

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
Thursday, 18th March 2004 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Coughlin (Vice Chair, in the Chair) and Councillors Gladbaum (for D Long), Kagan, Lyon, H B Patel and R S Patel.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of R Blackman, R Colwill, John and D Long.

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

(a) 12th November 2003 (Special)

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12th November 2003 be approved as an accurate record.

(b) 8th December 2003

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th December 2003 be approved as an accurate record.

(c) 9th February 2004

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9th February 2004 be approved as an accurate record.

3. Deputations

None.

4. Polling Stations

The Electoral Services Manager, Sean O'Sullivan, introduced the report now before Committee which proposed some changes to polling places in the Borough for the forthcoming Elections in the light of experience from the elections in 2002 and the Parliamentary By-Election in 2003. The ward boundary review and a major review of polling district boundaries came into effect in May 2002. There was only one new polling place recommended, the former WASPS football pavilion in Sudbury, plus some minor administrative changes that would be effected in time for the June elections. Also circulated at the meeting, as an addendum to the report, were some additional

comments from Ward councillors in relation to the electors in Districts EDU4 (Dudden Hill Ward) and NFR5 (Fryent Ward). The Electoral Services Manager advised that any change that would require an adjustment to the current electoral register should be avoided at this stage and assured that the concerns raised would be taken into account during a borough wide polling district boundary review later in the year to be incorporated into the new register.

In response to an enquiry the Electoral Services Manager reminded the Committee that as a result of the parliamentary boundary review some wards were divided between parliamentary constituencies. Councillor HB Patel suggested that voting for NPR4 and NPR5 take place in the same school hall as this would be more convenient for voters and it was agreed that this be looked at as part of the polling district boundary review. Councillor Lyon referred to the addendum report and concerns for some voters living at one end of Polling District EDU4 whose polling place was at Gladstone Park School which was some distance away. He accepted that this would be considered as part of the district boundary review.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the list of polling stations be approved for the European and Greater London Authority Elections to be held on 10th June 2004;
- (ii) that a letter be sent to every household affected by a polling station change giving details of their polling station;
- (iii) that, in the event of any unforeseen changes between the date of this meeting and the June elections, authority be delegated to the Returning Officer to designate polling places; in consultation with Leaders of the three political groups;
- (iv) that the comments from ward councillors of Fryent, Dudden Hill and Preston Wards be noted and that the polling district boundary review to be carried out in Autumn 2004 consider the possible creation of new districts in Fryent and Dudden Hill wards with polling places more convenient to the voters in the Wakeman's Hill Avenue and Lennon Road areas respectively and the use of either Wembley Manor Infants or Junior School.

5. 2002-2003 Statement of Accounts

The Council's external auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) had issued their Opinion on the 2002/2003 Statement of Accounts. There were no qualifications. The report now before Committee asked members to note the revised accounts which included the amendments to those accounts originally submitted to General Purposes Committee on 4th September 2003.

Members considered the report and raised questions concerning underspend on the Education Standards Fund, the pooling of capital receipts and pension fund liabilities. The Acting Director of Finance responded. It was noted that the 2003/2004 accounts could be submitted to the Performance and Finance Select Committee if required.

Councillor Coughlin thanked the Finance officers involved in the production of the accounts which again for the sixth consecutive year had been produced on time with no qualifications.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Schedule of Significant Amendments at Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (ii) that the audited 2002/2003 Statement of Accounts at Appendix 2 be noted.

6. Appointment to Outside Bodies

None.

7. Sub-Committee Membership Changes

None.

8. Any Other Urgent Business

None.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

D Coughlin
In the Chair

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