

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON**

1 November 2018

7.30 - 8.40 pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Maggie Hulcoop (Chair)
Clive Souter (Vice-Chair)

David Carter	Mark Ingall
Simon Carter	Andrew Johnson
Joel Charles	Eddie Johnson
Nick Churchill	Stefan Mullard
Jean Clark	Danny Purton
Mike Danvers	Lanie Shears
Bob Davis	John Strachan
Michael Garnett	Emma Toal
Tony Hall	Phil Waite
Eugenie Harvey	Mark Wilkinson

OFFICERS

Brian Keane, Managing
Director
Colleen O'Boyle, Interim Head
of Governance
Lisa Thornett, Corporate
Governance Support Officer

41. **MINUTES SILENCE**

A minute silence was observed for the tragedy in Pittsburgh and Leicester City.

42. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Durcan, Tony Edwards, Michael Hardware, Shona Johnson, Sue Livings, Russell Perrin, Edna Stevens and Chris Vince.

43. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

44. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

45. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair outlined various events she had attended and in particular drew attention to the visit from the High Sherriff of Essex, her Civic Service, and the celebration of the Royal Navy's 60th anniversary and the opening of Newhall Primary school.

The Chair also advised that on Friday 2 November 2018 at 2pm, there would be an opening of the 'Fazackerley Hide' at the Nature Reserve in memory of Darren Fazackerley, who passed away last year. All Councillors are welcome to attend.

46. **PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

47. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The question together with the answer is appended to the minutes.

48. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

49. **MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

a) Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Proposed by Councillor Lanie Shears (seconded by Councillor Andrew Johnson):

This Council deplores anti-Semitism in all its forms and therefore adopts the definition of anti-Semitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in full and without amendment; and in doing so pledges to combat this pernicious form of racism:

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

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of anti-Semitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Anti-Semitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of anti-Semitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are anti-Semitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Anti-Semitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.'

This Council requests Cabinet to set up a Panel comprising cross party Councillor membership and leading members of the Jewish community, together with equivalent representatives from other religious communities within Harlow to explore what measures can be taken to be build confidence in the Jewish and other religious communities.

The motion was carried.

b) Pensions for Women Born in the 1950's

Proposed by Councillor Lanie Shears (seconded by Councillor Mark Ingall):

This Council calls upon Esther McVey, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1950, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age with lack of appropriate notification.

Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age. Many women born in the 1950s are living in hardship as a result.

This Council calls upon Esther McVey, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6 April 1950, so that a phased and fair implementation ensures that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

A vote on the motion was recorded. The details of the recorded vote are below.

The motion was carried.

Pensions for women Born in the 1950's (Motion)	
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop	For
Councillor Clive Souter	Abstain
Councillor David Carter	Abstain
Councillor Simon Carter	Abstain
Councillor Joel Charles	Abstain
Councillor Nick Churchill	Abstain
Councillor Jean Clark	For
Councillor Mike Danvers	For
Councillor Bob Davis	For
Councillor Michael Garnett	Abstain

Councillor Tony Hall	Abstain
Councillor Eugenie Harvey	For
Councillor Mark Ingall	For
Councillor Andrew Johnson	Abstain
Councillor Eddie Johnson	Abstain
Councillor Stefan Mullard	For
Councillor Danny Purton	For
Councillor Lanie Shears	For
Councillor John Strachan	For
Councillor Emma Toal	For
Councillor Phil Waite	For
Councillor Mark Wilkinson	For
Carried	

c) Permitted Development

Proposed by Councillor Mark Ingall (seconded by Councillor John Strachan):

Changes to planning legislation in May 2013 has allowed the conversion of offices to residential accommodation through what is known as 'permitted development' and these conversions do not therefore require the permission of the local planning authority.

In Harlow, this policy change has had unfortunate implications and disproportionate effects. Our town was deliberately planned to separate industrial and employment activity from residential areas. This was one way in which Gibberd sought to deliver quality homes and neighbourhoods to live in, with access to green space.

The consequences of this change have led to:

- A large quantum of office to residential conversions in our town centre which has put significant additional pressure on the Police and other public services in Harlow.
- A loss of business accommodation in our employment areas meaning that we are unable to attract new office based businesses or cater for our own growing businesses that cannot be accommodated in the Science Park.
- The creation of a resident population, including families with children, who are living in industrial areas with poor access to education and health services, shops, utilities , public transport and decent amenities and safe play and green space that we expect in our residential neighbourhoods. We are also concerned about the risks posed to residents in these localities where there will be significantly higher heavy goods vehicle movements, congestion and poor air quality which may have health and safety impacts.

Such is the quantum of existing conversions (in excess of 1,000 housing units) that this Council believes that there should now be a moratorium on any further such developments in Harlow and will seek to achieve this through our dialogue with the Government.

This Council will also pursue additional applications for Article 4 Directions which would mean any such proposed conversions would need to apply through the normal planning process and enable the local authority to exercise its powers in relation to location and quality of any conversions.

Councillor Simon Carter, seconded by Councillor Andrew Johnson, proposed the following amendment:

At the end of the fifth paragraph delete the words, “will seek to achieve this through our dialogue with the Government.”

And substitute:

“Will work with Robert Halfon MP, to secure:

1. A block on any further conversions of offices located in employment areas;
2. Introduction of a mandatory protocol for the notification of individuals and families in need to the receiving authority(ies), along with the funds to provide that care;
3. To bring the existing conversions within the planning system to ensure they comply with local requirements;
4. Developments must be obliged to meet basic requirements to ensure that they are fit for inhabitation taking into account amenity areas for children, transport connections and close proximity to facilities.”

The amendment was debated and a vote was taken. The amendment was lost and the original motion continued to be the substantive motion.

The motion was carried.

50. **REFERENCES FROM CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

None.

51. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

- a) Appointment of Member Champion

Proposed by Councillor Mark Ingall and seconded by Councillor Mark Wilkinson.

RESOLVED that Councillor Tony Durcan be appointed as the Member Champion for Mental Health.

52. **MINUTES OF CABINET AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings are noted.

- a) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 11 September 2018 of Licensing Committee
- b) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 13 September 2018 of Cabinet
- c) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 16 October 2018 of Scrutiny Committee
- d) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 17 October 2018 of Development Management Committee
- e) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 18 October 2018 of Cabinet

53. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Agenda item 6 refers

1. Mr David Forman to Councillor Lanie Shears, Portfolio Holder for Governance, Equality and Diversity

Would you agree that a practical measure to build confidence in the Jewish community would be to allow the Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 event to be held in the Council Chamber and that all Harlow Councillors should endeavour to attend the event, especially as the latest Home Office Statistical Bulletin showed a 40 percent rise in religiously motivated hate crime in 2017/18?

Response from Councillor Lanie Shears, Portfolio Holder for Governance, Equality and Diversity

Yes, if that is what the Jewish Community would like to do.