

PRESENT

Members of the Council

THE MAYOR, CLLR PREETY HUDD
THE DEPUTY MAYOR, CLLR DORI SCHMETTERLING

CLLR SARAH ADDENBROOKE	CLLR CEM KEMAHLI
CLLR HAMISH ADOURIAN	CLLR LUCY KNIGHT
CLLR KASIM ALI	CLLR WILL LANE
CLLR AARIEN ARETI	CLLR SINA LARI
CLLR MOHAMMED BAKHTIAR	CLLR DAVID LINDSAY
CLLR TOM BENNETT	CLLR SAM MACKOVER
CLLR LAURA BURNS	CLLR LLOYD NORTH
CLLR ELIZABETH CAMPBELL	CLLR ABDULLAHI NUR
CLLR ANNE CYRON	CLLR WILL PASCALL
CLLR EMMA DENT COAD	CLLR JOSH RENDALL
CLLR MARWAN ELNAGHI	CLLR MARIE-THERESE ROSSI
CLLR JANET EVANS	CLLR CLAIRE SIMMONS
CLLR CATHERINE FAULKS	CLLR KIM TAYLOR-SMITH
CLLR JOANNA GARDNER	CLLR JOHNNY THALASSITES
CLLR STUART GRAHAM	CLLR PORTIA THAXTER
CLLR GREGORY HAMMOND	CLLR TIM VERBOVEN
CLLR GERARD HARGREAVES	CLLR ROBERTO WEEDEN-SANZ
CLLR JAMES HUSBAND	CLLR EMMA WILL
CLLR WALAA IDRIS	CLLR SIDNEY YANKSON
CLLR DAHABO ISSE	CLLR SONIA ZVEDENIUK

The Mayor, Cllr. Lindsay, in the chair.

72 Seconds' Silence

The Mayor invited those present to stand in silence for 72 seconds to remember all those who lost their lives in the Grenfell tragedy.

1 ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was then moved by Cllr. North and seconded by Cllr. Areti that Cllr. Preety Hudd be elected Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the ensuing year.

Cllrs. North and Areti spoke in support of Cllr. Hudd.

The motion was put to the vote and the Mayor, Cllr. Lindsay declared that the vote was in favour of Cllr. Hudd.

The elected Mayor made and subscribed the statutory declaration of acceptance of Office and was invested with the Chain and Badge of Office.

The Mayor, Cllr. Hudd, in the chair.

The Mayor gave a short speech of thanks to Full Council and announced that her husband, Mr David Hudd, had agreed to serve as her Consort.

2 APPOINTMENT AND INVESTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor appointed Cllr. Dori Schmetterling as her Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Schmetterling addressed the Council.

3 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Mayor appointed the Reverend Emma Dinwiddy Smith as her Chaplain.

4 VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

A vote of thanks in the retiring Mayor and Deputy Mayor was moved by Cllr. Gardner and seconded by Cllr. Hammond. Cllrs Bakhtiar and Isse spoke.

Council RESOLVED:

That the Council give its thanks to Cllr. David Lindsay and Cllr. Janet Evans for the year they served as the Royal Borough's Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively.

Cllr. Lindsay and Evans responded.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Mayor.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

7 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had no communications for the meeting.

8 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COMMUNICATIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adam, Benton, Jedut, Marshall, McVeigh, Wade, and Weale.

9 STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND RESPONSE BY THE LEADER OF THE MINORITY PARTY (STANDING ITEM)

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to address the meeting. The Leader then rose to speak:

'If I may, I'd like to start by addressing the now former Mayor. David, where do I start?

What a year you've had, from jubilees, to the death of the Queen, to the coronation of the King. At the same time, I know local organisations, charities, and communities have benefitted from your programme of support and you have been such a visible presence across the whole borough.

You helped us to mark the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tragedy, leading staff through an incredibly moving and poignant moment.

You have put the community before politics, marking Pride, supporting Black History Month and enjoying our Carnival.

Together, with Janet, I think you have done a fantastic job. A resident from North Kensington, representing the whole borough. Thank you.

I have no doubt that our next Mayor will follow in your footsteps, and take us through another important year.

And welcome to your new role Madam Mayor, we wish you luck for the months ahead.

Madam Mayor, In the same spirit, I welcome the new leader of the opposition. We may well be returning to a more collegiate relationship, similar in many ways to Cllr Robert Atkinson and his efforts to work with me and my colleagues in 2017. Local Government tends to work more effectively when political interests are left outside and we focus on the local and the real.

However, a word of caution. I read the 'MyLondon' report on our new opposition leader with a great deal of interest. And despite the fact that I am a naturally pro-business Conservative I have to say that I hope the future success he has so eloquently and ambitiously charted out for his own business doesn't come too soon, at the cost of his new role.

Residents would no doubt like to see some stability in the benches opposite, I certainly do: it's a case of fourth time lucky in my time as leader of the Council.

It might, however, be beneficial for the Labour benches to start thinking about their next leader, just in case, just in case we lose the person in the hot seat to his own hot sauce.

Madam Mayor, although our politics don't often align. For example, we don't support the unnecessary strike action taking place in the borough this week, whereas others do. And I note a policy of 70% affordable housing proposed opposite. which is a policy for no housing at all.

Despite these things, we can find common ground. We have already set out our plans for a borough that is greener, safer, fairer. All commitments I am sure the Labour party would support as we all want to make this borough a better place.

And we have started work on delivering this plan at pace. Madam Mayor.

I am delighted to say I was voted in again as a councillor and leader for this side of the chamber, and I will lead this council with the same energy and vigour that I started with over five years ago.

We have won two elections in that time, and not only embedded necessary change in that time, but have become a modern conservative group. One to be proud of, one for others to look up to in local government, and to follow.

A group made up of many people, many backgrounds, many opinions, but all with the same priority: first and foremost we represent our communities

I remain as committed to this job as I was when I started – and even more so now we are starting to see the fruits of years of hard work.

New homes being completed, including social homes and key worker homes, and a block now named after Kelso Cochrane. Public spaces and green spaces increasing and improving, with relationships between business, high streets, and the local authority never stronger.

Net Zero measures introduced and already making an impact, as we make it easier and easier for residents to carry out their own changes – whether electric vehicles or solar panels.

Improving standards of customer service, led by residents themselves.

Award winning services, from museums to safety standards.

All this on top of great education, social care, sound financial management, and clean streets.

Madam Mayor, finally, I also want to take the time to congratulate colleagues on the front benches, particularly Emma, Johnny and Cem.

At a time when financial challenges are clear and present in all local authorities, their prudence and creativity has allowed us to create a borough wide clean-up programme, starting this summer.

Cleaner streets,

Tackling anti-social behaviour.

Responding to what residents want to see the most.

With tenacity and dedication to the job, my team is achieving and getting things done. And we will continue to strive for more, day in and day out.'

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Opposition to address the meeting. Cllr Ali then rose to speak:

'Thank you, Madam Mayor, and many congratulations for the role that you have been elected to this evening. I also would like to congratulate your Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dori Schmetterling, whom I've worked with on Housing and Communities Select Committee and I certainly look forward to working with him as Deputy Mayor.

May I also thank the former mayor, Councillor David Lindsay, for his work and visiting so many communities across the Borough. And especially in my ward, Dalgarno ward, where he visited multiple communities including Baraka Community Association. I also wish to thank Councillor Janet Evans for your support and the work she has done as Deputy Mayor.

Before I respond to the Leader, who I would thank for welcoming me and congratulating me for winning the Labour Group Leadership, I would like to thank on the record the wonderful Labour councillors who have elected me as their leader. And rest assured, I'm not going anywhere. I can definitely say to the Leader, whom I thank for her comments but she's already planning or thinking about if the Labour Group will change. This is not the Labour Group that you have known, Madam Leader, If I may say to you, we may be good in business, the Labour Group that you may know, is not the Labour that you've met before. Not divisiveness; we are making sure that we serve our communities and we will make sure that we will hold the leadership accountable to not just what you say but what you do and that's a promise that we will give you from this end of the chamber.

Madam Mayor, it's an honour to be elected as the Leader of the Opposition. We may be the minority, but we, the Labour Party, are actually the largest party in local government with the success we recently had. So perhaps the Leader and her Conservative colleagues are thinking about what's coming in three years' time? And I do welcome if our residents give us the privilege to lead this wonderful borough of ours. That is one thing that we all agree, that we can actually make it better than it has been before but it's definitely something we do all agree.

Our priorities as an upcoming Labour Group, will definitely be changing policies rather than concentrating on things that do not matter for our residents.

We have shown a new working relationship, by electing you, Madam Mayor first as a whole Chamber voted for you, and that is the kind of work which I would like to see from both ends of the Chamber, rather than infighting, and we are making sure that we waste no time but start delivering for our residents.

Rest assured, this Labour Group that I'm leading is up for that task, and we will, hopefully, delivery for all our residents, not just those who live in the north of the borough, but across the borough.

As I have said before, this is a wonderful borough of ours. I have worked in different roles in the borough. Today it is a privilege for me to be the Opposition Leader, and to speak and respond to the Leader of the Council, but my work started here as a bus driver. I remember the Deputy Leader, Kim Taylor-Smith telling Councillors to come on his bus as he always used but he doesn't know how to drive it. I actually can say to him now, I can drive the bus, so come on this side and I will drive you safely.

We will make sure that we hold accountable those who are in power and we, the Labour Group, the biggest party in the country, and the upcoming Labour government will work with the upcoming Labour leadership in this borough in three years' time.

We're waiting for a Labour government next year. I know we're not talking about national politics, but who can resist talking about it when a wonderful Labour administration is coming and lifting up the businesses locally and nationally.

I have been told now by the Leader that I'm a big fan of hot sauce, well, I will be inviting everyone to taste my hot sauce, I will not make marketing out of it but only responding to the leader, my hot sauce is actually called Kensington sauce and I will be launching it sometime in this year.

We will make sure that this borough is not just helping its residents with housing, education which is a pathway to prosperity but also with the economy which is number one. That's why we're looking forward to working with councillors across the Chamber and business across the borough.

Madam Mayor, if I may say finally, it has been a privilege to work with the former mayor and looking forward to working with you

We will do our best to find justice for Grenfell community, I joined politics because of them. We're here not just for the local communities but we're also here for the Grenfell community that has suffered. I would never have been here tonight if I did not witness what happened on that night at Grenfell Tower. Justice delayed, Madam Mayor, is justice denied.

We were looking forward to working with the council Leadership and with all the residents in our borough.

Many thanks again, and many congratulations for your election tonight. Thank you Madam Mayor.'

10 REVIEW OF REPRESENTATION AND APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Cllrs. Thalassites, Lari, and Verboven moved the appointments standing their names.

RESOLVED:

That the appointments be agreed.

11 AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023/24

The reception of the report was moved by Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. Taylor-Smith.

RESOLVED:

That the amended Schedule of Council Meetings 2023/24 be agreed.

12 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Cllr. Thalassites and Lari moved the appointments standing their names.

RESOLVED:

That the appointments be agreed.

13 ANY OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN ITEMS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS URGENT

The meeting ended at 7.41 pm

Mayor