

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, 10th July, 2014 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Sabiers (Chair), Ahmed-Shaikh, Blacker, Byrne, D. Crawford, K. Crawford, Gavan, Jones, R. Mann, *Malcolm* (substitute for Ball), Mason, Shaw, A. Stafford and Young (Vice-Chair).

1. Apologies for Absence

(Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor; Joy Morrissey.

2. Urgent Matters

(Agenda Item 2)

There were none.

3. Matters to be Considered in Private

(Agenda Item 3)

There were none.

4. Declarations of Interest

(Agenda Item 4)

There were none.

5. Minutes (17.06.14)

(Agenda Item 5)

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 17th June 2014 be agreed, as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) Minute No 7 (Final Report of Scrutiny Review Panel 3), Page 3, paragraph number 5. Delete the word "Morrison," and insert the word "Morrissey."
- (ii) Minute No 7 (Final Report of Scrutiny Review Panel 3), Page 3, paragraph number 7. Delete the word "Insolation," and insert the word "Isolation."

6. Consideration of Recommendations made by the ‘Governance’ Scrutiny Panel (Agenda item: 6)

Helen Harris, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, submitted a report which provided details of the Cabinet’s response to the recommendations of the ‘Governance Scrutiny Review Panel,’ which concerned the practice and procedures to be adopted at full Council.

The report also made a series of proposals for various service officers, with regard to implementing the recommendations.

The Chair said that he felt it would be best if the Committee focused in particular on recommendations 2-7, as progress on implementing these recommendations, is already underway.

Councillor Young proposed and it was unanimously agreed that the Cabinet responses to recommendations 3 – 7, be referred to the ‘Constitution Review Group,’ meeting on 4th September, 2014.

The Chair proposed and it was unanimously agreed that recommendation 8 concerning the ‘use of cameras at Council meetings,’ be extended wider, in particular to the ways in which residents currently engage with, and are informed by Council meetings.

The Chair further suggested and it was agreed that the use of cameras at Council meeting is a matter that could be looked at in more detail by the ‘Ealing Customer’s Scrutiny Panel.’

Resolved: (i) The Committee noted the Cabinet’s response to the recommendations proposed by the ‘Governance Scrutiny Panel,’ which concerns practice and procedures to be adopted at full Council meetings;

(ii) The Committee focused in particular on recommendations 2-7, as it was noted that progress on implementing these recommendations, is already underway:

(iii) The Committee agreed that the Cabinet responses to recommendations 3 – 7, be referred to the ‘Constitution Review Group,’ meeting on 4th September, 2014;

(iv) The Committee also agreed that recommendation 8 concerning the ‘use of cameras at Council meetings,’ be extended wider, in relation to the ways in which residents currently engage with, and are informed by Council meetings.

The Committee also agreed that this is a matter that could be looked at in more detail by the ‘Ealing Customer’s Scrutiny Panel.’

7. Progress on aspects of Ealing’s Sports Facility Strategy 2012/2021
(Agenda item: 7)

The Head of Scrutiny and Committees submitted a report which provided the Committee with information concerning the proposed future developments at ‘Norwood Hall Playing Fields,’ in the context of the borough’s ‘Sports Facilities Strategy.’

Members were also given a short presentation by Jonathan Kirby, the Council’s Assistant Director of Major Projects and Development, which gave the Committee an overview of the ‘Ealing Sports Facility Strategy,’

Mr Kirby’s presentation focused on the Council’s challenge to invest in local sports facilities in the borough, in order to bring them up to the requisite standard, and to involve and engage local clubs and community organisations.

The presentation also gave details of the Council’s significant investment in projects such as; ‘Spikes Bridge Park,’ ‘Durdens Park Sports Ground,’ ‘Warren Farm’ and ‘Norwood Hall Playing Fields,’ all of whom are seen as examples of best practice, at a time when many local authorities are being forced to close their own sports facilities.

In addition the Committee received representation from Dr Garcha, who attended the meeting and addressed the Committee on behalf of the the Managing Trustees of the “Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall.”

Dr Garcha express his concerns regarding what the Gurdwara considered to be a lack of consultation with community organisations in the choosing of a preferred provider for the development of the Norwood Hall playing fields.

He said that the Gurdwara strongly implored the Council to urgently commence a review of what consultation and community involvement has been undertaken by the Council, in its decision to appoint a proposed partner, including any steps taken as a result of the consultation and whether the process followed for consultation with community groups was open, fair, transparent and followed appropriate governance procedures for the appointment of a proposed development partner.

Dr Garcha said that the Gurdwara would like to request that the entire process is restarted again for the best interest of the whole community, and that all community stakeholders be afforded an equal opportunity through a transparent and fair selection procedure.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bell addressed the Committee and advised Members that the recommendation from Council officers to the partnership board was to work with the Southall FC, and explore the opportunity to develop community use of the Norwood Hall playing fields for community sport.

Councillor Bell said that it was important to note that this partnership working with Southall FC is not via a lease, nor is it a sole and exclusive usage, nor a reduction of other community groups usage of the site.

He said that the boards work with Southall FC as a preferred community partner, does not preclude the Khalsa primary school or the Gurdwara, as a sponsor, and the Council welcomes any proposals that either the school or the Gurdwara may wish to present to the board.

The Chair concluded the discussion on this item by thanking Jonathan Kirby for his presentation to the Committee.

The Chair also thanked Mr Garcha representative of the Gurdwara, for attending the meeting and for addressing the Committee.

The Chair said that he would like to make it clear that despite their apparent reservations, the Council very much wanted to work positively with the Gurdwara.

The Chair said that he hoped that the door remained open to the Gurdwara to become engaged in the process, and he hoped that this is an opportunity that the Gurdwara would see fit to take up.

Resolved: That the Committee note the proposed developments at Norwood Hall Playing Fields in the context of the Sports Facilities Strategy, and the representations received at the meeting from the Managing Trustees of the “Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall.”

8. Work of the Scrutiny Panels (Agenda Item 8)

The Head of Scrutiny and Committees submitted a report and tabled a briefing paper which provided details of the terms of reference and suggested topics in respect of the following Scrutiny Panels appointed in 2014/2015:

‘Health and Adult Social Services Standing Scrutiny Panel,’ ‘Scrutiny Review Panel 1 – ‘Ealing’s Contracts Demands and Partnerships,’ ‘Scrutiny Review Panel 2 – ‘Ealing 360 Degrees,’ ‘Scrutiny Review Panel 3 – ‘Ealing’s Customers’ and ‘Scrutiny Review Panel 4 – ‘Ealing 2024.’

Resolved: That the Committee note the report and a tabled briefing paper which provided details of the terms of reference and suggested topics in respect of each of the Council’s appointed Scrutiny Panels in 2014/2015:

- ‘Health and Adult Social Services Standing Scrutiny Panel’
- Scrutiny Review Panel 1 – ‘Ealing’s Contracts Demands and Partnerships’
- Scrutiny Review Panel 2 – ‘Ealing 360 Degrees’
- Scrutiny Review Panel 3 – ‘Ealing’s Customers’
- Scrutiny Review Panel 4 – ‘Ealing 2024’

9. OSC Work Programme 2014/2015
(Agenda Item 9)

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Scrutiny and Committees, which gave details of the Committees work programme, in respect of its meetings in the 2014/2015 municipal year.

Resolved: (i) That the Committee notes the OSC Work Programme 2014/2015, and agrees that the work programme should remain a flexible document, that will allow the Committee to deal with matters as they arise from the Council's 'Forward Plan,' and elsewhere, during the course of the municipal year.

10. Date of Next Meeting
(Agenda Item 10)

Resolved: The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting, is a 'Call-in' only meeting, and in the event of a call-in, the meeting will take place on Thursday, 14th August, 2014 at 7.00pm in Committee Room 3 at the Town Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

Chair

Councillor Mik Sabiers