

## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<b>HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE 28 JULY 2016</b>
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HODGE  
HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD  
ON THURSDAY 28 JULY 2016 AT  
1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE,  
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:** - Councillors Uzma Ahmed, Marje Bridle, John Cotton, Diane Donaldson, Mohammed Idrees, Ansar Ali Khan, Mariam Khan, Majid Mahmood, Shafique Shah, Ian Ward and Fiona Williams.

**ALSO PRESENT:-**

Mike Davis	- Hodge Hill/Erdington District Head
Chris Robinson	- Acting Senior Housing Manager
Marie Reynolds	- Legal and Democratic Services

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**ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND DUPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

298

**RESOLVED:** -

- a) That Councillor Uzma Ahmed be elected Chairperson (Executive Member) for Hodge Hill District for the Municipal Year 2016/2017, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.
- b) That Councillor Diane Donaldson be appointed Committee Vice-Chairperson for the 2016/2017 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Uzma Ahmed in the Chair)

**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 299 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.
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**APOLOGY**

- 300 An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq for his inability to attend the meeting.
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**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE 2016/17**

- 301 At this juncture, the Chairman welcomed Councillor Diane Donaldson to the Hodge Hill District Committee's first meeting of the new Municipal Year.

Membership of the Hodge Hill District Committee was noted as follows:-

Councillors Uzma Ahmed, Mohammed Aikhlaq, Shafique Shah (Bordesley Green Ward)

Councillors Diane Donaldson, Majid Mahmood, Fiona Williams (Hodge Hill Ward)

Councillors Marje Bridle, John Cotton, Ian Ward (Shard End Ward)

Councillors Ansar Ali Khan, Mariam Khan, Mohammed Idrees (Washwood Heath Ward)

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Superintendent Bas Javid, West Midlands Police and  
Station Commander Andy Smith, West Midlands Fire Service

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**LEAD OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS**

- 302 To note the Lead Officer arrangements as follows:-

Mike Davis	– Lead Officer
Marie Reynolds	– Area Democratic Services Officer

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**MINUTES**

- 303 That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2016, having been circulated to Members were confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following

amendment: that the date of the next meeting on page 492 should read 28 July 2016 and not 22 March 2016 as incorrectly recorded.

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**MATTERS ARISING**

- 304 Councillor Mahmood referred to previous discussions at the last district meeting relating to the next neighbourhood challenge pertaining to grass verges and associated issues. He highlighted that it was not now necessary for the district committee to consider as Scrutiny would be undertaking this area of work, and that they would be calling in evidence and producing a report for City Council in due course.
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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 305 There were no declarations of interest.
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**CODE OF CONDUCT**

The following Code of Conduct for meetings of Hodge Hill District Committee was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

- 306 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Code of Conduct be noted.

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**DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES**

The following District Committee's Functions and Guidelines were submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

- 307 **RESOLVED;-**

That the District Committee's Functions and Guidelines be noted.

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**DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2016/17**

- 308 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Diane Donaldson be appointed as Corporate Parenting Champion for Hodge Hill District.

That Councillor Uzma Ahmed be appointed as Youth Champion for Hodge Hill District.

That Councillor Mariam Khan be appointed as Cultural Heritage Champion for Hodge Hill District.

That Councillor Mariam Khan be appointed as Employment, Jobs and Skills Champion for Hodge Hill District.

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**ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

309

**RESOLVED:-**

**Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust – 2 Members**

That Councillors John Cotton & Diane Donaldson be appointed in 2016/17.

Following concern raised by Councillor Cotton that he had not received any communication or invitations to meetings from the above trust, it was suggested by Mike Davis to advise the trust that they ensure members were invited to the relevant meetings during the year.

**CTC Kingshurst Academy – 1 Member**

That Councillor Mariam Khan be appointed in 2016/17.

**Bordesley Birmingham Trust – 1 Member**

That Councillor Uzma Ahmed be appointed in 2016/17.

**Regulation 33 Inspections – 2 Members**

That Councillor Mohammed Idrees and Councillor Diane Donaldson be appointed in 2016/17.

Mike Davis reminded members that when they completed the above-mentioned visits, there was some necessary training they would need to undertake which would be organised through the People Directorate and also paperwork that needed to be completed, in order to reflect the findings and outcomes of the meetings that had been carried out. He added that he would advise members of the relevant officer dealing with this area of work.

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**SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETING DATES 2016/17**

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It was noted that all meetings were scheduled to take place on Thursdays at 14:00 hours in Committee Room 6, Council House on the following dates:-

22 September 2016, 17 November 2016, 19 January 2017 and 16 March 2017.

In response to Councillor Mahmood's request for district meetings to be re-scheduled to Tuesday afternoons as the same weeks as previously agreed, the Chairman suggested that the Committee Clerk look into the viability of this request.

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**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 2016 & HODGE HILL DISTRICT NARRATIVE**

The following report of the Service Director, Housing Transformation was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Chris Robinson, Acting Senior Housing Manager gave an overview of the report and the narrative and as a result of comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

He agreed that it would be useful to have an up to date breakdown of Wates' performance adding that their response times were achieving high levels of satisfaction. He referred to the difficulty in looking back at the figures within the report, as they related to the previous contractor and therefore agreed to provide the relevant up to date information.

With regard as to whether there had been an increase in 'Hate' crime due to Brexit, he confirmed that there had been no noticeable increase in reports of 'Hate' crime being recorded.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Williams regarding 'Hate' crime, Chris Robinson stressed that the department did take 'Hate' crime very seriously and that type of crime was responded to within 24 hours of receiving the complaint. He stated that they ensured the issue was discussed and that the situation was assessed in order to obtain a clear picture of how the individual was being victimised. He added that since MacPherson, all organisations had been much more positive in dealing with 'Hate' crime.

He referred to the various issues reported by individuals of what they perceived as 'Hate' crime adding that in most cases very few of these were of any great substance. He highlighted that it was a positive movement that people were prepared and able to come forward to report this particular type of crime. He added that the department provided mediation in this area which was extremely successful in helping to resolve situations.

Councillor Mahmood raised concerns which included; the homeless service allocations, poor key performance indicators, the delays experienced by residents in 'right to buy' cases, performance of asset management, maintenance and voids and whether the targets should be reviewed, if realistically they could not be met.

In response to the above concerns, Chris Robinson agreed to take up the concerns raised with the relevant officers and report back.

Chris Robinson referred to void turnaround times and confirmed that it was when the tenant left the property and up until the new tenant occupied the property. He agreed that the 30 days target was too high and whilst the new contractor had some ambitious targets he confirmed that as part of the process, the department were introducing pre-vacancy inspections so that when the tenant gave notice, there would be an inspection arranged before they moved out of the property, whereupon they would be advised of their responsibility before leaving which would help to quicken up the process and reduce turnaround times.

Chris Robinson confirmed that the contract in terms of emergency repairs required a contractor to attend within 2 hours and resolve if possible or if unable to do so, at least contain the problem. He confirmed that most repairs could be resolved within 2 hours. He added that in terms of the number of repairs that would take longer than 2 hours to resolve, he would have to refer back to the department in order to obtain the relevant information.

In response to Councillor Idrees' questions relating to the number of households in temporary accommodation including bed and breakfast and the reasons for the increase and what was being done to reduce it, Mr Robinson confirmed that he would have to refer to the relevant officers in order to obtain a detailed explanation.

At this juncture, Mike Davis thanked Chris Robinson for attending the meeting and reporting. He subsequently reminded the committee of the wider opportunity they had in requesting information from other service areas of the City Council if they so wished.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the report and comments be noted.

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**HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN 2016/17 – DRAFT 1**

The following Hodge Hill District Community Plan 2016/17 – Draft 1 was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

Mike Davis, District Head provided an overview of the draft plan and subsequently highlighted that the finalised copy of the plan would be submitted at the meeting scheduled for September 2016.

He highlighted that the purpose of the plan was to help the district committee focus on its priorities, and from those priorities, determining what would be realistic for the committee to take action upon and make progress with over the coming months. He stated that although a great deal could be identified, due to there being very limited resources, it was important to ensure that what was identified would be realistic and could be achieved in moving forward.

Mike Davis referred to the supporting documents that were not attached with the agenda papers as there were far too many however, he confirmed, that a number of the documents had been brought to district committee over the past 12 months and that the district profile was available on the website to view.

In response to members' comments Mike Davis stated that the plan was an overview document and that the Jobs and Skills sat within the document and that it came to district committee 9 months ago and also the Neighbourhood Challenge on Youth Employment, had a series of recommendations that would need to be updated as the year progressed.

Reference was made to the meeting that Mike Davis had had with the Job Centre with a view to updating the Jobs and Skills Plan for Hodge Hill District. He proposed that he would provide an updated document either at the next meeting or the meeting thereafter. He stated that the plan would have a number of actions and consideration would need to be taken of where the district was moving forward with those actions, adding that where difficulties were being encountered, assistance may be required from members and others to progress some of those actions.

Mike Davis confirmed that there was a health network for the district that meets principally in Shard End Ward with a range of partners and that Rebecca Hadley from Birmingham Settlement was leading in this area of work. He referred to the Health and Wellbeing event that was taking place tomorrow in Shard End Ward at the Welcome Change building which was organised by Rebecca and that a number of partners were supporting the event.

He stated that at present although a plan had not yet been written, the event was the first demonstration of an action arising out of the Health and Wellbeing network that had met several times over the past 6 months. He added that the plan would evolve and develop and most possibly there would be something more tangible to submit to district committee by the end of the year.

Mike Davis agreed that it would seem appropriate to combine the jobs and skills with the youth employment into one document as it was all the same theme. He further explained the reasoning behind the separate discreet piece of work with members regarding the neighbourhood challenge and subsequently referred to the report and recommendations arising from the neighbourhood challenge, and the importance of ensuring that they were embedded in the wider jobs and skills plan.

At this juncture, Councillor Mahmood thanked Councillor Mariam Khan for the extensive work she had undertaken regarding jobs and skills during the last municipal year.

Concerns were raised from Councillors Shah and Mahmood regarding a number of residents' getting confused with areas that did not fall within Hodge Hill District and it was therefore suggested that there should be a map of Hodge Hill District on the community plan at the outset in order that residents could identify the community plan with the Hodge Hill District, and specifically naming the wards on the map in order to prevent further confusion.

It was further suggested that it would be useful to have a list of schools within the community plan illustrating the skills and educations achievements in order to ensure students were following the correct path as a means to secure future employment especially with the onset of HS2 coming to the district.

Councillor Mahmood referred to the Shard End based Health and Wellbeing network and the fact that as there were other medical centres and leisure centres in neighbouring wards, highlighted the fact that there should be more joined up working with not just wards within the district but also wards within neighbouring districts. Further reference was made to the usefulness of having the number of planning applications available for new properties in the district.

Concern was raised relating to the fact that there was only one Place Manager covering Hodge Hill Ward and Bordesley Green Ward whereas in the other two wards there was a dedicated Place Manager for each ward. Although Danny Kilbride worked extremely hard with having to manage two wards which were not neighbouring wards, he was very much overworked.

Chris Robinson although could not provide a reason as to why there was only one Place Manager covering two wards, confirmed that consideration was being given to the Place Manager structure and subsequently agreed to raise the matter with the appropriate officers.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan expressed concern that each ward required one dedicated person and subsequently confirmed that the four Assistant Leaders had had a number of meetings with Jacqui Kennedy, Strategic Director, Place and one of the first priorities that had been raised with her, was that each ward had a dedicated Place Manager in place, as they were not only dealing with housing issues but a far wider remit.

Councillor Cotton highlighted that as a district committee there was the need to understand how it fitted into the broader strategic piece of work, and how the jobs and skills fits into the framework, as otherwise there could be the danger of veering off in different directions and not aligning with the main strategic outcomes of the City Council.

He further highlighted the current review of assets and the consideration of land and opportunities in this part of the world and the understanding as a committee, the need to be involved in this area with regard to timelines and how members engage with communities that they represent as individual ward members. He referred to the boundary changes that were to be announced in September for each of the wards and the need to be mindful of planning for the impact of those changes.

Councillor Mariam Khan whilst agreeing that the jobs, skills and youth employment should amalgamate at this stage, highlighted that due to the school break it would be unlikely to have the necessary input from the schools by the next meeting. She referred to the work that was taking place at the Naseby Centre engaging with young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) and confirmed that she would be feeding the progress through to district committee at the next meeting.



Councillor Idrees referred to the old Smith and Nephew site and the fact that it had been sold quite a while ago and still there was no development taking place on the land which was causing various issues that included fly-tipping.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan referred to the above-mentioned issue and confirmed that it had been raised with the Assistant Cabinet Leaders and that Wazeed Nazir, Strategic Director, Economy was looking into this area of work in how best it could be resolved.

At this juncture, Mike Davis thanked members for their comments and observations.

He made reference to schools and education and explained why it was not referenced in the plan highlighting that there was a whole improvement programme that was taking place through Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP). He further highlighted that the district committee and officers had to focus realistically on what could be achieved in making a difference in the district, especially, with the scant resources that were available and the need to prioritise on what was being tackled which was jobs and skills along with housing and health.

He made reference to the youth engagement initiative and the sum of £50m that was available for Birmingham and Solihull. He understood that a bid had been submitted by partners on the eastside for a share of the funding, and that a decision should be forthcoming within the next 2 weeks with a view to contracts being awarded and work commencing shortly.

He made reference to Rebecca Hadley, Birmingham Settlement and highlighted that he would ensure that she was introduced to the leisure centre managers and that they were encouraged to attend the health network meetings, and that the meetings should be held at a wider range of centres across the district.

He confirmed that with regard to assets and opportunities, Jacqui Kennedy would be working at a strategic level with members and it was therefore expected that there would be information forthcoming on how that particular work-stream would move forward.

He referred to the forthcoming boundary changes which would have a significant bearing on the future work of this district committee as it progressed forward, adding that a great deal of work would be done through the new Cabinet Committee of Local Leadership.

Mike Davis reiterated that there were a number of other plans that needed to be read in conjunction with this plan. He further reiterated the need for members to be realistic in terms of the resources that were available, and therefore, it was important that partnership working was supported as well as the champion approach. Mike Davis highlighted the importance of the committee identifying member champions who could work with him by supporting some of the partnership meetings, which would enable the committee to achieve greater results.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

**RESOLVED:-**

That the Draft Plan be noted and that an updated version of the plan be submitted to the next meeting.

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**HODGE HILL DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE 2016/17**

Mike Davis, District Head referred to last year's district neighbourhood challenge which was Youth Employment that had resulted in a number of findings and recommendations. He stated that the recommendations and their progress would be brought to the next meeting and again towards the end of the municipal year.

He further stated that the district had now an opportunity to observe another area and identify another neighbourhood challenge for the new municipal year.

At this juncture, a fairly lengthy discussion ensued whereby it was suggested that there should be an emphasis on improving the cleanliness of the environment and encouraging local groups to take responsibility and become more active in their areas, which linked in with the citywide agenda.

Although this area of work was supported, it was suggested by several members that it might be wiser if there was a separate meeting in September when all members were present to discuss specifically this area of work, and also to see whether there had been any policy change before a decision was taken and by allowing additional time, it would provide more time in focusing on the current challenge. It was further suggested that it would seem sensible to align the work that the district was going to undertake in developing the plan with a neighbourhood challenge.

Councillor Mahmood referred to the Jobs and Skills Directorate and the funding of £200,000 that had been provided by the district to secure employment for the youths in the district, and the fact, that still there had been no tangible evidence as to the employment results of that particular funding.

He referred to the lack of information regarding schools and what they were doing in terms of how they were training the children to secure future employment and the need for this information to be available. He added that some local schools were performing well and at this juncture declared an interest as a governor at Hodge Hill College which had recently been upgraded by Ofsted.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan referred to the Assisted Leaders' meeting and the fact that in September they were going to meet all members across the city for their input with regard to their priorities in order to formulate an action plan and move forward. He subsequently referred to the pool in Ward End Park and very poor state that it was in and that action needed to be taken immediately. He added that they were expecting to discuss the issue with the Parks Department as soon as possible.

In response to an enquiry relating to the approval of neighbourhood forum grants, Mike Davis confirmed that it was in the budget

Councillor Mahmood referred to the number of Executive Management Team meetings where it had been discussed that the £2m was in the budget for the local

innovation fund which would be equally distributed to wards. He added that there should be further information available in September which would be cascaded to districts.

Mike Davis concluded by gaining agreement from members that the neighbourhood challenge would be discussed at a separate informal meeting in September, and that guidance would be taken from the Assistant Leaders, as to whether the timing was suitable and taking into account any policy issues that may emerge around the same time.

A decision would be taken by district committee in September as to whether it continued to build upon the neighbourhood challenge of youth employment or whether a second challenge would be undertaken.

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**WARD MEETINGS AND THE NEW WARD ACTION TRACKER DATABASE**

The following Ward Meetings and New “Ward Tracker” Database was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

Mike Davis, District Head, provided an overview of the report.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan commented that it was quite a comprehensive report and suggested that it would prove helpful, if ward chairs provided an update of their respective wards through the District Committee, in order that members and constituents were aware of what was happening in other wards of the district.

Councillor Mahmood confirmed that there was a facebook live feed today for this meeting. He made reference to the excellent turnout of people at the ward forum meeting last night and subsequently explained how the new format of the meeting worked. He added that the Police were in attendance and at future meetings the Place Manager would also be in attendance.

Councillor Mariam Khan welcomed the consideration of ward base partnership working which could include members working across 2 or 3 wards and subsequently highlighted the advantages for the residents with this way of working. She added that a member’s duty was to work for them and the format should reflect the needs and requests of the residents.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

**RESOLVED:-**

That the information be noted.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**WARD END PARK POOL**

314 Councillor Mariam Khan expressed deep concern as to the very serious issue of the pool within Ward End Park that required urgent attention. She highlighted that it had deteriorated badly over the past months and that it was having a major impact on the environment.

She requested on behalf of Hodge Hill District that the pool was given priority and that a clear timescale should be provided from the Parks Department as to when urgent action would be taken, in order, that residents could be advised accordingly.

Councillor Idrees highlighted that many people used the park daily and that action needed to be taken immediately.

Councillor Williams confirmed that it was not just the issue of the pool but also fly-tipping was taking place there and generally the park looked neglected, she added that parks were essential to the city.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan reiterated his concern for the park as it was very well used and that there was a huge event being organised next month, whereupon many people from all over the country would be attending and it would be highly embarrassing, if the condition of the park was not improved in time for this event.

Councillor Mahmood fully supported members' comments whilst highlighting that the stench from the pool was unbearable. He added that clearly action needed to be taken immediately and suggested that contact be made with Councillor Lisa Trickett, Cabinet Member for the Parks and Mike Hinton in order to ascertain timescales.

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**POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF GP PRACTICE – WARSTONE TOWER, BROMFORD**

315 Councillor Mahmood referred to the above-mentioned potential closure and that the NHS had requested that patients travel to other practices within the ward.

He detailed the various centres where patients were expected to travel to which was too far away as many were elderly and found it extremely difficult to travel. He added that some patients were expected to travel as far as Stockland Green as Hodge Hill Centre was refusing to take on any new patients. He advised that there was a petition that was circulating which would be submitted in due course.

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**HEATHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL – TRAFFIC CONGESTION**

316 Councillor Mahmood referred to the above-mentioned school whereupon most of the children that attended the school lived in Shard End Ward.

He referred to the traffic congestion caused by parents dropping and collecting their children whereupon some were parking outside earlier than was necessary and causing obstruction with local residents. As a result of this, he was requesting

support across the district as all members experienced complaints from residents whereby parents and children should be encouraged to walk to and from school. He added that it affected both Hodge Hill and Shard End Wards.

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**PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – BROMFORD LANE/TWYCROSS GROVE**

317 Councillor Mahmood referred to the above-mentioned location and the anti-social behaviour that had occurred.

He stated that due to the high level of anti-social behaviour that had taken place residents had agreed a plan to work together in addressing this issue with the raising of a petition.

It was suggested that there be a specific agenda item at a future meeting pertaining to 'public right of ways'.

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

318 **RESOLVED:-**

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

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The meeting ended at 16:00 hours.

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CHAIRMAN