the City Council in the submission of a devolution bid to government for a combined authority and a directly elected mayor.

68. Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for Oxford

Council considered a report submitted to the City Executive Board on 15 December seeking approval for the publication and submission of Oxford's sustainable energy action plan ('Low Carbon Oxford: A Route Map to 2020') to the EU Covenant of Mayors scheme.

Council noted that the submission of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan to the Covenant of Mayors fulfils the Council's decision of 20 July 2015 to sign up to the Compact of Mayors as these two initiatives are merging into a single global initiative.

69. City Executive Board Minutes

a) Minutes of meeting Thursday 15 December 2016 of City Executive Board

Council had before it the minutes of the City Executive Board meeting of 15 December 2016.

On Minute 99, councillors asked whether the Leader was proposing contributing to smart signs on the outskirts of the city to inform drivers of capacity at all park and ride sites; and whether the air quality management plan would be informed by the recent guidelines on air quality and human health. Councillors Price and Tanner said that the council would make use of the information on the impact of air quality on human health and the council would work with the County Council to provide car park management signs.

On Minute 101, Councillor Fooks asked whether the budget consultation had been adequate and meaningful given the 45 responses. Councillor Turner said that he had elected not to widely advertise the on-line consultation and good responses were received.

On Minute 104, councillors asked about the impact of the proposed transfer station on the park and ride; journey times; and whether there could be recycling and reuse of materials directly from the site such as glass crushed for aggregate. Councillors Price and Tanner said that the proposal still had to receive planning permission and those constraints may require a change in location. The use was also constrained by the site's proximity to a residential area. Redbridge was a large under-used site and other new and enlarged park and ride sites should be available in the next few years.

b) Minutes of meeting Thursday 19 January 2017 of City Executive Board

Council had before it the minutes of the City Executive Board meeting of 19 January 2017 but asked no questions.

70. Questions on Notice from Members of Council

Member of Council submitted written questions to members of the City Executive Board. The questions, written answers, and summaries of supplementary questions and answers are in the supplement to these minutes.

71. Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting

Council heard addresses and questions to members of the City Executive Board from members of the public submitted in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Addresses were heard from:

1. Adam Berry
2. Sobiah Hussain
3. Rick Mower, Director of RAW Workshop
4. Liz Sawyer
5. Sarah Lasenby
6. Artwell
7. Jane Alexander

Board members responded to these addresses.

The Lord Mayor thanked those speaking.

The supplement to the minutes contains the full text and addresses delivered broadly as submitted; summaries where these were not delivered as submitted; and summarised verbal responses from the Board Members.

72. Petition submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules - Stop the violent crackdown on innocent civilians in the Kashmir Valley

Council considered a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council's petitions scheme in line with the procedure for large petitions.

Council heard the head petitioner's address (attached to the supplement to the minutes) and considered the motions submitted in response to the petition.

Councillor Goddard withdrew his submitted motion asking the Council to take the action requested in the petition. Councillor Chapman proposed the motion submitted by Councillor Rowley and amended this as set out below. On being seconded by Councillor Goddard, debated and put to the vote this was declared carried.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

(1) Council thanks those concerned members of the public who have addressed and petitioned us on the subject of Kashmir. We share their grave concern for the safety and welfare of the people of Kashmir; we condemn the violence and lament the loss of life. We also share the petitioners' hope for a just peace.

(2) Council believes that a permanent resolution to the Kashmir dispute would bring considerable benefits to the people of Kashmir, enhance the overall peace and security of the region, and bring comfort to many Oxford's British Kashmiris with their family connections there.

(3) To those ends, Council calls on both elected Members of Parliament of Oxford and on MEPs living in Oxford to urge the Government to engage with international partners to:

(a) Press all sides in the dispute to condemn all political violence and any abuse of human rights, in particular the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, and observe all international standards of human rights;

(b) Insist that all sides permit unimpeded access for international human rights monitors throughout Kashmir;

(c) Involve the people of Kashmir themselves in any dialogue as well as the state parties to the dispute;

(d) Protect civilians, promote peace, and work toward a negotiated and democratic solution that will allow the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to decide their own future free from coercion and intimidation.

73. Outside organisations/Committee Chair reports: Oxfordshire Partnerships Update Report

Council had before it a report from the Economic Development Manager (submitted on behalf of Councillor Price) giving an update on the work of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

Council noted the report.

74. Scrutiny Committee update report

Council had before it the report of the Scrutiny Committee Chair.

Councillor Gant moved the report; thanked Councillor Tidball and the devolution review group for their work; reported that the Finance review group had concluded their work on the budget; and reported that Councillor Coulter would be chairing the new Health Inequality Panel.

He asked for suggestions for review topics.

Council noted the report without comment.

75. Motions on notice

Council had before it six motions on notice and amendments submitted in accordance with Council procedure rule 11.17, and reached decisions as set out below.

Council adopted motions:

- a. Support the Paris Climate Change Agreement
- b. Waiver of fees for interments of stillborn babies, babies and children
- c. Secondary School Funding and Pupil Places in Oxford
- d. City Council's response to One Oxfordshire

Two motions were not taken as the time for debate had elapsed:

- e. Avoiding a 'Hard Brexit'
- f. Supporting Local Social Enterprise

a) Support the Paris Climate Change Agreement

Councillor Tanner proposed his submitted motion, seconded by Councillor Landell Mills.

Councillor Simmons proposed his amendment, seconded by Councillor Brandt.

After debate and on being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost.

After debate and on being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

Council resolved to adopt the motion as set out below:

This Council is deeply concerned by the reported views of the president of the United States about climate change. We welcome the conclusion of the United Nations climate change conference in Marrakesh that the Paris Agreement should be implemented in full.

For the sake of Oxford's children and grandchildren we again commit this city to playing its full part in tackling climate change. We will continue to work to reduce CO₂ and other climate warming gases in Oxford. We will continue to embrace a low carbon future for the benefit of the people of Oxford and the wider world.

We congratulate the residents of Oxford on making big reductions in their carbon footprints at home, travelling and at work. We continue to support the aim of reducing Oxford's carbon footprint by 40% by 2020, compared to levels in 2005. In line with the Paris Agreement target, we pledge to work in partnership with others to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across Oxford within the second half of the century. As part of this commitment we also pledge that the Council will, by 2050, use only 100% renewable energy. We ask the City Executive Board to set appropriate interim targets to ensure that these pledges are achieved.

Oxford City Council will carry-on reducing its own carbon footprint by at least 5% a year every year. We will continue to work with Low Carbon Oxford, the Low Carbon Hub, the

Covenant of Mayors, Climate Alliance and others to reduce carbon emissions across the whole of Oxford city.

We call on our MPs and MEPs to do all they can to support the Paris Climate Change Agreement. We call on the other councils of Oxfordshire, our twin cities and everyone in Oxford to redouble their efforts to prevent the over-heating of our planet.

b) Waiver of fees for interments of stillborns, babies and children

Councillor Wilkinson proposed her submitted motion, seconded by Councillor Wade.

After debate and being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

Council resolved to adopt the motion as set out below:

Council is sympathetic to the suffering of families in Oxford who experience the loss of stillborn babies, babies and children and wishes to support grieving parents as much as it can.

Council notes that the number of interments of stillborn babies, babies and children in Oxford during the financial year 2015/2016 was as follows:

Botley Cemetery – 7
Headington Cemetery – 2
Wolvercote Cemetery – 6
Total – 15

Council further notes that the average number of such interments between 1998 and 2016 has been 18 per year, with a peak of 23 in financial year 2007/2008.

Income for fees and charges for 2015/16 interments of stillborn babies, babies and children in Oxford totalled £5,100.

Council notes the debate on baby loss in the House of Commons on 13 October 2016 and the excellent support given by Sands Stillborn and Neonatal death charity, and understands that some local authorities do not make a charge in these circumstances.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to investigate whether a mechanism for waiving fees charged by the Council for the burial of children or stillborn babies of Oxford residents might be introduced.

c) City Council's response to One Oxfordshire

With Council's agreement this motion was moved to be taken third in the debate.

Councillor Simmons proposed his submitted motion, seconded by Councillor Wolff.

Councillor Gant, having submitted an amendment, withdrew this on the advice of the Monitoring Officer that it would negate the spirit of the original motion.

After debate and on being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

Council resolved to adopt the motion as set out below:

This Council notes the One Oxfordshire proposals recently published by Oxfordshire County Council which make the case for a single, countywide unitary authority. This will involve the abolition of Oxford City Council.

This Council has just completed its own cross-party scrutiny review (Devolution Working Group) which looked at both local government reorganisation and devolution.

All these scrutiny recommendations have since been accepted by the City Executive Board.

This Council believes that the recommendations from the scrutiny review group remain relevant and should form the basis of a robust response from the City Council opposing the One Oxfordshire proposals.

d) Secondary School Funding and Pupil Places in Oxford

Councillor Tidball proposed her submitted motion, seconded by Councillor Price.

After debate and on being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

Council resolved to adopt the motion as set out below:

Continuing its decimation of funding for our children's education, the Tory Government's Fairer Funding proposals will hit disadvantaged children hardest and will leave 98% of schools facing a real terms cut in per-pupil funding.. That's an average cut to secondary schools of -£405,611 and an average loss per secondary school pupil of -£477. In Oxford, schools such as the Oxford Academy will face a damaging -£414,208 cut in its funding by 2019 and a -£616 cut per pupil.

This reform will place more pressure on the shortage of secondary school places in Oxford. The way in which school location and catchment areas have worked has meant that several areas of the city have been unable to count any one school as the school for their local community. Parental choice has simply not been operating effectively. As a result, children have been scattered across many different schools when they go into year 7, leading to the break up of friendships and local peer groups and long bus and cycle journeys across the city. It also causes huge amounts of stress for children with Special Educational Needs. By 2019, there will not be enough places in Oxford secondaries for all the children who are moving up in that year. The proposals for a new free school on the Meadowbrook site are controversial and have been delayed. An interim solution involving temporary buildings on the Cherwell School site, allowing time for a satisfactory long term alternative (possibly on Osney Mead) is being developed. It is vital that measures are put in place within the next few months to meet the 2019/20 'bulge'; and that time is given to find the best long term solution to meet the expected pattern of population growth across the city.

Council calls on our local MPs to support the City Council in opposing these funding reductions and calls on the City Executive Board to work with the University, the River Academy Trust and the City Council's planning team, and to consult with Oxfordshire County Council, to find a satisfactory long term solution to the capacity problems of Oxford's secondary schools.

e) Avoiding a 'Hard Brexit'

With Council's agreement this third motion was deferred till later in the debate to allow debate on the motion 'City Council's response to One Oxfordshire'. This was then not taken as the time for debating motions had then elapsed.

f) Supporting Local Social Enterprise

This was not taken as the time for debating motions had elapsed.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 8.40 pm

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