

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ERDINGTON
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 27
JUNE 2017 AT 1400 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE
ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Robert Alden, Bob Beauchamp, Des Hughes, Mick Finnegan, Penny Holbrook, Josh Jones, Gareth Moore, Gary Sambrook, Mike Sharpe and Ron Storer.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Mike Davis – District Head (Erdington)
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager
Dave Wagg – Project and Client Manager
Jamie Bryant – Serco/BCLT Contract Manager
John Porter – District Parks Manager

**ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR
ERDINGTON DISTRICT**

On the receipt of nominations and upon a show of hands (five in favour and 0 against) it was:-

395

RESOLVED: -

- a) That Councillor Josh Jones be re-elected Chairman (Executive Member) for Erdington District for the Municipal Year 2017/2018, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.
- b) That Councillor Des Hughes be appointed Committee Vice-Chairman for the 2017/2018 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Josh Jones in the Chair)

NOTICE OF RECORDING

395

The Chairman advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

396 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lynda Clinton and Mick Brown and the representatives from West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

397 **RESOLVED:** -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2017 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

398 The Membership of the Committee was noted as follows: -

Councillors Robert Alden, Bob Beauchamp and Gareth Moore (Erdington Ward).

Councillors Des Hughes, Gary Sambrook and Ron Storer (Kingstanding Ward).

Councillors Penny Holbrook, Josh Jones and Mike Finnegan (Stockland Green Ward).

Councillors Lynda Clinton, Mick Brown and Mike Sharpe (Tyburn Ward).

Co-opted Members:-

Steven Horsley, Station Commander – West Midlands Fire Service

Jason Bonser – West Midlands Police.

LEAD OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS

399 The lead officer arrangements were noted as follows: -

Lead Officer:- Mike Davis, District Head (Erdington)

Support Officers:-

District Contact Lawyer - Stuart Evans
Committee Manager - Sarah Stride.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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The Chairman advised that Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

400 No declarations of interest were recorded.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct for District Committees was submitted:-

(See Document No. 1)

401 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Code of Conduct for meetings of the District Committee be noted.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The following schedule of District Committee Functions and Guidelines were submitted:-

(See Document No. 2)

In response to a question raised by Councillor Robert Alden concerning the future of District Committee's the Chairman stated that a report is to be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet Local Leadership Committee which it was hoped would explain the situation further. The Chairman had no further information to add.

It was -

402 **RESOLVED:-**

That the District Committees Functions and Guidelines be noted.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2017/18

It was -

403 **RESOLVED:-**

That the following Members be appointed to serve as Member representatives on the following bodies/ community organisations:

- (i) Youth Champion - Councillor Josh Jones
- (ii) Looked after Children's Champion - Councillor Mick Brown
- (iii) Older Person's Champion - Councillor Mike Finnegan

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- (iv) District Parent Partnership Champion - Councillor Mick Brown
- (v) Heritage Champion – Councillor Robert Alden.

Erdington Town Centre Partnership Limited

It was noted that Councillor Robert Alden was appointed at the Erdington Ward Committee to serve as the Member representative on the Erdington Town Centre Partnership Ltd.

NEW ERDINGTON POOL AND LEISURE CENTRE

Dave Wagg, Project and Client Manager and Jamie Bryant, Serco Contract Manager gave the following verbal report:

- Dave Wagg, Project and Client Manager stated that construction on the new pool commenced June 2016 at a cost of approximately £7m. The construction programme was a 65 week programme of works and in terms of the contract the hand over date from the construction company to Birmingham City Council and Serco is 21 September 2017. The construction works were currently a few weeks ahead of schedule and therefore the handover date is now scheduled for the end of August 2017. Following handover there will be an 'equipment fit out' by Serco Leisure followed by a series of employee training days.
- Due to outstanding highways works the final handover date has yet to be agreed it was hoped that the building will be open to members of the public by mid-September 2017. An invite to attend a tour of the new build will be extended to all District Councillor's prior to the official opening to members of the public.
- All major construction works have now been completed and that includes testing of the pool tanks which have been successful.
- The new pool will include a 25 metre, 6 lane main pool, a 13 x 8 learner pool, an 80 station fitness room, dance studio, community room and a sauna and steam room and a reception area with vending and cafeteria facilities.
- Birmingham Community Leisure Trust will operate and manage the facility under a full insuring and repairing lease for 15 years from the service availability date and the building will have a life expectancy in excess of 60 years from service availability.
- The day prior to the new pool opening the old pool will close and there will be no break in service delivery. Current staff already employed by the Trust will transfer across from the existing building to the new build. As part of the contract with Serco they will then commence decommissioning of the old building which will take approximately 2 – 3 weeks. This will include switching off of all plants to pools and the Turkish suite, capping utilities and emptying of pool tanks. Power will be left on to both the intruder and fire alarms as part of the process. Once this has been completed the building will be handed back to Birmingham City Council Sports Service and it will remain within the leisure portfolio. The building will be declared as surplus and Birmingham City Council Building Property Services will be instructed to market the building with the appropriate planning brief attached.
- Informal conversations have taken place with planning colleagues to date and they have indicated that they will not approve demolition of the existing building neither will they approve any major changes to the façade. They were also against residential use of the building.

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- Jamie Bryant, Serco Contract Manager stated that all existing staff will transfer to the new building under their existing terms and conditions. Recruiting a number of new posts from the local area.
- In dialogue with all schools and clubs and advising them of the new facility and providing times for swimming and other scheduled activities.
- The existing Be Active and Be Active Plus and children's swim for free schemes will remain.
- With the new pool having two facilities there will be an opportunity for over 1000 children to learn to swim every week. Currently working on the aquatic programme with a view to a varied programme for all members and all sections of the community.
- The new group exercise space will offer in excess of over 50 group exercise classes a week for up to 36 people at a time and 50 people in the aquatic exercises.
- The final current pricing is that there will be no change to the prices charged for activities and facilities available. All current prices are in line with Birmingham City Councils existing policy for leisure facilities.

Members welcomed the fact that there would be no break in service delivery and that the old pool is scheduled to close the day before the new pool was opened.

In response to questions raised by Members, officers gave the following information:

- Staff training had already commenced and 2 project managers are in place to ensure that the building was ready for operation and that all staff is aware of the new systems within the building.
- In disposal of the existing pool there is an opportunity for a capital receipt through a sale which would go back into the Sports Transformation Programme. However, there is a desire to safeguard community use particularly in the Erdington District and if a community organisation expressed an interest and had a robust business model then officers were more than willing to discuss with them and support them wherever possible.
- The new building has a range of equipment to accommodate people with a range of disabilities and equipment is available to assist people in and out of the pool. This equipment is available in both pools.
- Dave Wagg assured Members that checks will be undertaken on the cladding used on the façade of the new build and the insulation used to ensure that building regulations had been adhered to. If the materials used were proven to be below the required standard then he assured Members that a full report will be submitted to this Committee as a matter of urgency.
- With regard to the current pricing of activities, a contract is in place for the entirety of the 15 year term and the Council's pricing policy must be adhered to throughout the term of the contract. However, if the Council's pricing policy changes in the meantime then this will have an effect on the new builds pricing policy.
- Whenever possible, groups would be welcomed to tour the building and view the facilities available and the idea of holding an Erdington Ward Committee in the venue would be welcomed and accommodated.
- The highway delays mentioned currently stands at one week and involved the signing of legal documentation between 2 separate Council Departments. The highways issues include the lowering or increasing of kerb edges to ease access to the building itself. Working with highways to get the legal document signed and completed. The car park issue is that there are only 12 car parking spaces

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available. Will work with the local community and monitor the situation to ensure that as little impact is felt by the local community as possible.

- Membership issues – in terms of the Birmingham Leisure Trust facilities a member can use any of the venues available. Started dialogue with Birmingham Wellbeing Service and trying to put in place a working party to discuss whether other facilities across Birmingham can be included under one membership.
- All schools have been contacted in the District and Birmingham citywide with a view to ascertain what their swimming provision is as trying to accommodate as many schools as possible into the swimming schedule available. Realise that there is a shortfall in some areas of the City with regard to swimming facilities available in their area. Will provide feedback to Members on the number of schools that have accepted the invitation to use Erdington Pool.

The Chairman thanked both officers for all their hard work in ensuring that the new Erdington Pool would be a success from the onset and Members echoed comments made.

It was -

404

RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report on the new Erdington Pool and Leisure Centre be noted.

UPDATE ON GREEN ISSUES AND GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The following report of the District Parks Manager was circulated at the meeting:-

(See Document No. 3)

John Porter, District Parks Manager introduced the report and gave the following verbal presentation:

- As part of the consultation process, Parks Division was requested to put forward savings at both 20% and 10% of existing budgets.
- As part of the consultation exercise that took place members of the public expressed huge support and gratitude to park rangers and park keepers and had requested that the service be retained and strengthened with reduction in current staff numbers.
- The ranger service had previously operated out of 6 hubs but as part of the Council's reduction in staff levels it was now reduced to 5 hubs.
- The park keeper's service across the City was now under scrutiny and further reductions were likely. There were currently 30 park keeper posts across the City and in the Erdington District they were stationed in Brook Vale Park, Witton Lakes Park, Rookery Park and Pype Hayes Park. All park keeper posts will undergo an assessment and score exercise to ascertain their value. It was suspected that 1/3 of park keeper posts will be lost.
- The third tranche of savings is to come from the Grounds Maintenance Programme. It will result in a 20% reduction in the cut of amenity grass and ornamental areas across the City which equated to 1/5 of all the grass mown Citywide. The reduction will have a severe impact in every Ward and District. Removing flower beds and shrubs so that maintenance will not be required. Will

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no longer maintain grass verges and shrubs that edge onto footway paths in park areas. Will no longer provide a budget provision for baskets and planters throughout the City.

- Considerable changes will have to be made in order to achieve the savings in the forthcoming budget.

Members thanked John Porter for his budget update and expressed concern that it appeared that the park keeper for Erdington District has been reassigned to Sutton Coldfield and that the implication that it has yet to be implemented had in effect already taken place.

John Porter advised Members that the contractor, Glendale, had reassigned the park keepers post and that it was not a move instructed by Birmingham City Council. He further stated that as far as the Council were concerned the post was still available and officers were in dialogue with Glendale to ensure that the post would not be lost.

Members expressed concern that Glendale had made changes to the agreed contract without first consulting District Members and requested that the issue be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Members requested that the original park keeper for Erdington District be retained as over a period of time he had built a relationship with the Friends, community groups and local residents and it was important to retain stability, trust and local knowledge of the surrounding park land.

Councillor Alden stated that it was important to cut the grass around outside gym equipment as due to the length of the grass some of the equipment was now unusable and also that the grass around children's play area and pathways be mowed as that area was well utilised and it needed to be kept in a reasonable condition for health and safety reasons. It was also noted that grass should be kept to a minimum height in order to avoid grass fires in the summer months.

John Porter gave an update on events taking place in parks and the community groups and Friends that have assisted and gave the following information:

- Tyburn Ward – keen to establish a more pro-active Friends group. Need to look at ways of how to achieve this.
- Castle Vale - working with the Housing Association to ensure that local residents receive a 'one stop shop' on who does what in the community. There were opportunities for joint working as there is a park keeper assigned to the Castle Vale area.
- Kingstanding Ward – excellent work completed on The Pimple. Work with the KRT group has been an excellent success and the grassed area is now well used by local residents.
- Witton Lodge Community Association – Lottery Funding has assisted in renovating the building on site for public usage.
- Perry Common Ward – Park undergoing landscaping works. Ongoing.
- Erdington Ward – Friends of Rookery Park undertaking excellent work in the park.
- Short Heath Park – working to establish a Friends group in the park.

The Chairman thanked the District Parks Manager for his verbal update and stated that representatives from Glendale be invited to attend the next meeting of the District Committee to explain their reasoning behind the current post reassignments.

It was -

405

RESOLVED:-

That the report and verbal update on Green Issues and the Ground Maintenance contract be noted.

UPDATE ON BE ACTIVE / ACTIVE PARKS SUMMER PROGRAMME

Mike Davis, District Head advised that Wayne Daniels, Be Active Service Manager was not in attendance at the meeting.

Mike Davis stated that the Summer Programme of events taking place in and around a number of parks throughout citywide was available in a printed schedule and that he would email the schedule to all Members of the District Committee, including officer contact details in due course.

It was -

406

RESOLVED:-

That the verbal update on the Be Active/Active Parks Summer Programme be noted.

CLEAN AND GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE PROGRESS

The following report of the Erdington District Head was submitted:-

(See Document No. 4)

Mike Davis, District Head stated that Nick Reid, Waste Management was not in attendance at the meeting.

Mike Davis introduced the report and highlighted the salient points. He stated that he would re-invite Nick Reid to attend the next meeting of this District Committee to give an update on the recommendations that were currently incomplete.

It was -

407

RESOLVED:-

That the report on the Clean and Green Neighbourhood Challenge Progress be noted.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2017/2018

It was -

408

RESOLVED: -

That the District Committee note the schedule of meetings for 2017/18: -

2017

3 October
28 November

2018

30 January
27 March

All meetings will be held at 1400 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4 at the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham.

The Chairman advised that the meeting to be held on 3 October would need to be rescheduled as it was the Labour Group Conference on that day and that Members would be advised of the rescheduled date in due course.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

Early Years Health and Wellbeing Consultation

Copies of the consultation document were circulated at the meeting:

(See Document No. 5)

Mike Davis, District head advised the Committee that the Early Years team in Children's Services were currently undergoing a consultation exercise on the way services are delivered to children's centres, health visiting services and parenting support services in Birmingham. Outcomes of the consultation exercise will form a new service model that will bring the services together in a localised area.

The consultation exercise commenced 19 June and will conclude on 17 August 2017. Discussion sessions have been arranged to take place in various Wards across the City. He encouraged Members to take part in the consultation exercises and voice their opinion.

It was –

409

RESOLVED: -

That the verbal update and the consultation document entitled 'Early Years Health and Wellbeing Consultation' be noted.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

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410

RESOLVED: -

Chairman to move:-

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

The meeting ended at 1530 hours.

CHAIRMAN