

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE 16 JUNE 2021
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021
AT 1030 HOURS IN MAIN HALL,
BMI, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Councillor Akhlaq Ahmed in the Chair;

Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Adrian Delaney, Zhor Malik and Julien Pritchard

ALSO PRESENT:-

Nigel Oliver – Birmingham Property Services
Rajesh Parmar – Legal Services
Hardeep S Rai – Senior Business Analyst, Finance
Zahid Mahmood – Capital Projects Manager, Education

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 1062 The Chairman advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1063 The Chairman 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.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

The Chair suggested that the appointment of the Deputy Chair be postponed until the next meeting and stated that he would like a male Chair and a female Deputy Chair.

- 1064 **RESOLVED:-**

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- (i) That the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/2022 with the following Members be noted:-

Labour (5)

Councillor Akhlaq Ahmed (Chair)
Councillor Gurdial Singh Atwal
Councillor Zhor Malik
Councillor Yvonne Mosquito
Councillor Josh Jones

Conservative (2)

Councillor Adrian Delaney
Councillor David Pears

Green Party Member (1)

Councillor Julien Pritchard

- (ii) That the appointment of the Vice Chair be postponed until the next meeting.

APOLOGIES

- 1065 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Yvonne Mosquito and David Pears for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

- 1066 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Trusts and Charities Committee held on 22 April 2021 having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE

The following terms of reference were submitted:-

(See Document No. 1)

- 1067 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Terms of Reference of the Trusts and Charities Committee be noted.

**HUNTERS HILL COLLEGE CLOSURE - EDUCATION WITHDRAWAL
FROM THE CROPWOOD ESTATE**

The following report of the Head of Service - Education Infrastructure was submitted:-

(See Document 2)

Zahid Mahmood, Capital Projects Manager, presented the report and advised Members that a decision was made by Cabinet to close the school with effect from 31 August for a variety of reasons. It is a special school outside the City Boundary. Mr Mahmood noted that there would be 24 hour security site as the Children would vacate before the 31 August and it was broken into previously whilst in use. He explained in normal circumstances the Education Directorate would get any Capital receipt from the sale of the site but in this instance the site would revert to the Cropwood Estate Trust. There had been some interest in the site from a third party.

Responding to comments from Councillor Adrian Delaney, Zahid Mahmood, Capital Projects Manager, explained that an independent provider of special schools has taken details as they are interested in taking the site and this approach would be forwarded to the Trust. Children from the school had been relocated to places within Birmingham Closer to home. The issue was that the Education Directorate would not be able to continue paying for security after the 31 August.

Councillor Julian Pritchard raised the question of what the cost is for the surveys stated in the report on paragraph 4.2. Nigel Oliver, Birmingham Property Services, explained that there are funds within capital receipts for surveys which would be commissioned as an informal tender. In response to a further question from Councillor Pritchard he noted that it is difficult to estimate the length of time it would take to transfer the site from Education as the survey had yet to be undertaken and officer did not know what it would reveal.

A debate ensued during which the following points were made:-

- As the building belongs to the Trust it should be given back in the original condition it was given.
- The condition of the site should be established before it was handed back and a visit must be made before August for that reason.
- It was not appropriate at this point to agree the recommendations in the report as they were committing the Committee to things that were unknown not at least what happens after the 31 August in terms of security. The report should be resubmitted to the next meeting.
- It would be appropriate to, following the visit, to hold an additional meeting of the Committee before September so that feedback from the visit can be considered and a post 31 August plan could be established.

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Following further consideration, it was agreed that a site visit be arranged with Members and officers for the following week following which an additional meeting be held before 31 August 2021. The report would be resubmitted to that meeting and Members would receive an update on the condition of the site.

Therefore it was -

1068 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That a Member and officer visit to take place to Hunter's Hill College next week;
 - (ii) that the report be deferred until such time a site visit has been undertaken:
and
 - (iii) that an additional meeting of the Committee be held after the site visit and before 31 August 2021 if necessary.
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HIGHBURY ESTATE

The following report of the Assistant Director in Property was submitted:-

(See Document 3)

Nigel Oliver – Birmingham Property Services made introductory comments relating to the report and detailed the work and involvement of the Highbury Trust in the Estate. He responded to questions from Councillor Adrian Delaney relating to funding.

1069 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

1070 **RESOLVED:-**

That the following schedule of meetings for 2021/2022 be agreed:-

2021

22 September
17 November

2022

19 January
16 March
13 April

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

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

A. Bilberry Hill Centre

- 1071 Councillor Delaney noted that Bromsgrove Dance School had shown an interest in Bilberry Hill Centre and given the Centre had been broken in to queried whether they could use it whilst issues with the Charity Commission were resolved. Nigel Oliver – Birmingham Property Services indicated that officers had been contacted by the Dance School although it was the intension to dispose of the property until such time that was possible a decent Tenant may be beneficial. In response to comments by Councillor Zhor Malik, Nigel Oliver explained that whilst the decision to dispose of the Centre, and other trust properties such as Calthorpe Park, had been taken work was on going in order to be in a position to do so
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AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 1072 **RESOLVED:-**

The Chairman moved that:-

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

The meeting ended at 1214 hours.

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CHAIRMAN