

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 13 November 2024**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Nosheen Dad) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Councillor Beverley Addy | Councillor Masood Ahmed |
| Councillor Itrat Ali | Councillor Zarina Amin |
| Councillor Ammar Anwar | Councillor Bill Armer |
| Councillor Ali Arshad | Councillor Timothy Bamford |
| Councillor Donna Bellamy | Councillor Tanisha Bramwell |
| Councillor Damian Brook | Councillor Cahal Burke |
| Councillor Aafaq Butt | Councillor Andrew Cooper |
| Councillor Moses Crook | Councillor Aziz Daji |
| Councillor Hanifa Darwan | Councillor Paola Antonia Davies |
| Councillor Eric Firth | Councillor Charles Greaves |
| Councillor David Hall | Councillor Tyler Hawkins |
| Councillor Lisa Holmes | Councillor Caroline Holt |
| Councillor James Homewood | Councillor Yusra Hussain |
| Councillor Zahid Kahut | Councillor Viv Kendrick |
| Councillor Musarrat Khan | Councillor Jo Lawson |
| Councillor John Lawson | Councillor Susan Lee-Richards |
| Councillor David Longstaff | Councillor Andrew Marchington |
| Councillor Harry McCarthy | Councillor Tony McGrath |
| Councillor Hannah McKerchar | Councillor Matthew McLoughlin |
| Councillor Paul Moore | Councillor Alison Munro |
| Councillor Darren O'Donovan | Councillor Carole Pattison |
| Councillor Andrew Pinnock | Councillor Ashleigh Robinson |
| Councillor Jane Rylah | Councillor Imran Safdar |
| Councillor Cathy Scott | Councillor Angela Sewell |
| Councillor Joshua Sheard | Councillor Will Simpson |
| Councillor Anthony Smith | Councillor Elizabeth Smaje |
| Councillor Richard Smith | Councillor Mohan Sokhal |
| Councillor John Taylor | Councillor Mark Thompson |
| Councillor Graham Turner | Councillor Sheikh Ullah |
| Councillor Alex Vickers | Councillor Habiban Zaman |

97 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Damian Brook who had recently been elected to the Holme Valley South ward.

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The Mayor informed Council of the death of Pauline Simms, who had served as Mayoress to former Councillor Ken Simms, during the 1995 to 1996 mayoral year. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor conveyed sympathy and expressed appreciation for Pauline's commitment to the role during her year as Mayoress.

The Mayor highlighted that November marked Islamophobia Awareness Month and encouraged Members to support and attend events that were being held in local communities.

With the permission of the Mayor, Councillor O'Donovan highlighted Men's Mental Health Awareness Month, which aimed to raise awareness of men's mental health challenges, and encouraged Councillors to support communities in reaching to the support services available.

98 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Munir Ahmed, Karen Allison, Martyn Bolt, Vivien Lees-Hamilton, Gwen Lowe, Amanda Pinnock, Kath Pinnock and Adam Zaman.

99 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 16 October 2024 be approved as a correct record.

100 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors Sokhal and Thompson declared an 'other interest' in Agenda Item 9 (Petition Debate – Dewsbury Sports Centre) in their capacity as Trustees of Kirklees Active Leisure.

101 **Petitions (From Members of the Council)**

Council received petitions from (i) Councillor J D Lawson requesting that Council debate the re-submitted Motion 'Gaza – A Year on, urgent Action is needed' and (ii) Councillor Daji regarding a lack of estate maintenance at Frederick Walker Gardens.

The Mayor advised that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9(3), the subject matter of the petitions be referred to the relevant Executive Director.

102 **Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)**

Council received deputations from;

- Angela Nicholls on behalf of the Oakenshaw Monument Preservation Group regarding the restoration and return of the Oakenshaw Cross.

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Crook).

- Jake Surman on behalf of Almondbury Business and Community Association, regarding Almondbury and Lepton Christmas Lights.

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

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- Suhaib Mohammed and Abdul Jabbar Choudary regarding the submitted Motion on Gaza.

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

- Helen Wilson on behalf of Dewsbury Cemetery Action Group regarding the provision of multi faith burial space in Dewsbury.

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

103

Public Question Time

Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 11, the following written questions were submitted;

- (i) Question from Angela Nicholls

“When will the Council work with local residents to improve the safety of pedestrians, road users, and horse riders on Wyke Lane which has 3 access points on to Spen Valley Greenway and is a rat run to avoid Chain Bar? A 20 mph speed limit is needed.”

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader (Councillor Crook).

- (ii) Question from Angela Nicholls

“Will the Council review the wording and poor positioning of the road signs at the entrance to Wyke Lane from Bradford Road to include length restriction as 16.5 metre articulated vehicles cannot negotiate a heritage site without damage to the site or neighbouring properties? This will necessitate liaison with Bradford Council for similar from the Wyke end of the lane.”

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader (Councillor Crook).

- (iii) Question from Christopher Ellis

“How was the cut to the library budget of 912K calculated and agreed at Cabinet, whilst maintaining a comprehensive and efficient library service?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

104

West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 19 September 2024 were received and noted.

105

Key Discussion - Elected Mayor (West Yorkshire Combined Authority)

The Elected Mayor of West Yorkshire was in attendance for the key discussion and provided an overview of her priorities, prior to a question and answer session.

106 Petition Debate - Dewsbury Sports Centre

Council held a petition debate on the future of Dewsbury Sports Centre, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9a.

(It was moved by Councillor Kahut and Councillor J Lawson that Agenda Items 12 and 12 be considered as the next agenda items. The proposal, upon being put to the vote, was carried).

107 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Gaza - a year on, urgent action is needed

It was moved by Councillor Arshad, seconded by Councillor Safdar and

RESOLVED –

- 1) That this Council notes that nearly a year on from the start of the latest conflict in Gaza:
 - a) 10,000's of innocent men, women and children have been killed or seriously injured. Many more are missing in the debris of Gaza.
 - b) Gaza is being raised to the ground. There has been indiscriminate bombing of refugee camps, medical facilities, schools, places of worship of all denominations and the general infra structure.
 - c) Aid is still not getting into Gaza in the quantity needed due to interference by the Israeli Govt this has resulted in widespread malnutrition and the remaining medical facilities running without even the basic of medical supplies.
 - d) That the Israeli government is guilty of war crimes and breaching International Humanitarian Law. Creating an Apartheid State within the Palestinian Territories of Gaza and the West Bank.
 - e) The International Court of Justice has declared the situation in Gaza to be genocide
 - f) That many residents of Kirklees remain gravely concerned about the ongoing situation in Gaza and wish to see an end to the genocide in Gaza.
- 2) That this is Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister to urge him to;
 - revoke licenses which allow the selling of arms and military equipment to Israel until a time the Israeli Government stops the on-going genocide in Gaza, ceases to occupy the Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, abides by the IJC rulings and the numerous United Nations resolutions.
 - lobby his Israeli counterpart to immediately allowed in aid to Gaza unfettered by obstructions, in a bid to holt the humanitarian crisis that is occurring within Gaza.
 - all diplomatic channels at his disposal to call for a ceasefire and the return of the Israeli hostages

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- 3) That we ask that Kirklees Council where at all lawful and practical to avoid purchases of goods from Israeli companies illegally occupying the afore mentioned Palestinian Territories.
- 4) That this Council commits to conducting a thorough review of its procurement practices to ensure that goods and consumables sourced from companies directly or indirectly involved in the conflict are not used.”

108 Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

109 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

110 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Providing Similar Support Mechanisms as Ukraine to those impacted by Genocide in Palestine

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

111 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Situation in the Middle East

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

112 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).