



London Borough of Hackney Council
Municipal Year 2021/22
Meeting held remotely
Tuesday, 27th April, 2021 at 7.00pm

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor Glanville,
Cllr Kam Adams - Outgoing Speaker
(Chair - agenda items 1-3)
Cllr Michael Desmond - Newly
Elected Speaker (Chair - agenda
item 4-16)

Cllr Soraya Adejare (part), Cllr Brian
Bell, Cllr Polly Billington, Deputy
Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr
Sophie Cameron, Cllr Robert
Chapman, Cllr Ajay Chauhan, Cllr
Metecoban, Cllr Sophie Conway,
Cllr Kofo David, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr
Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Humaira
Garasia, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr
Michelle Gregory, Cllr Katie Hanson,
Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Clare
Joseph, Cllr Christopher Kennedy,
Cllr Michael Levy, Cllr Anna Lynch,
Cllr Yvonne

Maxwell, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie,
Cllr Anthony McMahon, Cllr Sem
Moema, Cllr Guy Nicholson, Cllr
Harvey Odze, Cllr Deniz
Oguzkanli, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr
Sam Pallis, Cllr Benzion Papier
(part), Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr
James Peters, Cllr Emma
Plouviez, Cllr Clare Potter, Cllr
Steve Race, Cllr Ian Rathbone,
Cllr Nick Sharman, Cllr Gilbert
Smyth, Cllr Peter Snell, Cllr
Patrick Spence, Cllr Simche
Steinberger (part), Cllr Vincent
Stops, Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr
Carole Williams, Cllr Caroline
Woodley and Cllr Penny Wrouth

Officer Contact: Andrew Spragg, Governance Services Team Leader

This meeting was live streamed and can be viewed at:
<https://youtu.be/4LcbYq4IEzA>

Councillor Kam Adams (The Speaker) in the Chair

1. The Speaker's Welcome

- 1.1 The Speaker welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of Council which was held virtually via the Googlemeets platform in accordance with Paragraph 78 of the Coronavirus Act and Section 13 of the related Regulations. A special mention was given to Lieutenant Colonel Morriss, Deputy Lieutenant of Hackney, who was watching the meeting remotely.

2. The Death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (10 June 1921 - 9 April 2021)

- 2.1 Mayor Glanville led the tributes thanking Lt Morriss, Deputy Mayor Bramble, Meg Hillier MP and St John at Hackney for organising a service of remembrance on the eve of the funeral of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The Mayor described Prince Philip as a moderniser, who had served the country with distinction, living a life of royal duty. The Mayor referenced the significance of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and the virtual ceremony held earlier this year, where 46 young people were awarded. He recalled the Duke's last visit to Hackney in 2012, aged 90, when he visited Laburnum Boat Club and Hackney Quest as a patron of London Youth. Condolences were offered to the Queen and members of the Royal Family.
- 2.3 Deputy Mayor Bramble and Councillor Kennedy supported the sentiments expressed by the Mayor, praising the legacy and positive impact of the Duke Of Edinburgh Awards as well as his firm commitment to regeneration in the immediate and surrounding areas.
- 2.3 A one minute silence was observed in remembrance of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

3. Election of the Speaker for the Municipal Year 2021/2022

- 3.1 It was moved by Mayor Glanville and seconded by Councillor Moema that Councillor Desmond be elected Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney for the municipal year 2021/2022.
- 3.2 Mayor Glanville and Councillor Moema both spoke in support of the nomination. It was noted that Councillor Desmond had been a councillor for 28 years and this would be his second time elected to the office of Speaker, having previously served as Speaker in 2013-14. His consistent championing of green spaces, young people, and support of grassroots sport as means of developing community cohesion and

engagement as well as his commitment to working with the Jewish community was commended.

3.3 There being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Desmond be elected to the office of Speaker for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

The newly elected Speaker made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Adjournment - there was a brief pause in proceedings during which the outgoing Speaker vacated the Chair and Councillor Michael Desmond was invested in the Speaker's robe, chain and badge of office. Councillor Michael Desmond assumed the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor Michael Desmond (The Speaker) in the Chair

4. Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Speaker

- 4.1 Mayor Glanville moved and Councillor Rathbone seconded the vote of thanks to the outgoing Speaker, Councillor Kam Adams. The Opposition Group Leader reserved his right to speak until agenda item 10.
- 4.2 Both Mayor Glanville and Councillor Rathbone expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Adams for the dedicated manner in which he had served as Speaker during his two year tenure in 2019-2021.
- 4.3 In reference to Councillor Adams' chosen charities, Sistah Space, Sporting Hackney FC, Ivy Street and Hackney Foodbank, it was noted that he had raised almost £30,000 to date, of which nearly £10,000 had been raised for Hackney Foodbank, throughout the two years of his Speakership.
- 4.4 The Mayor applauded the work the outgoing Speaker had done in promoting better health in the borough, including raising awareness of prostate cancer, the importance of blood donations to help tackle sickle cell disease and efforts to increase Covid-19 vaccination take up.
- 4.5 Councillor Adams' determination to maintain the civic element throughout the pandemic by holding various online and / or socially distanced events, memorials and commemorations was highlighted. His championing of civil rights as well as promoting and celebrating the diversity of Hackney was commended, as was his responding to the pandemic with resourcefulness, creativity and great fortitude.
- 4.6 Special thanks were also relayed to Councillor Adams' family for their support.

RESOLVED Unanimously: To agree on the vote of thanks to the outgoing Speaker, Councillor Adams.

- 4.8 The Speaker presented Councillor Adams with the civic album and badge, following which Councillor Adams addressed Members, thanking the Council for the honour of being able to serve as Speaker. He proceeded to thank Members, officers, local residents and the many organisations who had provided support and who had assisted during his time as Speaker. Councillor Adams outlined a number of highlights from his two years in office.

5. Election of the Deputy Speaker for the Municipal Year 2021/2022

- 5.1 It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bramble and seconded by Councillor Spence that Councillor Garasia be elected Deputy Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney for the municipal year 2021/2022.

- 5.2 Deputy Mayor Bramble and Councillor Spence both spoke in support of the nomination, citing that Councillor Garasia was born and raised in Hackney and had been active in politics from a young age through Hackney Youth Parliament. Councillor Garasia's campaigning against hate and intolerance was commended, with specific reference made to the unanimously agreed motion she brought to Council in January 2020, which clearly defined Islamophobia and the Council's commitment to continue the fight against it, as well as all forms of hate.

- 5.3 There being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED Unanimously: That Councillor Garasia be elected to the office of Deputy Speaker for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

- 5.4 The newly elected Deputy Speaker made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested in the Deputy Speaker's robe, chain and badge of office. Councillor Garasia returned thanks for her election, gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing Speaker and announced that her consort would be her mother, Mrs Najma Garasia.

6. Apologies for Absence

- 6.1 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Soraya Adejare.

7. Declarations of Interest

- 7.1 There were no interests declared.

8. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 24 February 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 February 2021 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

9. The Speaker's Programme for the Municipal Year 2021/2021

- 9.1 The Speaker, Councillor Desmond thanked the Council for his election and congratulated Councillor Adams on an exemplary two years in the Speakership. The Speaker offered a vote of thanks and appreciation to the Chief Executive, Tim Shields, who would be retiring at the end of May 2021, for his strong leadership over the past 19 years. Thanks and well wishes were also offered to Anne Canning, Group Director of Children and Education and Lieutenant Colonel Morriss, Deputy Lieutenant of Hackney who had served Hackney for over 23 years, both of whom were also retiring.
- 9.2 The Speaker announced that his consort would be his sister, Joy Solomon. Marianne Ouaknin would assist in the event of his consort being unavailable. He announced that his two chosen charities would be St Joseph's Hospice and the Hackney Empire.
- 9.3 The Speaker set out his programme for the municipal year 2021/2022 which included working with Anti-Knife UK, the Cybersmile Trust and Rainbow Laces. In addition, he would be visiting schools in the borough to promote the importance of reading and also encourage twinning.
- 9.4 The Speaker, on behalf of the Council, offered condolences to the wife and family of Mr Mick Gosling, a former council press officer who had recently died.

Adjournment - the meeting adjourned for a short while for a scheduled break.

10. The Elected Mayor's Statement

10.1 The Mayor addressed Council as follows:

- Congratulations were offered to Councillor Desmond on his return to the Speakership and Councillor Garasia on her election as Deputy Speaker.
- Condolences were offered to Mr Mick Gosling's widow and family.
- Reference was made to the pandemic and the 490 residents in the borough who had lost their lives to Coronavirus as well as the contribution of all public sector workers.
- It was reported that the Council would be publishing a book celebrating the artistic creativity of the borough's residents during lockdown and celebrating the volunteers and charities that have supported residents throughout the pandemic.

- Thanks and appreciation were relayed to all Council staff and the services they continued to provide as part of the Council's collective response to the pandemic.
- Tribute was paid to the Here to Help call centre staff who had assisted in contact tracing, as well as providing bereavement and befriending services and support packages for those self isolating.
- Special mention was made of the Council's health partners who had worked with the Council to respond to the pandemic. This included the NHS and City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with particular reference to David Maher, who was departing as Managing Director.
- The inspirational response to the pandemic from local residents and community groups was commended. Examples included setting up networks of support to build community resilience as well as the cultural sectors that continued to deliver opportunities for residents.
- The Mayor highlighted the Council's commitment to promoting the vaccine to everyone in the borough, and engaging marginalised groups and communities to promote take up of the vaccine.
- He reported the Council's mission was to protect frontline services, engage with its communities and support the local economy to rebuild a better Hackney.

10.2 The Opposition Group Leader, Councillor Levy addressed the Council as follows:

- Congratulations were offered to Councillor Desmond on his election as Speaker and Councillor Garasia on her election as Deputy Speaker.
- A vote of thanks was given to the outgoing Speaker, Councillor Adams for his two years in the Speakership with specific reference to his working with Hackney food bank and the funds raised.
- Condolences were offered to the Queen and members of the Royal Family on the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. His devotion to service and the positive impact of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards on young people in the borough were highlighted.
- Well wishes were relayed to Tim Shields, who would be retiring from the Council on 31st May 2021. He was commended for leading change, and providing innovative leadership and discreet intervention.
- Well wishes were also relayed to Anne Canning, Group Director of Children and Education, who was also retiring from the Council on 31st May 2021.

11. The Mayor's Scheme of Delegation, Composition of the Cabinet, Sub-Committees and Champions

11.1 Mayor Glanville introduced the report noting that his scheme of delegation would be subject to review alongside the Council's Constitution in the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the Mayor's Scheme of Delegation as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- ii) To note the composition of Cabinet, its sub-committees (including the change of name for Cabinet Procurement Committee to Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee) and Champions as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

12. Establishment and Composition of the Council's Committees and Commissions

12.1 The Chief Executive introduced the report as set out.

RESOLVED:

- i) To approve the establishment of the Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Commissions as set out in paragraph 3 of the report;
- ii) To approve the membership of the Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Commissions as set out in the revised appendix 1 of the report; and
- iii) To approve the nominations for the Chairs and Vice Chairs of these Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Commissions as set out in appendix 1 to this report to enable the Committees and Commissions to consider these nominations at their first meetings.

13. Nominations and Appointments to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED: To agree the appointments and nominations to outside bodies on behalf of the Council as listed in Appendix 1 of the report.

14. Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Chief Executive and Returning Officer

14.1 Mayor Glanville led the tributes, noting Tim Shields' 40 years of public service and thanking him for his 19 years of devoted service to Hackney, 14 of which had been served as the Chief Executive. The Mayor commended his strong and effective leadership and transformation of the Council for the better, in spite of significant challenges. He was directly credited with Hackney being recognised as a high performing local authority and being awarded 'Council of the past 20 years' by the Local Government Chronicle in 2016. His ability to respond to the political mandate set out by Members was noted, with specific recognition of the vast improvement in education standards, the building of more Council housing, strong commitment to local employment, tackling the climate emergency and promoting inclusive leadership. Mayor Glanville praised the Chief Executive's leadership and response to

the pandemic and the cyber-attack on the Council. Mayor Glanville concluded by thanking him for his support and wishing him well for the future.

14.2 Deputy Mayor Bramble and Councillors Odze, Rathbone, Etti, Patrick and Stops contributed, echoing the sentiments of Mayor Glanville. The Chief Executive was credited with reshaping Hackney, most notably in improving and maintaining the Council's sound financial position. His ambitious leadership and his political neutrality were commended.

14.3 Tim Shields addressed Council in reply to the vote of thanks, recalling when he joined the Council in 2002 and acknowledging the collaborative efforts of working with the Mayor, Cabinet, Members, partners and communities within the borough to deliver better outcomes. A record of thanks was given to his management teams both present and past.

15. The Appointment of the Acting Chief Executive, Returning Officer and Head of Paid Service

RESOLVED:

- i) To approve the appointment of Ian Williams to the position of Acting Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer at the London Borough of Hackney from 1st June 2021;
- ii) To note the appointment of Dawn Carter-McDonald as Director of Legal and Governance Services and Monitoring Officer; and
- iii) To delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Governance Services to take any further action necessary to give effect to the contents of this report.

It was noted that Anne Canning, Group Director of Children and Education, would be retiring from the Council on 31st May 2021 after 6 years of service. Deputy Mayor Bramble, Mayor Glanville, Councillors Woodley, Patrick, Conway and Fajana-Thomas contributed to the vote of thanks and wished her well for the future.

16. Programme of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2021/2022

RESOLVED:

- i) To agree the proposed programme of Council meetings for 2021/22; and
- ii) To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any required changes to the programme of Council meetings as necessary.

End of Meeting.

Duration of the the meeting: 19:00 - 21:37

Contact:

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