

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**NORTHFIELD DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, 16 JUNE 2017**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 16 JUNE 2017 AT 1400 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT: - Councillors Peter Griffiths, Valerie Seabright, Andy Cartwright, Carole Griffiths, Ian Cruise, Randal Brew, Debbie Clancy, Steve Booton, Peter Douglas Osborn and Julie Johnson.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Richard Burden, Member of Parliament, Northfield Constituency
Richard Davies, Northfield District Lead
Councillor Bruce Pitt, Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council
Errol Wilson, Committee Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

422 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.

At this juncture the Chairman handed over the Chair to Richard Davies, Northfield District Lead for the election of a Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the Northfield District Committee for the 2017/2018 municipal Year.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

423 **RESOLVED:** -

- a) That Councillor Steve Booton be elected Executive Member for Northfield for 2017/2018, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

- b) That Councillor Julie Johnson 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 Steve Booton in the Chair)

APOLOGIES

- 424 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Simon Jevon and Brett O'Reilly.
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The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

- 425 The membership of the Committee was noted as follows: -
- Councillors Peter Griffiths, Simon Jevon, Valerie Seabright (Kings Norton Ward).
- Councillors Andy Cartwright, Ian Cruise, Carole Griffiths (Longbridge Ward).
- Councillors Randal Brew, Debbie Clancy, Brett O'Reilly (Northfield Ward).
- Councillors Steve Booton, Peter Douglas Osborn, Julie Johnson (Weoley Ward).
- Mr Richard Burden, MP and Councillor Bruce Pitt, New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Councillor were also invited to attend all meetings.
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MINUTES

It was: -

- 426 **RESOLVED:** -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2017 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

In relation to matters arising from the Minutes, the following were amongst the matters raised: -

- a. In referring to (Minute No.412 refers) Councillor Brew informed the Committee of his experience in taking part in Operation SORA. He expressed congratulations to the Police officers concerning their work in this area. Councillor Debbie Clancy enquired whether there were any updates post the Operation SORA presentation. The Chairman suggested that the Police could be invited to attend a future Committee meeting concerning the issue.

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Councillor Cruise advised that another date was to be arranged for Operation SORA.

- b. With regard to holding District Committee meetings in Northfield District, (Minute No. 413 (a) refers) the Chairman advised that Richard Davies, Northfield District Lead was doing some work on this, but that it was not known whether there would be any arrangements for District Committees after March 2018. It was suggested that they have the District Committee meetings in the District after March 2018. Mr Davies then gave a brief update on the estimated cost of having the District Committee meetings livestreamed in Northfield District. He added that they could consider using Skype, but that the technical issues needed to be considered.
- c. Councillor Cruise made reference to *Question Time* at Full City Council meetings being made live and suggested that the meetings could be held in the district using this method/technology. Councillor Seabright stated that a breakdown of the cost for holding the meetings in the district compared to holding them at the Council House was needed. Councillor Brew concurred with Councillors Seabright and Cruise comments and stated that the contract with Service Birmingham was coming to an end. The Committee agreed for the item to be kept open and see if something could be done this year.
- d. Councillor Debbie Clancy referred to the funding for new library books (Minute No. 413 (d) paragraph 4 refers) and enquired whether there were any updates. Mr Davies advised that he would provide an update as soon as possible.
- e. Councillor Brew made reference to Councillor Bridle's presentation and enquired how much of the funding was coming to Northfield District concerning parking enforcement on grass verges. The Chairman suggested that this issue could be included as an item on the agenda for the Workshop which was scheduled for the 27 June 2017.
- f. Councillor Debbie Clancy requested that her full name be written in the minutes so as to avoid any confusion with Councillor John Clancy, Leader of the City Council.
- g. Councillor Brew made reference to the Soap Box item (Minute No.418 refers) and commented that it was nice to see this item back on the agenda. The Chairman advised that the item should be advertised at the Ward Committee/Forum meetings. Councillor Cartwright advised that a resident was in attendance at the Committee and would like to say something. Councillor Brew advised that 3-4 days' notice was required and that the time limit for speakers concerning the item was strictly 3 minutes. Councillor Carole Griffiths suggested that the item could be advertised on BCC website.

At this juncture, the Chairman made reference to the Grenfell Tower Block fire incident and invited the Committee to observe a minute silence for the victims.

Councillor Peter Griffiths advised of the following in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes: -

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1. He had spoken to officers to ensure that the City Council's properties were safe as could be as soon as he became aware of the fire incident at Grenfell Tower.
2. Checks were being done of fire procedures in all Council owned tower blocks. All corridors were protected by fire doors. West Midlands Fire Service and the City Council would be looking into fire safety.
3. No cladding was used in the City Council's tower blocks as were being used in Grenfell Tower – Martin Tolley, Service Head, Asset Management/Capital Investment, was required to report back on materials used.
4. A briefing note was sent to all councillors and MPs and a letter sent to all tenants in Blocks of this nature. Councillor Peter Griffiths stated that he was aware that the Fire Service requires sprinklers, but that the Fire Service Chief stated that it would not make any difference in the Blocks at present. He added that he was happy to take questions concerning the issue.

Members then made the following statements:-

- Councillor Cartwright commented that he welcomed the minute silence and added that – *God bless, we are thinking of you* was the message from one community to the next.
- Richard Burden, Member of Parliament for Northfield Constituency, stated that events at Grenfell Tower were chilling. Action was being taken to get supplies to the Grenfell Tower residents. He expressed thanks to Councillor Cartwright for setting up collection with the Fire Service for residents. He further expressed thanks to Councillor Peter Griffiths for getting the briefing out so quickly to councillors, MPs and residents.
- It was noted that the type of cladding used in Birmingham was not similar to that used at Grenfell Tower, but further checks needed to be done to ensure that that type of cladding was not used in any of the Blocks in Birmingham.
- In response to an enquiry concerning sprinkler systems, it was noted that there was a review with BCC and the Fire Service and it was clear from the conclusion that the Fire Service wanted sprinklers fitted and retrofitted. Where residents were vulnerable in tower blocks, sprinklers could be used. If the review for Grenfell Tower Block was that sprinklers were required, BCC's position would need to be reviewed.
- Councillor Brew concurred with Mr Burden, MP and Councillor Peter Griffith's comments. He added that they owed a duty to residents in tower blocks in Birmingham. A report was needed on the materials used in the recent tower blocks refurbishment

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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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.

No declarations of interest were raised by Members.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

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

(See document No. 1)

428 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Functions and Guidelines be noted.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

(See document No. 2)

429 **RESOLVED:-**

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

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

430 (a) **West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service Co-opted Members**

Councillor Debbie Clancy advised that the Fire Service was in regular attendance at the Ward Forum and that the whole district needed to do this. Councillor Brew endorsed Councillor Debbie Clancy's statement and advised that the Police needed to nominate a substitute.

RESOLVED:-

That Inspector Lee Trinder, West Midlands Police be co-opted to the District Committee;

431 (b) **Councillor Champions**

(i) **Corporate Parenting Champion**

RESOLVED:-

That Councillors Debbie Clancy and Carole Griffiths be appointed as the Councillor Champions for Corporate Parenting for the Northfield District.

(ii) **Youth Champions**

Councillor Seabright stated that a young person representation was needed on the Committee. Councillor Brew stated that this would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: -

That Councillor Valerie Seabright be appointed as Youth Champion for Northfield District.

(iii) A Cultural and Heritage Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillors Andy Cartwright and Peter Douglas Osborn be appointed the Cultural and Heritage Champions for Northfield District.

(iv) Jobs and Skills Champion

RESOLVED: -

That Councillors Valerie Seabright and Randal Brew be appointed the Jobs and Skills Champion for Northfield District.

**PBIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET 2017/18**

(See Document No.3)

In the absence of an officer to present the report, the Committee

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RESOLVED: -

That the item be deferred to September's District Committee meeting for an officer to attend and speak to the item.

NORTHFIELD DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE

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(a) Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)

Councillor Debbie Clancy gave a brief update regarding the meeting that was held on the 4th May 2017. She advised that a full report would be submitted at September's Committee meeting. Discussions were had with the Department for Work and Pensions concerning their 'coaches' going into schools on the District and providing some contact work. The aim was to advertise through Prospect what the offer would be in schools in Northfield District. Bournville College expressed an interest to work with Prospect.

Mr Burden, MP stated that this was a new way of working with young people and that he was excited about the pilot project with the schools. He expressed thanks to Councillor Debbie Clancy for her work concerning NEETs.

(b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Chairman advised that he had been in contact with the Housing Associations with a view to do a final workshop with a view to rounding off ASB and work in other areas with BCC. It was hoped that the workshop would be held in autumn.

(c) Proposal for the next Neighbourhood Challenge

Councillor Seabright informed the Committee that the proposal for the next Neighbourhood Challenge was *Northfield District Education Challenge*. She circulated a document at the meeting outlining the context, recent background, education challenge proposal and the expected outcome

(See document No. 3)

Members then made the following comments: -

- The presentation was useful.
- Victoria School needed to be mentioned.
- A formal relationship was established with senior school, but would like to be involved with Minerva
- Good ideas in the proposal and it were hope that they could generate better data for the city.
- It was suspected that there was a lot of data, but whether this was available needed to be looked at. There were lots of negative things, but also lots of positive things happening in schools. There was a need to record the positive as well as the negative things.

UPDATE ON HOLDING DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING IN THE DISTRICT

- 434 This item was discussed in matters arising from the minutes above. A feedback was needed at September's District Committee.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2016/2017

- 435 **RESOLVED: -**

That the Northfield District Committee meets at 1400 hours, at the Council House on the following dates:-

15 September 2017
17 November 2017
19 January 2018
16 March 2018

All meetings will be held on Fridays at 2:00pm in Committee Rooms 3&4, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BB

SOAP BOX

- 436 None submitted.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

437 Leaseholders were being notified and a briefing note was sent to all Housing Liaison Boards (HLB) regarding the Grenfell Tower fire.

Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn expressed thanks on behalf of the Committee to Councillor Steve Booton for chairing the District Committee meetings over the last year.

In terms of the Local Innovation Fund (LIF), Northfield District had done well. There were 8 LIF applications in Weoley Ward and they were awaiting signatures.

Councillor Bruce Pitt, Frankley in Birmingham Parish Councillor advised that the HLB in Frankley were marked down regarding the Kite Mark. It was noted that a report concerning the issue was to be sent to Councillor Peter Griffiths in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes. A question was who had marked the HLB down and what the implications for this happening were.

It was further noted that the HLBs were independent bodies and that the rules applied were different. It was noted that this was different from the walkabouts done by councillors with officers. There had to be an HLB walkabout.

Following a brief discussion concerning the issue, the Chairman advised that the matter would be investigated.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

438 **RESOLVED: -**

Chairman to move:-

"That 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