

Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council

London Borough of Hackney Council

Municipal Year 2021/22

Meeting held at: Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA

Wednesday, 21 July 2021 at 6.30pm

Councillors in Attendance:

Mayor Glanville,
Cllr Michael Desmond - Speaker

Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Brian Bell,
Cllr Polly Billington, Deputy Mayor
Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Sophie
Cameron, Cllr Ajay Chauhan, Cllr
Mate Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway,
Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Susan
Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Humaira
Garasia, Cllr Margaret Gordon,
Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr Christopher
Kennedy, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr
Yvonne Maxwell,

Deputy Mayor Guy Nicholson,
Cllr Harvey Odze, Cllr M Can
Ozsen, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr
Sharon Patrick, Cllr Clare Potter,
Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Ian
Rathbone, Cllr Nick Sharman, Cllr
Any Sizer, Cllr Peter Snell, Cllr
Patrick Spence, Cllr Lynne
Troughton, Cllr Caroline Woodley,
Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Sarah
Young

Officer Contact: Andrew Spragg, Governance Services Team Leader

This meeting was live streamed and can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/htCbq1vj6ZY>

The Speaker, Cllr Michael Desmond in the Chair

The Speaker welcomed Tracey Fletcher, Chief Executive, Homerton Hospital and Lauren Tobias, Chief Executive, Volunteer Centre Hackney (and their guests) who were present in the Council Chamber.

Cllr Odze proposed and Deputy Mayor Bramble seconded that Rule 25.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules be suspended for the duration of the meeting. This was agreed unanimously by all present. In light of the meeting being conducted in a Covid-safe manner with social distancing being observed, Members agreed that they would remain seated when addressing the Council through the Speaker.

The Speaker reminded Councillors who were accessing the meeting remotely, that they would not be counted as being 'present' for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972 and may not propose or second a motion or vote on any item under consideration. They would however be able to speak at his discretion.

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors: Levy, Moema, Oguzkanli, Peters, Stops and Rennison.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr David.
- 1.3 It was noted that the following Councillors had joined the meeting remotely: Adejare, Cameron, Chapman, Hayhurst, Joseph, McKenzie, McMahon, Plouviez, Selman and Smyth.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interests.

3. Freedom of the Borough

3a Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

- 3.1 The Speaker proposed the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Glanville. The Speaker informed Council that Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust had faced unique challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, staff from all sections of the Trust had performed above and beyond the call of duty under the leadership of Chief Executive Tracey Fletcher. Tribute was paid to Homerton Hospital staff who tragically lost their lives whilst caring for patients. The Speaker thanked staff for their tireless work and dedication and believed the organisation to be a worthy recipient.
- 3.2 Cllr Hayhurst, Chair of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission, and Cllr Lynch, Homerton Ward Councillor (speaking on behalf of fellow ward Councillors, Deputy Mayor Nicholson and Cllr Chapman) spoke in support of the nomination. Homerton Hospital was praised for its patient centred care and for its outstanding Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating, the first Accident and Emergency Department to be awarded that accolade, with performance and wait times consistently better than the national median.
- 3.3 Cllr Odze also contributed to the debate paying tribute to all staff who worked for the hospital in a paid and voluntary capacity.
- 3.4 Mayor Glanville spoke in support of the nomination. He expressed thanks for the life-saving work of Homerton Hospital staff, including: security staff, cleaners, caterers, clinicians and the leadership team who had been on the frontline of the coronavirus crisis over the past 16 months. He noted that this was a collective Freedom of the Borough nomination for all those in Hackney's Health and Social Care system. Tribute was paid to staff who lost their lives whilst saving others. The Mayor praised the resilience of Homerton Hospital staff in dealing with the challenges posed by the pandemic and its tireless coronavirus vaccine roll-out effort in response to the pandemic. This included mass vaccination events like that at the

Hackney Service Centre led by Catherine Pelley MBE. A special vote of thanks was relayed to Tracey Fletcher, Chief Executive for her resolute and inspirational leadership and for their strong working partnership.

Unanimously RESOLVED: That the Council in exercise of their powers under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and being desirous of expressing its admiration and appreciation of the long and continuing support given by all of the staff at the **Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust** to the community within the Borough and most particularly as an institution that has been on the 'frontline' of the pandemic response and as a mark of esteem does confer upon the Trust the honorary **FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH**.

- 3.5 In response, Tracey Fletcher, Chief Executive expressed thanks to the Council and acknowledged the 4000 plus staff who worked for the Trust. Special tribute was paid to those who put themselves and their families at risk during the pandemic. The collaborative efforts of leadership and management past and present were also recognised.
- 3b Volunteer Centre Hackney (VCH)
- 3.6 Cllr Williams proposed the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Glanville. Cllr Williams then spoke in favour of the nomination. The tireless work of Volunteer Centre Hackney (VCH) before and during the pandemic was commended. In spite of the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, the organisation remained committed to helping others and was instrumental in saving lives and taking the strain off the NHS and other key services. VCH was applauded for recruiting, training and deploying over 1,000 volunteers and delivering around 1,500 food packages during the first lockdown, providing training and support for 120 Hackney volunteers and frontline workers to become Community Champions and delivering in excess of 1700 prescriptions to residents who were shielding. As part of the vaccine roll out, 850 vaccine volunteers had signed up to cover shifts each day at vaccination sites across the borough. Tribute was paid to its Chief Executive, Lauren Tobias, for her leadership, ensuring that some of the most vulnerable residents in the borough received the support they needed. Cllr Williams believed the efforts to bring people together to support each other to help make Hackney a better place and its inclusive, cohesive and ambitious ethos made the organisation a worthy recipient.
- 3.7 Mayor Glanville spoke in support of the nomination. He stated that this was a collective award for every formal and informal volunteer in Hackney that had given back to the community during the pandemic. VCH had been a long-term partner of Hackney Council and over the years had worked to support residents, voluntary and community sector organisations, frontline services and Hackney's communities. The Mayor commended their efforts throughout the pandemic, in particular assisting vulnerable residents and described the organisation's resilience and ability to adapt rapidly to overcome the unprecedented challenges as inspirational. A vote of thanks was given to Lauren Tobias, Chief Executive of VCH, who had shown dedication in supporting her staff, Hackney's voluntary and community organisations and

vulnerable residents within the borough. A vote of thanks was also offered to VCH staff and all volunteers. The Mayor stated that it was without doubt that VCH's work had saved lives and helped to take the strain off the NHS and other vital frontline services.

Unanimously RESOLVED: That the Council in exercise of their powers under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and being desirous of expressing its admiration and appreciation of the long and continuing support given by all of the staff and volunteers at **Volunteer Centre Hackney** to the community within the Borough and most particularly as an organisation that has been on the 'frontline' of the pandemic response and as a mark of esteem does confer upon it the honorary **FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH**.

- 3.8 In response, Laren Tobias, Chief Executive gave a record of thanks to the Council for its long-standing partnership and support. Thanks were also relayed to those who work in the night care team, the Covid Helpline Team and Cllr Williams. Tribute was paid to the multifaceted volunteers who help to enrich the lives of those they support.
- 3.9 The Speaker thanked both organisations for the eminent services rendered to the borough.

Close of Meeting.

Meeting duration: 6.30-7.03pm

Chair: Cllr Michael Demsond, Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney

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