

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<b>NORTHFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2016</b>
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHFIELD  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 16  
SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE  
ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,  
BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT** : - Councillor Steve Booton in the Chair;

Councillors Randal Brew; Andy Cartwright; Debbie Clancy; Ian Cruise; Peter Douglas Osborn; Carole Griffiths; Peter Griffiths; Julie Johnson; Brett O'Reilly and Valerie Seabright.

**ALSO PRESENT** :-

Richard Davies – District Head (Northfield)  
Richard Burden MP – Member of Parliament  
Councillor Bruce Pitt – Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council  
Paul Walls – Leisure Project and Client Manager  
Jamie Bryant – Partnership Manager, Birmingham Community Leisure Trust  
Inspector Dean Gordon – West Midlands Police  
Austin Rodriguez – Project Manager, Place  
Jonathan Antill – Housing Manager  
Mark Rodgers – Housing Manager  
Lesley Bannister – Community Government and Support  
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

277 The Chairman advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site ([www.birminghamnewsroom.com](http://www.birminghamnewsroom.com)) and that 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.

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**APOLOGY**

278 An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Simon Jevon for his inability to attend the meeting.

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**MINUTES**

Members raised a number of grammatical and spelling mistakes as follows:

- Page 245 – 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph – should read ‘her **work** on Israel’.
- Page 246 – top line – should read ‘**a** Hashtag’. 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph should read ‘she was **a** great loss’.
- Page 254 – should read ‘the opportunity to **ask** questions’.
- Page 255 – top line – the first word is unrecognisable. Last paragraph – 2<sup>nd</sup> line – should read ‘they **used** to have a quarterly’.
- Page 265 – last paragraph should read ‘one of his constituents who **was** unable to attend’.

Councillor Valerie Seabright made reference to her appointment as the District’s Jobs and Skills Champion and stated that she was not aware of her appointment as she was not in attendance at the meeting held on 24 June and only became aware of her appointment when she received a copy of the minutes in the agenda pack. She requested, and the Chairman agreed that action notes or draft minutes be sent to all District Members at the earliest opportunity following the meeting in order to avoid such complications in the future.

A short discussion took place on whether meetings should, in future, be held in a venue in the Northfield District. The Chairman advised that the issue was under investigation by officers. A suitable venue in the District was being sought that could offer the necessary technology required such as Wifi and live streaming.

The Chairman noted comments from Members concerning inviting a representative from Willmott Dixon to attend a future meeting and he requested that the District Head invite a suitable representative to attend the November meeting of the Northfield District Committee.

The Chairman made reference to page 264 – 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph and stated that representatives from BCR (Sustrans) will be available to attend the November meeting to give a presentation and update on various cycling schemes in the Northfield District.

It was -

279

**RESOLVED:-**

That following amendments as stated in the above preamble, the Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 June 2016, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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**UPDATE ON NORTHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE**

Paul Walls, Leisure Project and Client Manager and Jamie Bryant, Partnership Manager, Birmingham Community Leisure Trust gave a verbal presentation and made the following points:

- Northfield Pool had been under the management of Birmingham Community Leisure Trust for just over twelve months. The contract for the

## **Northfield District Committee – 16 September 2016**

15 year partnership had been exchanged and all staff have been successfully TUPE transferred over to the Trust.

- The recent closure of the Northfield Pool on 14 June 2016 was due to an fouling incident in the pool itself. The pool was immediately closed and the necessary protocol as set out in the guidelines was followed. The pool water and all equipment were thoroughly cleansed following the incident. Customer health and safety was of upmost importance and it was decided to keep the pool closed as a precautionary measure in order to have the water tested by independent specialists to ensure that no bacteria was still present.
- Water samples were collected on 20 June 2016. Unfortunately test results confirmed that a chlorine resistant bug was present in the water sample taken. The decision was then taken to close the complex earlier than expected.
- The new and improved swimming complex facility will reopen Spring 2018.
- In the meantime all schools have been redirected to alternative swimming venues. Tiverton pool and fitness centre will be kept open until the new Northfield pool is completed. There will be no price increase in current membership fees and members have been given the opportunity to transfer their membership to an alternative leisure facility whilst the Northfield facility is closed.
- Staff members at Northfield pool have been successfully seconded to other Birmingham Community Leisure Trust facilities across the City until the new building opens.
- With regard to the new Northfield pool, the public consultation session held on 14 April was generally well received and there were some changes to the final design as a result of that consultation. Improvements were made to the exterior design of the building, increased DDA parking spaces, the ramped access to the front elevation of the building was relocated, improved public viewing to both swimming pools and changing rooms and toilet provisions were remodelled.
- It was not possible in the design of the new leisure centre to include a sauna and steam room facility. If this was to be achieved it would be at the cost of valuable car parking spaces.
- The final planning application was submitted on 23 May 2016 and planning permission was granted on 4 August subject to planning conditions. It was envisaged that the new Northfield leisure facility would open in April 2018.

Members generally welcomed the presentation but a number of comments and concerns were expressed (for ease of reference the response given by officers will immediately follow the question asked):

- It was felt that consideration should be given to the inclusion of a sauna and steam room in the new leisure facility. Community chest funding was used to facilitate the sauna and steam room at the old Northfield pool and the question was asked as to what would happen to the fixtures and fittings of the old sauna room and equipment.

(The officer replied that in going forward it was imperative that the new pool was cost neutral for the operator and the model implemented was in accordance with the Sport England affordable pools model. It was not cost productive to include a sauna and steam room in the new facility. He stated that the shelf life of a sauna was five years and the Northfield sauna

was currently into its fourth year of usage. The remains of the sauna that can be salvaged will be used in other Birmingham City Council leisure facilities).

- Concern was expressed as to whether schools had been offered suitable alternative swimming provision that was not at any great expense or travelling difficulty for the school.  
(The officer advised that suitable swimming provision had been offered to all schools. Where there has been a demand for a certain facility that demand had been met. With regard to transport costs it was unfortunate that no additional funding had been identified to assist but all schools had been offered a more intensive swimming course programme over a shorter period of time, thereby resulting in fewer trips to the leisure facility and reducing transport costs to the school. The priority was to maximise revenue costs and where possible offer an alternative provision to schools in a Birmingham leisure facility).
- It was suggested that the road infrastructure and traffic problems around the new leisure facility be upgraded and implemented prior to opening.

(The officer replied that the traffic management plan was one of the planning conditions prior to the new build and that the build was in conjunction with the Trust and Birmingham City Councils highways and leisure departments).

The Chairman thanked Paul Walls and Jamie Bryant for their verbal update.

280

**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal update report be noted.

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**NUISANCE VEHICLES**

The following briefing note from the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership Manager and Birmingham South Local Policing Unit was tabled at the meeting:-

(See Document No. 1)

Inspector Dean Gordon, West Midlands Police and Austin Rodriguez, Project Manager introduced the briefing note and highlighted the salient points. They responded appropriately to comments made by Members.

Members welcomed the briefing note and congratulated the Police on work undertaken to date. It was suggested that the Police work in conjunction with Neighbourhood Watch groups and Ward Tasking Groups in order to get more support and intelligence information from the community.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Dean Gordon and Austin Rodriguez for their verbal update and it was -

281

**RESOLVED:-**

That the briefing note be noted.

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**DISTRICT'S NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE FOR 2015 – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Chairman gave the following verbal report:

- The Neighbourhood Challenge last year was based upon partnership working with Housing Associations, Birmingham City Council and the Police to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Northfield District. The partnership working and information sharing between all parties was a success and improved conditions across the Northfield District with regard to anti-social behaviour and mental health.
- On 29 September 2016 he advised that an anti-social work shop was being held at Northfield Library, Church Street at 1300 hours and the ethos of the meeting was to detail some of the successes made to date. He welcomed all Members to attend.
- He suggested that a new Housing Panel be formed and that the first meeting be convened to discuss issues such as mental health, homelessness and victims of anti-social behaviour and that a point of contact or a support group be formed to address these issues.

The Chairman asked Councillor Debbie Clancy to give a brief update on this year's District Neighbourhood Challenge:

- NEET's would be looked at with particular attention to preventative work that has been undertaken for example at The Factory and the Colleges. Work experience is an important issue and she had been assured that staff from the work experience department within Birmingham City Council will be on hand to assist. She stated that it was important for young people when leaving full time education to try and gain work experience and improvements to the service in offering work experience to young people should be a priority.
- In the Northfield District there are currently 202 NEET's. Figures have dropped slightly since it was reported at the last District Committee.
- She felt that it was important to 'Meet a NEET' and if possible invite a young person to the District Committee or arrange a work shop where District Members can attend and discuss the NEET's experiences and aspirations for their future.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Debbie Clancy for all her hard work to date.

It was-

282

**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal update be noted.

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**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1 2016/2017 AND BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET 2016/17**

The following reports of the Strategic Director, Place were submitted:-

(See Document No's 2 and 3)

Antony Antill and Mark Rodgers introduced the reports and highlighted the salient points.

Members requested that a pre-meeting/working group be convened prior to the District Committee in order to discuss the projects submitted for approval. It was requested that Mark Rodgers be invited to attend and give a verbal report on all projects.

It was also suggested that Mark Rodgers attend Housing Liaison Board meetings in the future.

Mark Rodgers welcomed the suggestions and stated that he would contact Members via email to convene a pre-meeting/work shop to discuss future projects.

283

**RESOLVED:-**

- i) That the Housing Transformation Board Performance report Quarter 1 be noted;
- ii) That the progress in connection with the projects initiated at Appendix 1 of the Birmingham Council Housing Investment Programme Environmental Works Budget report be noted;
- iii) That approval be given to the following projects at a cost of £34,480.80 to be funded from the Housing Environmental Budget 2016/17:
  - 80 Grange Farm Drive, Kings Norton – provide hard standing for communal bins.
  - Adjacent 126A The Roundabout, Longbridge – resurface car park.
  - 95A – 107 Coney Green Drive, Northfield – renew floor covering and matting.
  - 23 29 Shifnall Walk, Northfield – replace entrance doors and first floor communal window.
  - Opposite 173, 197 and 313 Shenley Fields Road, Weoley – replace lighting columns.
- iv) That the budget position statement provided at Appendix 3 attached to the report be noted.

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**WARD MEETINGS AND NEW “ACTION TRACKER” DATABASE**

The following presentation document from the District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support was submitted:-

(See Document No. 4)

The District Head and Lesley Bannister, Community Government and Support introduced the new Action Tracker database and responded appropriately to comments made by Members.

It was -

284

**RESOLVED:-**

That the Ward Meetings and New Action Tracker presentation document be noted.

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**NORTHFIELD DISTRICT CULTURAL AND HERITAGE CHAMPIONS**

Councillor Andy Cartwright and Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn, Northfield District Cultural and Heritage Champions gave a joint verbal update and made the following points:

- John Lewis Department Store – show to be held on 17 September 2016 entitled ‘Shakespeare re-fashioned at Selfridges’.
- The Flying Scotsman at Tyseley – a well recommended visit.

Members welcomed the verbal update from the Northfield District Cultural and Heritage Champions and stated that it was important to educate young people on the importance of heritage. He gave an example of primary school students attending a tour around The Council House.

285

**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal update from Councillors Andy Cartwright and Peter Douglas Osborn was noted.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)**

286

No items of other urgent business were raised.

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

287

**RESOLVED:-**

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 1610 hours.

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CHAIRMAN