

PRESENT

Members of the Council

THE MAYOR: COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY COLERIDGE

THE DEPUTY MAYOR: COUNCILLOR TERENCE BUXTON

AHERN, Tim
ATKINSON, Catherine
BLAKEMAN, J M
BORWICK, Victoria
BUCKMASTER, Christopher
BUXTON, Fiona
CAMPBELL, Barbara
CAMPBELL, Mrs Elizabeth
CAMPION, David, BA (Arch), Dip TP, FRIBA, MBCS, CITP
CARUANA, Carol
COATES, Professor Sir Anthony, Bt, BSc, MD, FRC Path, FRCP
COCKELL, Merrick
CONDON-SIMMONDS, Maighread
CORBET-SINGLETON, John, CBE
COX, John, MA, FCA
CUNNINGHAM, Keith
DALEY, Mark
DALTON, Andrew
DENT COAD, Emma
FAIRHEAD, Thomas
FEILDING MELLEN, Rock
FRAZER, Mrs Priscilla
FREEMAN, Robert J
GARDNER, Joanna
HANHAM, Dr Iain, MA, MSc, DIC, FRCP, FRCR
HANHAM, Lady, CBE
HOIER, Bridget
HOLT, Tony
HUSBAND, James
JOHNSON, Dominic
LAMONT, Andrew
LASHARIE, Mushtaq
LEVITT, Bryan P, MA, PhD, FRSC
LIGHTFOOT, Warwick
LINDSAY, David
MARSHALL, Quentin
MASON, Pat

MILLS, Julie
MOYLAN, Daniel
O'NEILL, Dez
PAGET-BROWN, Nicholas
PALMER, Matthew
PHELPS, Barry
TAYLOR, Mrs Frances
WARRICK, Paul
WEALE, Mary
WEATHERHEAD, Miss Doreen M
WILLIAMS, Charles

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2009

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 14 October 2009 and of the special meeting held the same evening were confirmed as correct records and were signed by the Mayor.

2 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Former Councillor Neil Kearney

The Mayor reported with much sadness the death of former Councillor Neil Kearney.

Having stood twice for Parliament in 1974, Mr Kearney was elected to serve as a Councillor for the South Stanley Ward in May 1978 and he became Leader of the Labour Group on the Council in 1981.

In 1988 he was elected General Secretary of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation, which made it necessary for him to stand down from the Council and move to the Federation's offices in Brussels.

He worked tirelessly as a Councillor, undertaking a vast work-load on behalf of his constituents. The energy and commitment he gave whilst here continued in his work with the Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation. As General Secretary he visited more than 140 countries, striving to help those who work in garment and footwear production in sweatshops across the world.

During a visit to Cambodia he complained of feeling unwell, but continued to his next meeting in Bangladesh. It was whilst he was there that he suffered a heart attack and died in his sleep. His funeral took place in Belgium last Friday.

Mr Kearney leaves a wife, Jutta, and two daughters, Nicola and Caroline.

The Mayor said that sympathies go to Neil's family and especially to his wife and daughters. The Mayor had written to them to express the Council's condolences.

Councillors Cunningham, Blakeman, Cockell and Atkinson spoke in tribute to former Councillor Kearney.

The Council stood in silent remembrance.

One Sun One World

On 22 October the Mayor greatly enjoyed attending a performance of One Sun One World at the Royal Albert Hall. 1,500 children from the Royal Borough's primary, secondary and special schools performed in the premier of this new environmental work. It was the culmination of over eighteen months of work by the School Improvement Service and the schools themselves. The event and other related environmental projects were made possible through the Royal Borough's collaboration with the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal College of Music, the English Chamber Orchestra and the World Wildlife Fund.

The Mayor said that he could spend some time trying to describe just how good it was, but instead he had arranged to show the Councillors a short film in which they could see for themselves the tremendous result of all the work that went in to this project.

The film was then shown.

3 TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(i) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cecil, Donaldson and Ritchie.

Apologies for late arrival were submitted on behalf of Councillors Freeman and Lasharie.

(ii) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Moylan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Motions (i), (iii) and (iv) as Deputy Chairman of Transport for London. He left the Chamber during the debates and hence took no part in discussions.

The following Councillors declared personal interests in Motion (ii) in respect of their roles on the Governing Bodies of Schools/Nurseries:

Councillor Atkinson - Maxilla Children's Centre and Chelsea Open Air Nursery and Children's Centre where her mother is Chairman of Governors;
 Councillor T Buxton - Ashburnham School
 Councillor Mrs E Campbell - Bousfield School and Maxilla Children's Centre
 Councillor Condon-Simmonds - St Joseph's School
 Councillor Dent Coad - Bevington School
 Councillor Feilding-Mellen - Barlby School and Colville School
 Councillor Hoier - St Mary's School
 Councillor Husband - St Cuthbert with St Matthias School
 Councillor Johnson - Oxford Gardens School
 Councillor Marshall - Christ Church School
 Councillor Mason - Middle Row School
 Councillor Mills - St Anne's Nursery
 Councillor Warrick - Park Walk School
 Councillor Weale - St Mary Abbots School
 Councillor Williams - Chelsea Open Air Nursery and Children's Centre

4 PETITIONS

Presentation of petitions

(i) Cars speeding down Dalgarno Gardens

Councillor Hoier presented a petition about the danger of cars speeding down Dalgarno Gardens containing 150 signatures with the following prayer:

"We, the undersigned residents and users of local facilities, are concerned about the danger of cars speeding down Dalgarno Gardens which impedes safe crossing of the road in the vicinity of the St Quintin Park estate, particularly by older people and those with disabilities. We therefore urge the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to conduct a survey of the incidence of speeding in Dalgarno Gardens with a view to introducing traffic calming measures as a matter of urgency."

(ii) Conservation status for Sirdar Road, Treadgold Street and Grenfell Road and traffic calming measures for the Avondale area.

Councillor Blakeman presented a petition about the Avondale area containing 13 signatures with the following prayer:

"We the undersigned residents of the Avondale area are interested in bringing to the attention of the RBKC two schemes:

- 1) We would like our area consisting of the following roads (Sirdar Road, Treadgold Street, Grenfell Road) to be considered for Conservation Status in view of their historical background and interesting architectural features
- 2) We call upon the Council urgently to investigate and introduce traffic calming measures that will reduce the chance of accidents in

the locality and enable children to walk more safely to our three local primary schools."

(iii) Latimer area Feasibility Study of the Housing Stock Options Review

Councillor Blakeman presented a petition about the proposals put forward by the Latimer Area Feasibility Study of the Housing Stock Options Review containing 123 signatures with the following prayer:

"We, the undersigned, express our concern at the proposals put forward by the Latimer Area Feasibility Study of the Housing Stock Options Review.

The stock is relatively new having been built in the 1960s and 70s, and yet now, just as a cohesive community feel is developing, the Council's consultants are proposing to destroy the very community that residents have built. We strongly disagree with proposals for re-development: we like our homes and resent that opinions on how the estates might be improved have been twisted to justify "estate regeneration" - the euphemism for demolition.

We no longer have faith in the TMO. We are concerned that the EMB for Lancaster West is not mentioned in the review consultative leaflets.

We are alarmed at the information that the sports centre and/or Grenfell Tower might be lost to make way for new schools; we need more sports facilities not less to tackle bored youths; the site is too small for a secondary school which would thus have inadequate facilities, which makes it an irresponsible proposal, and the noise to surrounding homes would be unacceptable. The Eurostar site farther North is more suitable for a school and there thirty of forty acres of sports and playing fields could be provided for the schools. We do not agree with the proposals to disrupt the relative tranquillity of the estates and our green spaces by creating more "activity" with shopping centres, concreted public spaces, and linking thoroughfares, nor to increasing levels of crime that would result from re-creating links to troublesome estates around White City. If the council is to meet its targets to provide more housing, then the notated photograph, showing new schools *and* extended leisure centre *and* a new park, is dis-honest and unachievable, included purely to dupe residents into agreeing something otherwise unpalatable. Furthermore, such mass demolition is environmental nonsense.

We request that RBKC take a more sober approach to its review and do not propose to disrupt these communities with destruction, upheaval, and demolition."

(iv) Traffic calming measures in St James's Gardens north side

Councillor Lindsay presented a petition about traffic calming measures in St James's Gardens north side containing 63 electronic signatures with various comments on and suggested measures to calm speeding traffic in the area.

(v) Proposed change to the parking arrangements in Adam and Eve Mews

Councillor Gardner presented a petition containing 55 signatures about the proposed change to the parking arrangements in Adam and Eve Mews with the following prayer:

"1 Who we are

We the undersigned, being members of the faith community at Kensington United Reformed Church, write in connection with the proposed change to the parking regulations in force from 'single yellow' to 'double yellow' on the south side of Adam and Eve Mews and along side the north side of the Kensington United Reformed Church (and the former Allendale School).

2 Fairness to our views

We ask, as users of the church, that our views will be given consideration in the same way as those of the local residents. This church is a part of the community and has existed on this site for over 150 years. Many of the congregation are residents of the RBKC. Although as a group we are not unsympathetic to a general national policy of restricting the use of private cars for environmental reasons etc., the proposed double yellow line 24 hour parking restriction on this section of Adam and Eve Mews will certainly seriously impact on the faith group who attend Kensington United Reformed Church on Sundays.

3 Our 'gathered' faith group

Like the majority of non-suburban London churches the congregation of the church is a 'gathered' one and many worshippers travel some distance to attend this church. Some travel by car in family groups to attend the Sunday church service at 11.00AM. For example, for those who travel from south London, a journey by public transport at this time takes up to three times longer than a car journey, both there and back. Some families, not unreasonably, choose therefore to use a car to travel to the church. We have no 'off street' parking at the church to offer at all. If members of the congregation cannot park nearby the church for an hour and half on a Sunday morning they may no longer attend this church.

4 Sunday parking in the vicinity of Kensington United Reformed Church

As there are two churches in Allen Street - the other being St Mark's Coptic Church at the southern end of Allen Street - there is considerable pressure to find car parking space on a Sunday morning. The loss of 53 metres of parking space on Adam and Eve Mews will therefore overall only exacerbate the problem.

5 Is parking causing obstruction in Adam and Eve Mews?

It may be argued that the parking of cars on this section of Adam and Eve Mews causes an obstruction to residents of the Mews who are moving their

vehicles in and out of the Mews. In fact our experience at Kensington United Reformed Church over 40 years is that it is extremely rare for any 'blockage' to occur and even large cars and vans may pass down the Mews with care when vehicles are parked on the southern side. We have received no complaints from the police. The Mews is not a 'no through' road and there is access at the other end directly on to Kensington High Street. The majority of the residents in Adam and Eve Mews live in the gated area of Eden Close which is very close to the Kensington High Street entrance to the Mews. These residents have no necessity to exit or enter the Mews at the Allen Street end - there is a much nearer entrance and exit for them on to Kensington High Street.

6 Fire appliance access etc

When an officer from the Fire Services inspected the church earlier this year emergency access was not raised as a concern. As had been pointed out the Mews is not a 'no through' road and may also be accessed from the High Street as well as Allen Street.

7 General disturbance to residents

It is a fact that the parking of cars on any street will cause some local disturbance to residents. Now that Kensington High Street shops are open on Sundays the whole local neighbourhood has become much busier and noisier at this time than was formerly the case. The contribution to this extra coming and going by cars belonging to the congregation meeting at Kensington United Reformed Church is only a small part of any disturbance. There is only one house (no. 37) on the north side which has a front entrance directly opening out on to the section of the Mews where currently cars may be parked.

8 Contribution to community relations

The premises of the Kensington United Reformed Church, which is a grade 2 listed building, have recently been entirely refurbished. Quite apart from the contribution that this fine building makes to the pleasing character of the neighbourhood, the church halls and kitchen are being made available during the week to a number of Kensington charities including the 'Open Age' organisation, 'Alcoholics Anonymous', 'Dementia Kitchen' which we feel work very much to the benefit of the diverse community who live and work in RBKC. The church also runs a popular 'mothers and toddlers group'. We wish to support local charities who can make use of the church halls.

Although it may only seem to be a small thing, to create further parking restrictions for members of the church congregation will lead some church members not to travel to this church on Sundays if they are unable to park. This will particularly affect the older people and families with young children. There will be a 'knock-on effect' in that our numerical decline will mean that we cannot offer the volunteers to support the use of the

premises by charities and other social services. This would go very much against our aim as a faith community to make a valuable contribution to the *whole community* in as far as we are able to do so.

For reasons stated above we would therefore ask that this proposed change of parking regulations in Adam and Eve Mews be put on one side."

Pursuant to Standing Order 18, the petitions stood referred to the appropriate Cabinet Members for consideration.

5 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor announced that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the order of debate would be as set out in the agenda.

6 SUBMISSIONS FROM THE CABINET

There were none.

7 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL BY COUNCIL-SIDE COMMITTEES

There were none.

8 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were none.

9 MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN RAISED UNDER S.O.19

'Westway waterfall'

Councillor Blakeman spoke about the water which pours off the Westway onto pedestrians entering Malton Road from Ladbroke Grove during heavy rain. Pedestrians, including users of EPICS, were forced to walk through the 'waterfall' as they were unable to avoid it. Otherwise, they could enter from Malton Mews, but that has no pavement. She considered that anti-spray barriers were needed on the Westway above and called upon the Council to intervene at a political level with Transport for London.

The Council noted the matter.

10 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

(i) Recent proposals by the Mayor of London

The following motion was moved by Councillor Blakeman and seconded by Councillor Mason.

"That this Council is alarmed at recent proposals by the Mayor of London:

- To raise the cost of a single bus fare by 20% (from £1 to £1.20) and the cost of a weekly bus pass by over 20% (from £13.80 to £16.60);

- To abolish the Western Congestion Charge at an estimated cost to Transport for London of £70 million;
- To abolish the £25 "gas guzzler" charge at an estimated cost to Transport for London of £50 million;
- To resile from proposals to create step-free access at Ladbroke Grove and Latimer Road stations;
- To scrap perfectly serviceable "bendy buses";
- To abandon plans to expand bus services;
- To adjust current bus services "according to demand"; and
- To use inflation-breaking fare rises to fund vanity projects such as the so-called new Routemaster.

Many residents of North Kensington in particular do not own cars and will be disproportionately affected by swingeing fare rises. Others will be priced back into their cars for travel around London. Many residents of North Kensington also have mobility problems and the lack of lifts at stations in North Kensington denies them access to the Hammersmith and City line.

This Council therefore calls on the Mayor of London to reverse these decisions forthwith."

Debate ensued.

The motion was put to the vote and was subsequently declared by the Mayor to be lost.

(ii) Early Years Funding Formula

The following motion was moved by Councillor Atkinson and seconded by Councillor Dent Coad.

"That this Council notes parents' fears that nursery schools will close due to funding cuts of around 50% if the proposed Early Years funding formula is implemented. This Council also notes that such cuts would contradict government guidance which states that 'The single funding formula should not be used as a vehicle to close or close by strangulation, good quality nursery school provision'. This Council therefore commits to reject any Early Years funding formula involving cuts that will lead to the closure of our nursery schools."

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Daley and seconded by Councillor Husband.

To delete all and replace with:

"That this Council notes the excellence of Early Years provision in the Royal Borough to be found across all three nursery settings, in primary and nursery schools and in the private, voluntary and independent 'PVI' sector.

This Council further notes the review of the entire Dedicated Schools Grant 'DSG' system for 2011/12 which is likely to adversely affect the Borough's funding for all schools.

This Council regrets the confusion and uncertainty about the future of nursery schools caused by the Government's requirement to adopt a new Early Years funding system for 2010/11.

This Council welcomes the proposals to be put to the Schools Forum, in particular the nursery schools stability factor to be set at 97.5%, which will ensure that no providers are faced with a significant reduction in funding."

Debate ensued.

The amendment was put to the vote and was declared by the Mayor to be carried.

The motion, as amended, was then put to the vote and was subsequently declared by the Mayor to be carried.

(iii) London Borough funded Freedom Pass

The following motion was moved by Councillor Cockell and seconded by Councillor Miss Weatherhead.

"That this Council calls on the Government to back the London Borough funded Freedom Pass by not reopening the third year of the three year concessionary fares settlement and thereby putting at risk around £29 million p.a. of funding."

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Blakeman and seconded by Councillor Mason.

To add a sentence at the end of the motion as follows:

"These representations will reinforce those already made by the Labour Group to the Transport Minister."

Debate ensued.

The amendment was put to the vote and was declared by the Mayor to be carried.

The motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was subsequently declared by the Mayor to be carried unanimously.

(iv) Reconfiguration of the Circle Line

The following motion was moved by Councillor Mrs Frazer and seconded by Councillor Feilding-Mellen.

"That this Council notes the recent decision by Transport for London to reconfigure the Circle Line and recognises that this will have a beneficial impact on the reliability of the District and Hammersmith and City lines. It welcomes the benefits that this will bring in terms of increased reliability and improved train frequency at stations in North Kensington, with the number of trains per hour rising from 7 to 12 at peak times. However, it also urges TfL to monitor the impact on passengers at Edgware Road and to ensure that clear signage and guidance is given to east-bound passengers who need to use the bridge for access."

Debate ensued.

The motion was put to the vote and was subsequently declared by the Mayor to be carried unanimously.

11 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

(i) Resignations from and appointments to Committees

Major Planning Development Committee

Noted that Councillor Blakeman had resigned as a member of the Committee and that action had been taken pursuant to Standing Order 39.02 to appoint Councillor Cunningham.

(ii) Appointments to outside organisations

Schools' Forum

The Mayor announced that there were two vacancies on the Schools' Forum and two nominations for each vacancy had been submitted:-

Family and Children's Services vacancy:

The Reverend William Taylor was nominated by Councillor Paget-Brown and Councillor Atkinson nominated herself.

The nominations were put to the vote and the Mayor declared that the Reverend William Taylor was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Community Learning vacancy:

Mrs Emma Will was nominated by Councillor Paget-Brown and Councillor Atkinson nominated herself.

The nominations were put to the vote and the Mayor declared that Mrs Emma Will was appointed to fill the vacancy.

12 OTHER URGENT MATTERS

No other matters were dealt with at the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.31 pm.

Mayor