

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**TRUST AND CHARITIES  
COMMITTEE  
12 JUNE 2024**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY 12 JUNE 2024 AT 1030 HOURS IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:** - Councillor Phil Davis in the Chair.

Councillors Adrian Delaney and David Barker.

**ALSO, PRESENT:** -

Rajesh Parmar – Legal Services  
Alison Jarrett – Director of Group and Capital Finance  
Philip Andrews – Head of Service  
Sofia Mirza – Committee Services

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

1123 It was noted that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1124 None submitted.

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**APOLOGIES**

1125 Councillors Marcus Bernasconi, Chaman Lal and David Pears.

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**APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIR**

This was agreed and noted by members.

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**ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

Councillor Marcus Bernasconi was elected as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

**MINUTES**

1126 The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 March 2024 were discussed in item 7.

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**COMMISSIONERS REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA**

The review and comments provided by the Commissioners was noted by members.

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**REPORT NO. 7 TERMS AND REFERENCE OF THE TRUST AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE**

The Terms and Reference of the Committee was noted by members.

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**RESOLVED: -**

Members agreed the Terms and Reference of the committee.

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**REPORT NO. 8. – CROPWOOD ESTATE - GRANTING A LICENCE TO A FOREST SCHOOL**

The Head of Service introduced the report to members. Cropwood Estate, Hunters Hill Special School returned to the Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 following the vacation by Education. There was an ad hoc local arrangement between the head teacher and a local school regarding a small portion of the site which was roughly .4 of an acre, this was incidental to the overall estate for use as a forest school for the local primary school.

The recommendation covers two aspects. Firstly to formalise the arrangement with a proper license and secondly to recognise that the school itself if academising so the agreement would be with the new academy body rather than the individual local school. The arrangement was designed to properly document what has previously been an undocumented situation, and to also give flexibility pending the current review of opportunities that the wider Cropwood Estate may pose to us.

Councillor Delaney agreed that it would be useful to use some of the land as it would contribute to security on the site. He asked the question of whether this would be an annual contract or a rolling one. The Head of Service stated that it would be rolling but subject to 28 days notice which would benefit the Council as it gives flexibility in terms of the wider estate and how it may evolve and also if arrangements do not work out for whatever reason. There is also the option of cancelling and then regranting at a higher value. The Head of Service also stated that from an administrative perspective it would be more flexible to document a rolling contract rather than getting into a cycle of having to issue a new license every year if there was no increase.

Councillor Barker asked if this was a normal situation to have something that is outside the Council in a Trust that we are administering and paying for, and

**Trust and Charities Committee – 12 June 2024**

secondly as the Council is in a financial situation where we are having to make cuts, would this be a factor and as the property sits within Worcester would this be something they would take on. The Head of Service replied and stated that there are two significant elements outside the city boundaries, namely Cropwood Estate. The gifting was to City Council rather than any other entity. Cropwood has its own financial funds, so there is a pot of money that can be spent on building security.

The Chair stated that as part of the audit there needs to be a list of overdue dates regarding reporting and that these matters be treated with urgency.

**RESOLVED:** -

Members of the Committee agreed the recommendations in the report.

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**CHAIR'S UPDATE ON COMMITTEE MATTERS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024/2025**

The Chair stated that Councillor Bernasconi presented a letter (as Chair) to the Chief Executive of the Council, pressing for sufficient office support to be provided to the Committee.

Councillor Davis said this had since led to a helpful discussion with the City Solicitor. The Chair stated that he would circulate the Memorandum to Members of the Committee.

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**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The committee noted the date of the next meeting was 30 April 2024 1000 hours in Committee Room 2.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None submitted.

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The meeting ended 1230 hours.

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CHAIR