

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2013/2014

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

16TH APRIL, 2014

Present - Councillors Shaw (Mayor), G. Harkin (Deputy Mayor), Adia, Allen, Ashcroft, Ayub, Bashir-Ismail, C. Burrows, D. Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, A. Connell, M. Connell, Cox, Critchley, Cunliffe, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Francis, Gillies, Greenhalgh, Hall, Hayes, A. Ibrahim, I. Ibrahim, Iqbal, Irving, Jones, Kellett, Lewis, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Peacock, Peel, Pickup, Radlett, Sherrington, Silvester, Spencer, Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, J. Walsh, Watters, Wild and Zaman.

61. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS

It was moved by Councillor M. Connell, seconded by Councillor J. Walsh and unanimously resolved –

That the cordial thanks of the Council be tendered to the Mayor for the most able manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office during the past Municipal Year.

The Council also wish to record their appreciation of the graceful manner in which the Mayoress has assisted in many mayoral functions during this year of office.

62. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 26th February, 2014 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

63. ACCESS TO INFORMATION REGULATIONS

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and agreed –

That the quarterly report on Executive decisions made under the special urgency provisions of the Access to Information Regulations be noted.

64. SEX ESTABLISHMENT POLICY

Councillor Jones declared an interest in the following matter and left the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor J. Byrne and agreed –

That the Sex Establishment Policy, as circulated to members, together with the adoption of the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, be approved with effect from 1st August, 2014.

65. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 9(a)

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(a) –

- (i) by Councillor McKeon relating to Ancient Woodland

The Leader of the Council replied to this question

- (ii) by Councillor J. Walsh relating to Local Super Output Areas

The Leader of the Council replied to this question

- (iii) by Councillor J. Walsh relating to the bridge leading to Harricraft Farm

The Leader of the Council replied to this question

66. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Darvesh, seconded by Councillor Kellett and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 6th March and 3rd April, 2014 be approved.

67. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor M. Connell and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 18th and 25th February and 26th March, 2014 be approved.

68. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor I. Ibrahim, seconded by Councillor Donaghy and resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be approved:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee – 10th April, 2014

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee – 8th April, 2014

Children Services and Culture Scrutiny Committee – 9th April, 2014

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny
Committee – 4th March, 2014

69. AREA FORUMS

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Sherrington and agreed –

That the minutes of the meetings of the Area Forums, now submitted, be approved.

Astley Bridge Area Forum – 12th March, 2014

Bradshaw Area Forum – 29th January, 2014

Brightmet Area Forum – 5th March, 2014

Bromley Cross Area Forum – 5th March, 2014

Crompton Area Forum – 29th January, 2014

Farnworth Area Forum – 23rd September, 2013 and 10th February, 2014

Great Lever Area Forum – 20th March, 2014

Halliwel Area Forum – 18th January, 2014

Harper Green Area Forum – 27th January, 2014

Heaton and Lostock Area Forum – 12th February, 2014

Hulton Area Forum – 27th February, 2014

Kearsley Area Forum – 24th February, 2014

Little Lever and Darcy Lever Area Forum – 3rd February, 2014

Rumworth Area Forum – 6th February, 2014

Smithills Area Forum – 27th February, 2014

Tonge with the Haulgh Area Forum – 19th March, 2014

Two Towns Area Forum – 11th March, 2014

Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum – 5th February, 2014

70. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – FLYING OF THE UNION JACK FLAG IN SCHOOL GROUNDS/NATIONAL ATHEM AT ASSEMBLIES

It was moved by Councillor Dean and seconded by Councillor Greenhalgh -

That this Council, via the office of the Director of Children Services, would like to encourage our schools (primary and secondary) to fly the Union Jack flag in our school grounds throughout the Borough and encourage them to include the National Anthem as part of school assemblies.

This would inspire children within the Bolton family to be proud of being British enabling them to appreciate our rich history and great heritage.

The motion was put to the vote when the voting was follows:-

For the motion, 34 viz:-

Councillors Allen, Ashcroft, Ayub, Bashir-Ismail, C. Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, A. Connell, Cox, Critchley, Cunliffe, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Gillies, Greenhalgh, Hall, Hayes, A. Ibrahim, Iqbal, Jones, Kellett, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Radlett, Sherrington, Silvester, Spencer, J. Walsh, Watters, Wild and Zaman.

Against the motion, 4 viz:-

Councillors G. Harkin, Irving, Lewis and Pickup.

Abstentions, 11 viz:-

Councillors Adia, D. Burrows, M. Connell, Darvesh, Francis, I. Ibrahim, McKeon, Murray, Peacock, Peel and Mrs. Thomas.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

**71. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –
INCREASED SEATS ON BOLTON COMMUTER TRAINS**

It was moved by Councillor J. Walsh and seconded by Councillor Wild -

That this Council welcomes the pledge by the Prime Minister that, “..Having listened to the people of Bolton we’re making sure that before the end of the year we will lengthen trains ... which means 200 extra seats on those key morning commuter trains”.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

**72. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – FIXED
ODDS BETTING TERMINALS**

It was moved by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor Jones -

This Council notes:-

- The prevalence of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) in many betting shops across Bolton, dubbed in the media as the “crack cocaine of gambling”.
- That, unlike fruit machines in pubs, bingo halls and amusement arcades (where cash stakes are limited to £2), gamblers can bet up to £100 every 20 seconds on FOBTs to win a jackpot of £500. This is more than 4 times faster than the rate of play in casinos.
- That nationally 80% of betting shop turnover is generated by FOBTs, with only 20% coming from more traditional over-the-counter betting on sports and racing. In Bolton there are currently 50 betting shops with 182 FOBTs, in which a gross amount of £196m was gambled in 2012:-

Bolton North East – 14 betting shops – 51 FOBTs – £55m gross amount gambled;
Bolton South East – 25 betting shops – 91 FOBTs – £98m gross amount gambled; and
Bolton West – 11 betting shops – 40 FOBTs - £43m gross amount gambled.

- The recent economic analysis undertaken by Landman Economics, commissioned by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling, to assess the impact of the growth in FOBT spending on local economies and across the wider consumer economy. This report highlights that an extra £1b FOTB spend produces a net reduction of 13,000 jobs and that the projected doubling of FOBT revenue by 2023 could destroy 23,000 jobs. The report also highlights the negative impacts of the increase in new betting shops and the relocation of existing shops to primary retail sites.
- The lack of action by central government to address the issues caused by FOBTs, and the announcement made last October by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Maria Miller MP, not to regulate maximum stakes, speed of play and maximum jackpots. Council notes in contrast the position in the Republic of Ireland where the Government has introduced legislation to outlaw FOBTs in betting shops.

Council believes that the proliferation of FOBTs is causing significant problems in Bolton and believes that the Government should introduce legislation to ban FOBTs in betting shops or, at the very least, give local authorities the powers to protect the wellbeing of communities.

Council therefore agrees to:-

1. write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to outline the terms of this motion and demand urgent action against FOBTs by the Government;

2. support the proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act by Hackney Borough Council that the Government creates a separate planning class use for betting shops; and
3. explore other steps that could be taken within existing powers in Bolton to reduce the problems caused by FOBTs in our town in the absence of further Government action.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.38 p.m.)