

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**30 JUNE 2008**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Lewisham held in the Council Chamber, Lewisham Town Hall, Catford, SE6 4RU on MONDAY, 30 JUNE at 7.30 p.m.

**Present**

Councillor Anderson  
**(Chair of Council)**

The Mayor  
**(Sir Steve Bullock)**

**COUNCILLORS**

ADDISON, J.  
ALEXANDER, H.  
BENNETT, M.  
BENTLEY, P.  
BEST, C.  
BRITTON, D.  
CARTER, S  
CROSS, R.  
DOWNES, H  
EDGERTON, D  
FEAKES, A.  
FLETCHER, J  
FLOOD, C.  
FITZSIMMONS, P.  
GRIESENBECK, S.  
GYECHIE, G.  
HALL, A.

HOUGHTON, D  
IBITSON, A.  
JOHNSON, D.  
KEOGH, M.  
KLIER, H.  
LONG, M.  
LUXTON, S.  
McDERMOTT, P.  
MAINES, C.  
MARK, E.  
MASSEY, R.  
MICHEL, U.  
MILTON, A.  
MORRIS, M.  
MULDOON, J.  
NISBET, M.  
ONUEGBU, C

OWOLABI-OLUYOLE, S  
PADMORE, S.  
PAGE, I.  
PARMAR, J.  
PASCHOUD, J  
PATTISSON, P  
PEAKE, P.  
PHOENIX, R.  
ROBSON, B.  
RUSSELL, J.  
SCOTT, S.  
SMITH, A.  
STAMIROWSKI, E.  
STOCKBRIDGE, R.  
TILL, A.  
WALTON, D.  
WISE, S.

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cathy Priddey.

## **1. Minutes – 21 May 2008**

The minutes of the Council held on 21 May 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.

## **2. Declarations of Interests**

Councillor Muldoon declared an interest as a directly elected member of the South London & Maudsley NHS Trust Members Council.

Councillor Long declared an interest as Chair of the South London & Maudsley NHS Trust.

Councillor Britton declared an interest in Item 15 as a teacher in one of the schools affected by the Government announcement.

Councillor Walton declared an interest in Item 16 as a member of the London Cycling campaign.

Councillor Feakes declared an interest as a Governor of Sydenham School.

Councillor Paschoud declared an interest in Item 14 as a member of the Board of Lewisham Homes.

## **3. Announcements or Communications**

The Mayor updated the Council on the provision of local post offices subsequent to the agreement of a council motion on this topic in April 2008. The Mayor confirmed the Post Office had closed all three offices that were under threat. He said the Council should still press ahead with a feasibility study and that discussions had been held with Essex County Council which had been examining the matter since December 2007. The Mayor advised that despite the extra months available to them, Essex were still not in a position to conclude an agreement and that there were vast differences between the commercial operation of post offices in rural areas compared to those in urban areas.

The Mayor continued by saying officers had held negotiations with the Post Office and had been provided with operational information given under the terms of a signed commercial confidentiality agreement. The Mayor said he had deliberately distanced himself from those discussions so that his scope for future action would not be impaired. He promised to keep all members informed about any future developments.

The Chair congratulated one of the Council's Freeman, Sybil Phoenix MBE who had been further honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List with an OBE.

The Chair reported the death of former Councillor Arthur Banks who had represented Grove Park ward from 1990 - 1994. Following a tribute from the Mayor, all present observed a 1 minute silence in memory of Arthur Banks.

#### 4. Petitions

Councillor Sue Luxton presented a petition bearing 77 names from residents in Marsala Road asking for a CPZ to be provided for their road.

Councillor Sue Luxton presented a petition bearing 127 names from residents in Foxborough Gardens asking for the Council to intervene with Pinnacle to ensure a playground was provided on the estate

Councillor Ian Page presented a petition bearing about 200 names from residents of the Kender and Somerville Estates protesting at the closure of the Housing Office at 287 Queens Road.

Councillor Sam Owolabi-Oluyole presented a petition bearing over 500 names calling on the Council to reject planning application DC/08/68523 at Cannon Wharf and calling on the London Business Centre to prepare fresh plans in consultation with local residents.

#### 5a. Public Questions

24 questions were received from the following members of the public which were answered by the Cabinet Member indicated. Copies of all questions and answers will be circulated separately.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Member to Reply</u>
1.	Mr E Campta	Cllr Massey
2.	Mr G Ambrose	Deputy Mayor
3.	Mr G Ambrose	Cllr Best
4.	Mr G Ambrose	Cllr Best
5.	Mr G Ambrose	Deputy Mayor
6.	Mr G Ambrose	Deputy Mayor
7.	Mr G Ambrose	Cllr Klier
8.	Mr P Richardson	Deputy Mayor
9.	Mr P Richardson	Cllr Best
10.	Ms M McLeod	Cllr Best
11.	Ms J Heaford	Cllr Best
12.	Ms G Winson	Cllr Best
13.	Ms M Drabble	Cllr Klier
14.	Ms M Drabble	Cllr Klier
15.	Ms E Davies	Cllr Massey
16.	Ms E Davies	Cllr Massey
17.	Ms G Thurley	Deputy Mayor
18.	Ms G Thurley	Deputy Mayor
19.	Mr Ray	Cllr Klier
20.	Mr P Byrne	Deputy Mayor
21.	Mr P Byrne	Deputy Mayor
22.	Mr M Calo	Cllr Best
23.	Mr M Calo	Cllr Best
24.	Mr M Calo	Cllr Klier

## 5b. Questions from Members of the Council

49 questions were asked by Members of the Council and written answers were provided by the Members indicated.

4 questions were submitted by members for written reply.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Member to Reply</u>
1.	Cllr Page	The Mayor
2.	Cllr Flood	Cllr Massey
3.	Cllr Michel	Deputy Mayor
4.	Cllr Keogh	The Mayor
5.	Cllr Maines	Cllr Massey
6.	Cllr Stamirowski	Deputy Mayor
7.	Cllr Phoenix	Cllr Best
8.	Cllr Till	Cllr Klier
9.	Cllr Cross	The Mayor
10.	Cllr Stockbridge	Cllr Massey
11.	Cllr Addison	Cllr Wise
12.	Cllr Parmar	Cllr Best
13.	Cllr Morris	The Mayor
14.	Cllr Owolabi-Oluyole	Cllr Massey
15.	Cllr Paschoud	Deputy Mayor
16.	Cllr Ibitson	Cllr Best
17.	Cllr Hall	The Mayor
18.	Cllr Fletcher	Cllr Onuegbu
19.	Cllr Bennett	Cllr Wise
20.	Cllr Houghton	Deputy Mayor
21.	Cllr Milton	Cllr Alexander
22.	Cllr Edgerton	Deputy Mayor
23.	Cllr Peake	Deputy Mayor
24.	Cllr Robson	Cllr Wise
25.	Cllr Russell	The Mayor
26.	Cllr Luxton	Cllr Best
27.	Cllr Michel	Cllr Best
28.	Cllr Keogh	Deputy Mayor
29.	Cllr Phoenix	Cllr Wise
30.	Cllr Morris	The Mayor
31.	Cllr Fletcher	Cllr Onuegbu
32.	Cllr Houghton	Deputy Mayor
33.	Cllr Robson	Cllr Best
34.	Cllr Luxton	Cllr Massey
35.	Cllr Michel	Cllr Best
36.	Cllr Keogh	Deputy Mayor
37.	Cllr Phoenix	Cllr Wise
38.	Cllr Morris	The Mayor
39.	Cllr Fletcher	Cllr Best
40.	Cllr Houghton	Cllr Massey
41.	Cllr Robson	Deputy Mayor
42.	Cllr Luxton	Cllr Wise
43.	Cllr Keogh	Cllr Wise
44.	Cllr Morris	Deputy Mayor
45.	Cllr Michel	Cllr Best

46.	Cllr Luxton	The Mayor
47.	Cllr Keogh	Cllr Massey
48.	Cllr Michel	Cllr Massey
49.	Cllr Keogh	Cllr Wise

Written  
Replies

50.	Cllr Milton	Cllr Wise
51.	Cllr Robson	Cllr Wise
52.	Cllr Luxton	Cllr Wise
53.	Cllr Luxton	Cllr Wise

**6. Approval of Pre-Audit Statement of Accounts 2007/08 and Annual Governance Statement**

Councillor Klier moved that the recommendation set out in the report be agreed and this was seconded by Councillor Hall. Following contributions from Councillor Feakes and the Mayor it was:

RESOLVED that

- (1) The pre-audit Statement of Accounts including the Annual Governance Statement for 2007/08 be approved and submitted to the Audit Commission for external audit; and
- (2) The Chair sign the Pre-Audit Statement of Accounts on page 12 of the booklet and also the Annual Governance Statement on page 111 of the booklet.

**7. Best Value Performance Plan**

Councillor Klier moved that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed and this was seconded by Councillor Hall. Following contributions from Councillor Morris and the Mayor it was:

RESOLVED that

- (1) The Best Value Performance Plan: Full Year Performance Outturn Report 2007/08 be agreed; and
- (2) Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to make any necessary amendments arising out of production of the report.

**8. Member Development – Proposals of the Constitution Working Party**

The Chair of the Constitution Working Party, Councillor Alan Hall moved that the recommendation set out in the report be agreed and he recorded his thanks to Sir Ian Mills for the work he and his Panel had undertaken and this was seconded by Councillor Walton and it was:

RESOLVED that

- (1) There should be an effective system of member development with personal development plans for all members drawn up by the members concerned with support from officers;
- (2) There should be formal descriptors of members' roles and responsibilities and that the competencies required to fulfil those roles should be identified and that those already put in place in accordance with accreditation under the London Member Development Charter should be used as illustrated in Appendix B of the report;
- (3) the Council's intention to commission an independent organisation to pilot a 360 degree assessment of members with a view to them being able to identify strengths and areas for development be welcomed;
- (4) Executive Question Time at Overview and Scrutiny meetings be continued and, if possible, enhanced, with a view to the Mayor and Cabinet giving account to them.
- (5) All Overview and Scrutiny bodies should report annually to Council on their activities throughout the year.

**9. Grove Park – Decent Homes through Stock Transfer – Section 32 of the Housing Act 1985**

Councillor Wise moved that the recommendation set out in the report be agreed and this was seconded by Councillor Hall. Following a contribution from Councillor Britton it was:

RESOLVED that an application be made to the Secretary of State under Section 32 of the Housing Act 1985 for consent to transfer the Grove Park neighbourhood to London & Quadrant Housing Trust.

**10. Member Remuneration 2008/2009**

The Chair pointed out a correction to paragraph 2.4 of the report had been circulated stating the correct upper limit was 75 for councillors wishing to enter the Local Government Pension Scheme. On behalf of the Independent Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the Chair formally moved the recommendations and this was seconded by Councillor Hall and it was:

RESOLVED that

(1) Having regard to the advice of the Independent Remuneration Panel and to the guidance issued under the Local Government Act 2000, the following recommendations of the Independent Panel be agreed in their entirety:

- (a) all members to receive a basic allowance of £9,812;

- (b) the directly elected Mayor to receive £67,910 special responsibility allowance;
- (c) the Deputy Mayor to receive £40,600 special responsibility allowance;
- (d) members of the Cabinet to receive £15,298 special responsibility allowance;
- (e) the Chair of Council to receive £6,130 special responsibility allowance;
- (f) the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to receive £12,260 special responsibility allowance;
- (g) the Chairs of Overview & Scrutiny Select Committees to receive £6,130 special responsibility allowance;
- (h) the Chairs of the three Planning Committees and the Licensing Committee to receive £6,130 special responsibility allowance;
- (i) the Chair of the Labour Group and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat group on the Council to receive £5,275 special responsibility allowance;
- (j) the Leaders of the Green Party, Conservative Party and Socialist Party groups on the Council to receive £3,165 special responsibility allowance;
- (k) a co-optees' allowance of £577 per annum to be paid to those co-optees who sit on the Audit Panel, Standards Committee and the Overview & Scrutiny (Education) Business Panel.

(2) The Chair of the time limited Housing Select Committee be entitled to the same level of Special Responsibility Allowance as other Select Committee Chairs;

(3) The operation of the new scheme, if adopted, be backdated to the 1 April 2008 in accordance with the Panel's recommendation;

(4) The allowances be automatically increased in April 2009 by reference to the rate by which JNC salaries are increased in the preceding July; and

(5) Officers publish details of the new scheme as required by law in a newspaper circulating in the area.

## **11 Appointments**

RESOLVED that

(1) Councillor Susan Wise be appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Lewisham Parochial Charities Trustee until July 31 2012

(2) The Mayor's decision to appoint Councillor Dan Houghton to replace Councillor Cathy Priddey as one of the Council's three representatives on the Phoenix Community Housing Association be noted.

**12. Action taken by the Chair of Council under Rule 15 of Section E of the Constitution**

The Council was notified of action taken by the Chair in respect of the following decision:

- Extension to Existing Town Hall Re-Wire Projects to Include for Fire Safety Works to the Ground Floor of the Town Hall

In answer to a question from Councillor Feakes, the Chair explained why he had exempted this decision from scrutiny. In answer to a question from Councillor Russell, the Head of Law confirmed all members were entitled to see a copy of the report on request.

RESOLVED that action taken by the Chair of Council under the urgency procedure set out in Rule 15 of Section E of the Constitution to exempt a decision from the overview and scrutiny process be noted.

**13. Motion in the name of Councillor Milton to be seconded by Councillor Maines**

The motion was moved by Councillor Milton and seconded by Councillor Maines

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Best and seconded by Councillor Ibitson. Following debate to which Councillor Morris, the Mayor, Councillors Michel, and Russell contributed, the amendment was declared to be carried by 29 to 18 with 6 abstentions

Following a summation on the substantive motion by Councillor Best it was:

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

"The council notes with concern that contamination by Legionelle bacteria has caused the closure of Ladywell Leisure Centre pool and urges the Mayor to work with all of the council's leisure providers to ensure that existing facilities are maintained to a good standard of hygiene and work on new facilities continues so that Lewisham residents can benefit from the free swimming programme announced by the Prime Minister on 6 June."

**14. Motion in the name of Councillor Page to be seconded by Councillor Flood**

The motion was moved by Councillor Page and seconded by Councillor Flood.

Following debate to which Councillors Alexander, Robson, Johnson and Wise contributed, there was a reply by Councillor Page and the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be lost by 27 votes to 23 with 2 abstentions.

**15. Motion in the name of Councillor Fletcher to be seconded by Councillor Morris**

The motion was moved by Councillor Fletcher and seconded by Councillor Morris

Following debate to which Councillors Britton and Massey contributed, a procedural point that the question be now put was proposed by Councillor Stockbridge and seconded by Councillor Long and clearly carried without debate. There was then a reply by Councillor Fletcher and a vote was taken resulting in a 26 to 26 equality which was broken by the casting vote of the Chair in favour of the motion and it was:

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“This council notes the recent publication by the government of a list of 638 schools, including 3 Lewisham schools, that must improve their standards, close or become academies. This council calls on the Mayor to write to the Schools Minister supporting the intention of encouraging all schools to continuously improve but pointing out that the government's announcement is highly damaging, counter-productive and ill-informed for the following reasons:

- One of the Lewisham schools named is already an academy
- It just highlights information already available to the public in the published school league tables
- It serves to damage the reputation of schools, whilst taking absolutely no account of individual circumstances
- It can only demoralise teachers and other staff working in these schools
- It is likely to deter pupils from applying to these schools, thus adding to their problems
- All three Lewisham schools have recently undergone major capital projects

We call on the government to adopt a more constructive approach to school improvement by working in partnership with local authorities rather than imposing central dictates on them and by introducing the pupil premium policy of attaching additional funding to children from more disadvantaged backgrounds.”

**16. Motion in the name of Councillor Luxton to be seconded by Councillor Johnson**

As the guillotine had been reached, the motion was formally moved and seconded and put to the vote without debate and declared to be clearly carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“This Council welcomes the dramatic growth in cycling in London over the past few years and is firmly committed to supporting and encouraging cycling within the borough. However, this Council notes with concern that the Mayor of London is considering plans to allow motorcyclists in bus lanes, a move that the London Cycling Campaign and Lewisham Cyclists have opposed on the grounds

that it could endanger the lives of cyclists and pedestrians and undermine the objective of encouraging more cycling trips. This Council shares those concerns and does not support the use of bus lanes by motorcyclists. This Council therefore calls upon the Mayor of Lewisham to make representations to the Mayor of London and to work with other boroughs to ensure such plans are abandoned.”

The meeting ended at 10.03 p.m.

Chair