

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<b>TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE 28 JANUARY 2021</b>
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2021  
AT 1030 HOURS AS AN ON-LINE MEETING**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Akhlaq Ahmed in the Chair;

Councillors Nicky Brennan, Adrian Delaney, Shabrana Hussain, David Pears and Mike Sharpe.

**ALSO PRESENT:-**

Nigel Oliver – Birmingham Property Services  
Graham Arrand – Senior Business Analyst, Finance  
Rajesh Parmar – Legal Services  
Phil Wright – Committee Services

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 1140 The Chair advised, and the Committee noted, that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.civico.net/birmingham](http://www.civico.net/birmingham)) and members of the press/public could record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 1141 The Chair reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest was declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

Councillor Mike Sharpe indicated that he was a Trustee of The Alderson Disabled Ex-Servicemen's Homes Trust.

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**APOLOGIES**

- 1142 No apologies were submitted.

**MINUTES**

1143 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Trusts and Charities Committee held on 2 December 2020 having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

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**MATTERS ARISING**

1144 There were no matters raised.

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**APPROVAL FOR THE FORMAL TRANSFER OF BALANCES FROM THE JOHN BILLINGSLEY THE ELDER INTO THE BIRMINGHAM MUNICIPAL CHARITY**

The following report of the report of the Chief Financial Officer was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

Graham Arrand, Senior Business Analyst, Finance, made introductory comments relating to the report.

Councillor David Pears questioned the length of time it had taken to get to Committee after the Trustees had agreed to wind up the Trust in January 2015. Graham Arrand explained that the signature of former Councillor Anne Underwood had had to be obtained and this had only become possible recently.

It was:

1145 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the transfer the balance of £2,157.00 and any interest accrued, from the Charity of John Billingsley the Elder into the Birmingham Municipal Charity for 2020/21 be approved; and
  - (ii) that officers in Corporate Finance be authorised to submit all appropriate and necessary documentation to the Charity Commission in respect of recommendation at (i) above.
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**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE HARRIET LOUISA LOXTON FOR THE PERIOD 2018/19**

The following report of the report of the Chief Financial Officer was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Graham Arrand, Senior Business Analyst, Finance, made introductory comments relating to the report and, in response to a question from the Chair as to why the 2018/2019 accounts were only now being reported to Committee, explained that

staff turnover and the fact that the auditors wanted additional hardcopy information which was inaccessible due to lockdown had delayed the reporting of the accounts to Committee. He confirmed that the 2019/2020 accounts had now been signed off. In response to a question from Councillor David Pears, Graham Arrand confirmed that the £34,352 temporary loan from Birmingham City Council had been repaid.

It was:

1146 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the Committee acting on behalf of the Trustee, Birmingham City Council (BCC) approves the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018/19; and
- (ii) that the Committee acting on behalf of the Sole Corporate Trustee authorises officers in Corporate Finance to submit all appropriate and necessary documentation to the Charity Commission in respect of recommendation (i) above.

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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

1147 **RESOLVED:-**

That it be noted that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 25 March 2021 at 1030 hours.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair was of the opinion that the following matter could be considered as a matter of urgency in view of need to expedite consideration thereof and instruct officer if necessary:-

**To Approve the Annual Report and Accounts for Highbury Trust 2019/20**

The following report of the report of the Chief Financial Officer was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Councillor David Pears queried why the report had only been circulated that morning and what the urgency was. Graham Arrand, Senior Business Analyst, Finance, advised that the report was approved by the Auditors on Tuesday and it needed to come to the meeting now to get the accounts on to the Charity Commission website by the 31 January 2021. There had been delays due to Covid and the auditor taking longer inspecting the accounts that led to a tight turn around.

The Chair sought clarity relating to paragraph 5.2 and Graham Arrand responded accordingly.

## **Trusts and Charities Committee – 28 January 2021**

Councillor Mike Sharpe express concern that Members of the Committee had not had sufficient time to read the report and he requested that in future members have reports in a timely manner.

The Chair requested officers in future give members sufficient time to read reports and asked Graham Arrand to go through the report in detail for the benefit of Members.

In response to a question from Councillor Pears relating to the impact of Covid on the Highbury Trust, Graham Arrand explained that activities such as weddings could not take place so there was no income. The City Council had paid a grant of £65,000 as part of the agreement. The Trust had also received a grant from the National Heritage Funding for the garden work and would be making an application National Heritage Lottery Funding for the renovation of Highbury Hall.

It was:

1148 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the Committee acting on behalf of the Trustee, Birmingham City Council (BCC) approves the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/20; and
- (ii) that the Committee acting on behalf of the Sole Corporate Trustee authorises officers in Corporate Finance to submit all appropriate and necessary documentation to the Charity Commission in respect of recommendation (i) above.

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### **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

1149 **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting ended at 1059 hours.

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CHAIRMAN