

ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 27 July 2005
(7:00 pm)

PRESENT

Councillor J Davis (Chair)
Councillor W F L Barns (Deputy Chair)

Councillor A Agrawal
Councillor G J Bramley
Councillor Mrs J E Bruce
Councillor H J Collins
Councillor Mrs J Conyard
Councillor R J Curtis
Councillor J R Denyer
Councillor M A R Fani
Councillor C Geddes
Councillor I S Jamu
Councillor S Kallar
Councillor M E McKenzie
Councillor W Northover
Councillor Mrs C T Osborn
Councillor J W Porter
Councillor A G Thomas
Councillor T G W Wade
Councillor Mrs M M West

Councillor Ms M G Baker
Councillor Mrs J Blake
Councillor Mrs D Challis
Councillor L A Collins
Councillor B Cook
Councillor W C Dale
Councillor C J Fairbrass
Councillor Mrs K J Flint
Councillor A Gibbs
Councillor F C Jones
Councillor M A McCarthy
Councillor D S Miles
Councillor D O'Brien
Councillor R B Parkin
Councillor Miss N E Smith
Councillor Mrs P A Twomey
Councillor P Waker

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor J L Alexander
Councillor A C Clark
Councillor Mrs J E Cooper
Councillor Mrs D Hunt
Councillor R C Little
Councillor Mrs J E Rawlinson
Councillor L A Smith

Councillor Mrs E E Bradley
Councillor A H G Cooper
Councillor D Hemmett
Councillor T J Justice
Councillor B M Osborn
Councillor Mrs V M Rush
Councillor L R Waker

33. Minutes (6 July 2005)

Agreed, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mrs West's apologies.

34. Petition opposing the extension of the existing Controlled Parking Zone in Manor Road, Dagenham

Noted that the Council will not be extending the existing Controlled Parking Zone.

35. Petition relating to Parking Issues in Saville Road, Chadwell Heath

Noted the actions taken to address residents' concerns relating to road safety in exiting Saville Road into High Road due to cars being parked on both sides of the

road.

Councillor Denyer emphasised the importance of enforcing regulations and requested that the relevant department ensures that appropriate enforcement is carried out.

36. Customer Services Report

Deferred.

37. Report of the Director of Finance: Statement of Accounts 2004/2005

Agreed the interim Statement of Accounts and noted that a final version incorporating an Audit Certificate will be reported to Members.

Councillor Bramley commended the work done by Councillor Geddes and officers in monitoring the Council's finances which had resulted in the production of a strong and healthy set of accounts.

38. Final Report of the Budget Process Scrutiny Panel

Agreed the recommendations made in the report.

Councillor Ms Baker, Lead Member, said the Panel felt that the recommendations they have made will raise Members' understanding further of the financial processes in the budget and she thanked everyone who had participated in the Panel for their work.

39. Report of the Standards Committee: Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy

Agreed the changes to the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy.

40. London Bombings - 7 July 2005

The Leader of the Council referred to a letter he had received from the Barking Muslim Social and Cultural Society condemning the bombings, and the reply he had sent on behalf of the Council, endorsing the sentiments expressed in the letter that we must stand united to root out this evil to make the world a better and peaceful place. Councillor Fairbrass also tabled a further letter from the Chairman of the Trustees of the Al-Madina Mosque condemning the atrocity, together with a copy of a guidance note issued to the local Muslim community. Councillor Fairbrass said that he would reply to this letter and thought that the advice given could be taken on board and used by all communities.

Councillor Fairbrass then went on to say that the Mayor will be holding a small reception on 18 August 2005 for representatives from organisations who gave help and comfort to those injured by the bombings to say thank you. Three people from the Borough lost their lives and, when the Council opens a new Civilian/Memorial Peace Garden in the Borough next year, specific reference will be made there to the people who died in the atrocity. Barking and Dagenham Labour Group Councillors are donating £1,000 towards this. Councillor Fairbrass also commended Councillor Geoff Porter, who works as a tube train driver.

The Chair fully endorsed the sentiments expressed on behalf of the Assembly.

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of the victims of the bombings on 7 July 2005.

41. Appointments

Agreed the following appointments:

Development Control Board (Wednesday Panel) – Councillors A Agrawal and W Northover

42. Leader's Question time

- Councillor Parkin asked the Leader of the Council if he would join him in congratulating the Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust on their achievement in changing from a zero star to a 2 star Trust, which puts them above average in the country.

Councillor Fairbrass responded that he did join Councillor Parkin in congratulating the PCT and hoped that they would continue to build on this achievement.

- Councillor Bramley asked the Leader if he would restate the Council's policy on naming and shaming.

Councillor Fairbrass said it has always been the Council's policy to name and shame, providing they are allowed to do it legally, and he reiterated that any press enquiries should be dealt with by the Council's Public Relations office.

43. Town Show Award to the Learning Disabilities Team

The Chair presented a cup to the Learning Disabilities Team which was awarded to them as first prize for a float at this year's Dagenham Town Show. Last year they entered a float for the first time and won first prize, and they won it again this year. Service users contributed to the making of the float and the project took them nine months to complete.