



**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF BIRMINGHAM CITY
COUNCIL 4 MARCH 2020**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2020 AT
1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Yvonne Mosquito) in the Chair.

Councillors

Alex Aitken	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Deirdre Alden	Fred Grindrod	Karen McCarthy
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Saddak Miah
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	Gareth Moore
Baber Baz	Adam Higgs	Simon Morrall
Matt Bennett	Charlotte Hodivala	Yvonne Mosquito
Kate Booth	Jon Hunt	Robert Pocock
Sir Albert Bore	Mahmood Hussain	Julien Pritchard
Nicky Brennan	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Timothy Huxtable	Lou Robson
Tristan Chatfield	Mohammed Idrees	Shafique Shah
Zaker Choudhry	Ziaul Islam	Mike Sharpe
Debbie Clancy	Kerry Jenkins	Sybil Spence
Liz Clements	Meirion Jenkins	Ron Storer
Maureen Cornish	Julie Johnson	Martin Straker Welds
Phil Davis	Brigid Jones	Sharon Thompson
Diane Donaldson	Josh Jones	Lisa Trickett
Barbara Dring	Nagina Kauser	Ian Ward
Neil Eustace	Chaman Lal	Mike Ward
Peter Fowler	Mike Leddy	Ken Wood
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Waseem Zaffar

Councillor Shafique Shah as Lord Mayor's Deputy was sitting in the Deputy Lord Mayor's chair on the rostrum.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

19330 The Deputy Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the Press/Public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

The Deputy Lord Mayor reminded Members that they did not enjoy Parliamentary Privilege in relation to debates in the Chamber and Members should be careful in what they say during all debates that afternoon

The Deputy Lord Mayor indicated that those Members who wished to speak should press their microphone button once and be patient whilst the operator switched the microphone on.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19331 The Deputy Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting

Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The following report of the Leader of the Council was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward presented the report and in doing so confirmed that the Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer Appointment and Dismissal and Service Conditions Sub Committee otherwise known as the JNC panel had met on the 3 March 2020. The Panel discussed the situation and outlined some possible ways of moving forward. The Panel would meet again early next week following which the Council and the wider citizens of Birmingham would learn had the City intended to move forward quickly to resolve the situation.

The Deputy Lord Mayor indicated that considering the contents of the report she did not intend to allow a debate or a vote on the matter. She noted that the meeting did not need to go in to private session. The Deputy Lord Mayor asked members to note the report.

Councillor Robert Alden sought to speak and after the Deputy Lord Mayor had repeated her previous comments Councillor Gareth Moore rose to indicate that many report considered by City Council were to note only but were debated and that the issue was an important one.

After further comment from the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Robert Alden rose on a Point of Order to indicated that he wished to raise the issue of a press article which he did not feel reflected what was agreed at JNC panel.

After further consideration the Deputy Lord Mayor allowed Councillor Robert Alden to speak who indicated that he had welcomed the Leader's introduction of the report as it had set out the way forward in the matter. He was concerned that in the Local Government Chronicle that morning it had indicated that the Council was looking to appoint an Interim Chief Executive out side the City Council before going back to the market and that the Leader had been quoted that the problem was not the quantity but the quality. He was unsure if the Council's communications team had been involved. He did feel that both of those parts of the article did not reflect the view of the JNC Panel and he asked that it be investigated how the article came about.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

REQUISITION OF FULL COUNCIL - DEBATE: IMPROVEMENTS IN GOVERNANCE AND CULTURE AT BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

The following report of the Acting Chief Executive and the Requisition were submitted:-

(See document No 2 and 3)

The Deputy Lord Mayor reminded Members that the Acting Assistant Director Governance had circulated advice relating to how the matter should be debated and repeated that advice.

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward presented the report.

Councillor Robert Alden spoke in relation to the Requisition.

Councillor Roger Harmer spoke in relation to the Requisition.

A debate ensued.

During the debate Councillor Lisa Trickett rose on a point of clarification. She noted that a number of Members from the opposition benches had made several points that the Cabinet collectively did not tell or challenge the then Leader that he was taking the wrong course of the action and a she wished to clarify that a number of the Cabinet including herself had done so.

Councillor Meirion Jenkins during his speech moved a motion in the following terms:-

'That the meeting be adjourned until such time as we have provided current and former employees referenced in this report the opportunity to present their own evidence to this Council, under whistle blowing protection, so all of us Members can be ensured that we have a thorough and complete understanding of what happened during these events.'

The motion was seconded.

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The Leader Councillor Ian Ward rose on a point of clarification to indicate that in addition to the meeting today there was an on going Standards Committee inquiry in the events of 2017 which was the place where the matters referred to by Councillor Jenkins should be properly considered and not by adjourning this meeting.

The motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Councillor Robert Alden summed up.

Councillor Roger Harmer summed up.

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward summed up.

Councillor Deirdre Alden on a point of clarification asked what the Leader meant by the promoting the office junior to Chief Executive. Councillor Robert Alden asked the Leader if he meant leader instead of Chief Executive in his analogy. The Leader indicated that he was referring to the private sector and the Chair of the Board may have been more appropriate than Chief Executive in the analogy.

The Deputy Lord Mayor, in noting that it had been commented upon that she had not allowed debate on the item relating to the Chief Executive appointment, indicated that she had merely followed the agenda of which she had no part in compiling.

The meeting ended at 1530 hours.