



South Tyneside Council

Borough Council

7 September 2017

Borough Council Minutes

27 July 2017

Present: The Mayor (Punchion)

Councillors Amar, Anglin, Atkinson, Bell, Boyack, Brady, Clare, Cunningham, Dick, Dix, Donaldson, Ellison, Flynn, Foreman, Gibson, Hetherington, Hobson, Hughes, Huntley, Kerr, Kilgour, Leask, E. Malcolm, I. Malcolm, K Maxwell, N Maxwell, NE Maxwell, McCabe, McHugh, Meling, Peacock, Perry, Porthouse, Purvis, Sewell, A. Smith, M. Smith, K. Stephenson, S. Stephenson, Strike, Traynor, Welsh, West and Wood **45**

Absent: Councillors Dixon, Duncan, Hay, Keegan, McMillan, Proudlock, Townsley, A. Walsh and M. Walsh **9**

The Mayor reminded the public that the meeting was being recorded.

Former Councillor Cathy Brown and Mr Bill Darling

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect to former Councillor Cathy Brown and Mr Bill Darling.

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

2. Minutes of the Council meeting 15 June 2017

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Presentation by Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird and Chief Constable Steve Ashman, Northumbria Police

The Mayor welcomed the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird and Chief Constable Steve Ashman, Northumbria Police to the meeting. Dame Vera informed the Council that it was a great privilege to be invited to the Council meeting. She invited Chief Constable Steve Ashman to give an update on the salient police matters. Chief Constable Ashman thanked the Council for receiving him. He proceeded to outline the key challenges ahead for the police in terms of delivering services.

He advised that due to budget cuts and in order to prevent the further loss of police officer posts (30 posts), the front desk at Milbank headquarters was now closed from 8pm (saving of £1.4m closing front offices). This was in line with similar sized police services across the country. However, he reassured both the Members and members of the public that police officers were available at Milbank at all times to assist with any issues.

It was reported that following the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, there was a greater police presence patrolling the streets of South Tyneside to reassure the public. Police attendance at significant events had also been increased and included armed police.

Chief Constable Ashman paid tribute to the police officers and expressed his appreciation on the feedback received from members of the public.

He referred to a recent visit by the Minister for Policing, at which both he and the Police Crime Commissioner had explained that further cuts would impact on the effectiveness of the police service.

There then followed a question and answer session by Members.

The Police Crime and Commissioner added that she valued the partnership with the Community Safety Team, the Leader of the Council and those Members appointed to the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel.

The Leader of the Council thanked Dame Vera and Chief Constable Ashman and noted the concerns of both the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner on the impact of cuts to the service. He thanked the police for their attendance at the Community Forums. He informed the Chief Constable that both he and the Mayor had met with the parents of Chloe Rutherford and Liam Curry, who were very appreciative of the work of the police.

Councillor Kilgour moved a vote of thanks to Dame Vera Baird and Northumbria Police for their continuing work.

The Mayor thanked both the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable Ashman for their update.

Members were invited to attend a Civic Reception at rising of the meeting, in honour of Dame Vera's appointment as a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

4. Mayor's Announcements or Communications

The Mayor congratulated the Leader of the Council on receiving the Honorary Award of the Doctor Winterbottom Fellowship from South Tyneside College.

The Mayor received two Awards on behalf of the Council. Members were informed that the Council's Website had won the 'Better Connected' awards by the independent public sector association SOCTIM (the Society of Information Technology Management), in the categories of Best Metropolitan District Website and Best Metropolitan Mobile Website.

5. Update on the Information, Communication & Technology and Digital Programme

Submitted: Report of the Finance Director

Councillor E Malcolm, Lead Member Resources and Innovation, introduced the report, which gave an update on how the Council's Information, Communication & Technology (ICT) and Digital programme was supporting the 20 Year Vision "To be an outstanding place to live, invest and bring up families".

Resolved: That the report be noted.

6. Questions received under Council Procedure Rule 8

One question had been submitted under this rule by Mr Thomson, a member of the public. Details of the question and response are set out in Annex 1 at the end of these minutes.

7. Petitions received under Council Procedure Rule 9

The Mayor received the following petitions:

- Petition to stop the closure of East Boldon Library (presented by Councillor Strike).
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- Petition opposed to the plan to close Whitburn Library (presented by Councillor Boyack)
- Petition requesting the removal of grass verges between 1-31 Ede Avenue as there is insufficient parking (presented by Councillor Dix).

After each petition was presented, the Mayor moved that it be referred to the appropriate officer.

The motion was seconded and agreed.

8. Motion received under Council Procedure Rule 10

The Mayor advised that one motion had been received under Council Procedure Rule 10.

Councillor Ellison moved the following motion:

“South Tyneside Council recognises that there is no place for religious or cultural divisions in society. As a politically led organisation, we believe that there must be tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

We are a tolerant Borough and have far more in common than that which divides us.

South Tyneside Council resolves:

- A) To adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism which reads:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews, Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”;

- B) Continue to support and celebrate the cultural and religious differences within our communities;

and

- C) Working with other partners and stakeholders, take a zero tolerance approach to religious and cultural discrimination within our communities.
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Signed:

Councillor Ellison
Meling
Huntley
Porthouse
Flynn
Kilgour

Councillor Meling seconded the motion.

The motion was agreed.

ANNEX 1

QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 27 JULY 2017

Questions under Council Procedure Rule 8

Question from Mr Thomson

"With respect to the library consultation; although the statutory minimum consultation length is 3 months, it is considered best practice if that consultation period spans the Christmas or summer holidays, to extend that period to enable those studying and working in educational establishments a reasonable opportunity to have their say. Also given the technical issues some members of the public have found in responding to the consultation, would the council consider extending the consultation to 15th October to enable inclusiveness and fair representation from all demographics of the community?"

Response by the Mayor

The Mayor advised that a written response to the question would be provided by the Operations Director within 7 days of the meeting.
