



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Monday 8 May 2017 at 5.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Butt (Chair), Councillor McLennan (Vice-Chair), Hirani, Southwood and Tatler

1. **Apologies of Absence (if any)**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor M Patel.

2. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 23 February 2017, be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Deputations (if any)**

There were no deputations received.

6. **Review of Polling Places 2017**

Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, asked Thomas Cattermole (Head of Executive and Member Services) to introduce the report outlining the polling station arrangements put in place for the General Election on 8 June 2017. Mr Cattermole explained that the review was originally due to take place in 2018, but as a result of the General Election called on 18 April 2017 and urgent review had to be undertaken.

In response to Members' questions related to polling stations NAL2 (Alperton ward) and CDU1 (Dudden Hill ward), Mr Cattermole explained that it would be possible to make St. Catherine's Church, Dudden Hill lane, NW10 1QB the permanent venue for polling station CDU1, which would save money as the Church would be used for a double station. He said that Brent was still in negotiations regarding parking arrangements near polling station NAL2. Mr Cattermole informed the Committee that he had received two emails expressing concerns about the use of the Pakistan Community Centre as a polling station. He highlighted that the venue had been

used since 2014 and no issues had been raised. A possible alternative could be a hut on a nearby road which would be more disruptive to voters and local residents.

A Member of the Committee asked a question relating to the placing of a polling station at Northwick Park Hospital. Carolyn Downs (Chief Executive) said that the last time this had been done a small number of residents had cast their vote there. In the subsequent discussion, Melanie Adams (Electoral Registration and Services Manager) said that the cost for hiring a venue to be used as a polling station ranged between £100 and £1000. In response, a Member of the Committee suggested that voting by post should be promoted for the next election. Due to the proximity of the General Election and poll cards already sent out, it was decided to monitor turnout at the station in 2017 and include that station in the next review of polling places.

Mr Cattermole drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 3.6 on page 7 to the Agenda pack. He said that various options had been examined in relation to polling station NKE4 (Kenton ward) and it had been decided that it would be best to use Harrow District Masonic Centre which had allowed Brent Council to set up two temporary stations in their car park free of charge.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The polling stations listed below be adopted as temporary polling stations for the General Election on 8 June 2017:
 - NAL2: Alperton Baptist Church Hall be relocated to Alperton Community School, Ealing Road, HA0 4PW.
 - CDU1: Christ Embassy be relocated to St Catherine's Church, Dudden Hill Lane, NW10 1QB.
 - HKI4: The Royal British Legion be relocated to the OK Club, 45 Denmark Road, NW6 5BP.
 - NKE4: The Haridham Temple be relocated to temporary polling stations in the Harrow District Masonic Centre car park, Northwick Circle, HA3 0EL.
- (ii) All other polling stations remain unchanged for this poll and until and the next statutory review of polling districts and polling places in 2018/19.
- (iii) In the event of any other polling places becoming unavailable before the June 2017 election, authority be delegated to the Acting Returning Officer to make any further changes required to polling places for these elections in consultation with the leaders of the political groups on the Council.

7. Appointments to Sub-Committees / Outside Bodies (if any)

There were no appointments made to Sub-Committees and Outside Bodies.

8. **Any other urgent business**

There were no other items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 5:15 pm.

COUNCILLOR MUHAMMED BUTT
Chair