

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2008

**COMMITTEE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor M. Shahid Ali (Chair)

Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Salim Ullah

Other Councillors Present:

Officers Present:

Julian Francis – (Political Adviser to the Conservative Group,
Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Graham White – (Interim Legal Team Manager, Legal Services,
Chief Executive's)
Angus Taylor – (Executive Team Leader, Democratic Services)

COUNCILLOR M. SHAHID ALI (CHAIR) IN THE CHAIR

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor C. Harper –
Penman.

Noted

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor S. Ullah, nominated Councillor A. A. Sardar, as Vice-Chair of the
General Purposes Committee for the Municipal Year 2008-2009. The Chair,
seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations it was: -

Resolved

That Councillor A. A. Sardar be elected Vice-Chair of the General Purposes Committee for the Municipal Year 2008 – 2009.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S. Ullah, sought and was given clarification by Mr White, Interim Legal Team Adviser, Chief Executive's, in relation to any legal requirement to declare a personal interest: -

- On the basis of being a representative of the Authority on the governing body of certain outside bodies which were the subject a report later on the agenda, containing recommendations relating to appointment of representatives of the Authority to these bodies for the Municipal Year 2008/2009.
- On the basis of being Labour Group whip, in the context of nominations made by the Labour Group for appointment of representatives of the Authority on the governing body of outside bodies for the Municipal Year 2008/2009, which was the subject a report later on the agenda.

No declarations of interest were subsequently made.

4. MINUTES

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved

That the unrestricted minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 10th December 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair, as a correct record of the proceedings.

5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 General Purposes Committee - Terms of reference, membership and dates of meetings

The clerk, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report summarised the salient points contained therein.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendation contained in the report and it was:-

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

5.2 Appointments to external bodies

The clerk, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report summarised the salient points contained therein.

At this juncture the Chair firstly informed members of the Committee that in order to expedite consideration of the report he thought it appropriate that the Committee agree the noting recommendations contained in the report, and accordingly **Moved**

“That the recommendations contained in paragraph 3. (ii) and 3. (iii) of the report be agreed”

and it was: -

Resolved:

1. That the appointments to London Councils Committees and Forums made by Council on 21st May 2008, as listed in Appendix B to the report, be noted.
2. That the ‘Guidance for Members representing the Council on external bodies’ attached at Appendix C to the report be noted.

The Chair continued by secondly informing members of the Committee that in order to streamline consideration of the business set out in paragraph 3. (ii) of the report before them, the appointments to external bodies, he felt it was appropriate that the Committee focus its attention on the external bodies where there were more nominations than appointments to be made (by the Council) and also on those where there were currently insufficient nominations. Accordingly the Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

“That the appointments to external bodies set out in Appendix A to the report, in accordance with nominations received from political groups, be agreed with the exception of those appointments where there are more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council, and that the Committee consider those appointments organisation by organisation in the order detailed in Appendix A.

That it be noted, in relation to appointments for several outside organisations, that there were further nominations to be made by the political groups, and that the Committee note these organisation by organisation in the order detailed in Appendix A.”

and it was: -

Resolved:

1. That the appointments to external bodies set out in Appendix A to the report, in accordance with nominations received from political groups, be agreed with the exception of those appointments where there were more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council, and that the Committee consider those appointments organisation by organisation in the order detailed in Appendix A.
2. That it be noted, in relation to appointments for several outside organisations, that there were further nominations to be made by the political groups, and that the Committee note these organisation by organisation in the order detailed in Appendix A.

*CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO SPECIFIC EXTERNAL BODIES
DETAILED IN APPENDIX A TO THE REPORT*

Age Concern Tower Hamlets

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Age Concern Tower Hamlets" Appendix A detailed more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree the nomination of the Labour Group that Councillor A. Heslop be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of Age Concern Tower Hamlets for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 4 for and 1 against)

That Councillor A. Heslop be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of Age Concern Tower Hamlets for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Councillor T. O'Flaherty commented that if voting in relation to all contested appointments were to be party political, he considered that approach to be inappropriate.

Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood" Appendix A detailed more

nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

“That the Committee agree the nominations of the Labour Group that Councillors D. Jones and C. Hawkins, be appointed as a representatives of the Authority on the governing body of Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood for the Municipal Year 2008/09”

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 4 for and 1 against)

That Councillors D. Jones and C. Hawkins be appointed as representatives of the Authority on the governing body of Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Councillor T. O’ Flaherty commented that the nominee of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor S. Eaton, was a Councillor in Bethnal Green North Ward, where the Museum was located, and considered it inappropriate that such appointments should be made on a party political basis.

Docklands Sailing Water Sports Centre

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation “Docklands Sailing Water Sports Centre” Appendix A detailed more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

“That the Committee agree the nomination of the Labour Group that Councillor Md. Shahid Ali, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of Docklands Sailing Water Sports Centre for the Municipal Year 2008/09”

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 4 for and 1 against)

That Councillor Md. Shahid Ali be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of Docklands Sailing Water Sports Centre for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Councillor T. O' Flaherty commented that the nominee of the Conservative Group, Councillor P. Briscoe, was a Ward Councillor where the Sailing Centre was located, and considered it inappropriate that such appointments should be made on a party political basis.

East London Line Group

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "East London Line Group" Appendix A detailed more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

Councillor S. Ullah **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree two of three nominations of the Labour Group being Councillors A. Ullah and S. Ullah, and that accordingly they be appointed as representatives of the Authority on the East London Line Group for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 3 for and none against)

That Councillors A. Ullah and S. Ullah be appointed as representatives of the Authority on the East London Line Group for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

English Heritage – Historic Environment Champion

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "English Heritage – Historic Environment Champion" Appendix A detailed more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree the nomination of the Labour Group that Councillor D. Jones, be appointed as the Authority's Historic Environment Champion to English Heritage for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 3 for and 1 against)

That Councillor D. Jones, be appointed as the Authority's Historic Environment Champion to English Heritage for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

East London and The City University Mental Health NHS Trust

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "East London and The City University Mental Health NHS Trust" Appendix A detailed more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree the nomination of the Labour Group that Councillor B. Turner, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of East London and The City University Mental Health NHS Trust for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 4 for and 1 against)

That Councillor B. Turner be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of East London and The City University Mental Health NHS Trust for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Island Health Charities Trust

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Island Health Charities Trust" Appendix A detailed more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree the nomination of the Labour Group that Councillor Md. Shahid Ali, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of Island Health Charities Trust for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 3 for and 2 against)

That Councillor Md. Shahid Ali be appointed as a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Island Health Charities Trust for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Councillor T. O' Flaherty commented that the nominee of the Conservative Group, Councillor R. Eckhardt, was a Ward Councillor where the Island Health Charities Trust was located, and considered it inappropriate that such appointments should be made on a party political basis.

London Canals Committee

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "London Canals Committee" Appendix A detailed two nominations however the appointments to be made by the Council were one representative and one deputy (for that representative) and therefore the Committee would need to agree and vote on which of the nominated Councillors should be the representative and which the deputy.

Councillor T. O. Flaherty **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree that Councillor P. Golds, the nominee of the Conservative Group, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of London Canals Committee and that Councillor M. Francis, the nominee of the Labour Group, be appointed as the deputy for Councillor Golds, for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

Councillor M. Mamun Rashid Seconded the motion.

The Chair put the motion to a vote and on a vote of 2 for and 3 against, the motion fell.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree that Councillor M. Francis, the nominee of the Labour Group, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of London Canals Committee and that Councillor P. Golds, the nominee of the Conservative Group, be appointed as the deputy for Councillor Francis, for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 3 for and 2 against)

That Councillor M. Francis, the nominee of the Labour Group, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of London Canals Committee and that Councillor P. Golds, the nominee of the Conservative Group, be appointed as the deputy for Councillor Francis, for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

London Accident Prevention Council

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "London Accident Prevention Council", Appendix A detailed two nominations however the appointments to be made by the Council were one

representative and one deputy (for that representative) and therefore the Committee would need to agree and vote on which of the nominated Councillors should be the representative and which the deputy.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

“That the Committee agree that Councillor R. Bawden, the nominee of the Labour Group, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of London Accident Prevention Council and that Councillor E. Jones, the nominee of the Conservative Group, be appointed as the deputy for Councillor Bawden, for the Municipal Year 2008/09”

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 3 for and 1 against)

That Councillor R. Bawden, the nominee of the Labour Group, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of London Accident Prevention Council and that Councillor E. Jones, the nominee of the Conservative Group, be appointed as the deputy for Councillor Bawden, for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation “Lee Valley Regional Park Authority”, Appendix A detailed only one nomination however the appointments to be made by the Council were one representative and one deputy for that representative.

The Chair Moved the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -
And it was

Resolved

That it be noted that: -

- The Committee had agreed earlier in the proceedings that Councillor R. Bawden, the nominee of the Labour Group, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority for the Municipal Year 2008/09; and
- That there was a further nomination to be made by the political groups to ensure full representation of the Authority on the governing body of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority in the Municipal Year 2008/09 and that further consideration would be given to this matter by the Committee at its next meeting.

London Rivers Association

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "London Rivers Association" Appendix A detailed more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree the nomination of the Labour Group that Councillor J. Peck, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of London Rivers Association for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 3 for and 2 against)

That Councillor J. Peck, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of London Rivers Association for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Mudchute Association

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Mudchute Association" Appendix A detailed more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree the nomination of the Labour Group that Councillor Md. Shahid Ali, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of Mudchute Association for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 3 for and 2 against)

That Councillor Md. Shahid Ali be appointed as a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Mudchute Association for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Councillor T. O' Flaherty commented that the nominee of the Conservative Group, Councillor R. Eckhardt, was a Ward Councillor, where Mudchute Park

was located, and considered it inappropriate that such appointments should be made on a party political basis.

Nolton Folgate Almhouse Charities

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Nolton Folgate Almhouse Charities", Appendix A detailed no ongoing appointments only one nomination (appointment agreed earlier in the proceedings), however the Council could make two appointments in total.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -
And it was

Resolved

That it be noted that: -

- The Committee had agreed earlier in the proceedings that Ms R. Blake, the nominee of the Labour Group, be appointed as a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Nolton Folgate Almhouse Charities for the Municipal Year 2008/09; and
- That there were two further nominations to be made by the political groups to ensure full representation of the Authority on the governing body of Nolton Folgate Almhouse Charities in the Municipal Year 2008/09 and that further consideration would be given to this matter by the Committee at its next meeting.

North East London Valuation Tribunal

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "North East London Valuation Tribunal" Appendix A detailed five ongoing appointments however the Council could make one further appointment.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -
And it was

Resolved

That it be noted that in addition to the ongoing appointments there was a further nomination to be made by the political groups to ensure full representation of the Authority on the governing body of North East London Valuation Tribunal in the Municipal Year 2008/09 and that further consideration would be given to this matter by the Committee at its next meeting.

Ocean New Deal for Communities

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Ocean New Deal for Communities", Appendix A detailed that there were no ongoing appointments and no nominations had been made, however the Council could make two appointments.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

And it was

Resolved

That it be noted that there were further nominations to be made by the political groups to ensure full representation of the Authority on the governing body of Ocean New Deal for Communities in the Municipal Year 2008/09 and that further consideration would be given to this matter by the Committee at its next meeting.

Old Ford Housing Association

The Chair, in referring to Appendix A, commented that: -

- With regard to the organisation "Old Ford Housing Association" the information contained therein was as follows:
 - The Authority could make one appointment to the governing body of the Old Ford Housing Association for the Municipal Year 2008/09.
 - That Councillor Francis had been appointed as a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Old Ford Housing Association for the Municipal Year 2007/08, but that this was not an ongoing appointment.
 - That no nominations had been made for the Municipal Year 2008/09.
- The above details were incorrect, as Councillor Francis was an independent member of the governing body of the Old Ford Housing Association and the Authority was not entitled to appoint any other representatives to this governing body.

Parmiters Bethnal Green Education Trust

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Parmiters Bethnal Green Education Trust", Appendix A detailed that there were no ongoing appointments and no nominations had been made however the Council could make one appointments.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

And it was

Resolved

That it be noted that there was a further nomination to be made by the political groups to ensure full representation of the Authority on the governing body of Parmiters Bethnal Green Education Trust in the Municipal Year 2008/09 and that further consideration would be given to this matter by the Committee at its next meeting.

St Hilda's Community Centre Management

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "St Hilda's Community Centre Management" Appendix A detailed more nominations than appointments to be made by the Council and therefore the Committee would need to vote on the matter.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That the Committee agree the nomination of the Labour Group that Councillor F. Haque, be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of St Hilda's Community Centre Management for the Municipal Year 2008/09"

and it was:-

Resolved (on a vote of 3 for and 2 against)

That Councillor F. Haque be appointed as the representative of the Authority on the governing body of St Hilda's Community Centre Management for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Councillor T. O' Flaherty commented that the nominee of the Liberal Democrat Group, himself, had been a Ward Councillor, where the St Hilda's Centre was located, since 2002 whereas Councillor Haque, the Labour Group nominee, had only recently been elected and considered it inappropriate that such appointments should be made on a party political basis.

Stepney Relief in Need Charity

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Stepney Relief in Need Charity" (appointment agreed earlier in the proceedings), Appendix A detailed one ongoing appointment and one nomination, however the Council could make three appointments.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -
And it was

Resolved

That it be noted that: -

- That Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed had been appointed by the General Purposes Committee as a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Stepney Relief in Need Charity, for a 4 year term, commencing in the Municipal Year 2005/06 (expiring 16 June 2009);
- The Committee had agreed earlier in the proceedings that Councillor B. Turner, the nominee of the Labour Group, be appointed as a second representative of the Authority on the governing body of Stepney Relief in Need Charity for a 4 year term commencing in the Municipal Year 2008/09;
- That there was a further nomination to be made by the political groups to ensure full representation of the Authority on the governing body of Stepney Relief in Need Charity in the Municipal Year 2008/09 and that further consideration would be given to this matter by the Committee at its next meeting.

Thomas Dickenson Charity

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Thomas Dickenson Charity", Appendix A detailed that there were no ongoing appointments and no nominations had been made however the Council could make three appointments.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -
and it was

Resolved

That it be noted that there were further nominations to be made by the political groups to ensure full representation of the Authority on the governing body of Thomas Dickenson Charity in the Municipal Year 2008/09 and that further consideration would be given to this matter by the Committee at its next meeting.

Tower Hamlets Sports Council

The Chair informed members of the Committee that with regard to the organisation "Tower Hamlets Sports Council", Appendix A detailed six nominations (appointments agreed earlier in the proceedings) however the Council could make one further appointment.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -
And it was

Resolved

That it be noted that: -

- The Committee had agreed earlier in the proceedings that Councillors W. Islam, O. Ahmed, S. Khatun, A. Omer, the nominees of the Labour Group; R. Eckhardt the nominee of the Conservative Group and S. Eaton, the nominee of the Liberal Democrat Group , be appointed as representatives of the Authority on the governing body of Tower Hamlets Sports Council for the Municipal Year 2008/09;
- That it be noted that there was a further nomination to be made by the political groups to ensure full representation of the Authority on the governing body of Tower Hamlets Sports Council in the Municipal Year 2008/09 and that further consideration would be given to this matter by the Committee at its next meeting.

5.3 Appointment of Members/deputies to casual vacancies on committees/panels (if any)

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet:-

- That the report had been **Tabled**, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.
- Of the special circumstances and reasons for urgency associated with the report as follows:-
 - The report was unavailable for public inspection within the standard timescales set out in the Authority's Constitution, because of the delay in receiving and processing nominations from political groups.
 - Agreement of appointments to external bodies was important to ensure that the Authority can fully represent the residents of the Borough in these forums and because the next opportunity for the Committee to agree such appointments was August 2008, and that would unduly delay this proper representation.

The Committee subsequently agreed these special circumstances and reasons for urgency.

The clerk, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report summarised the salient points contained therein.

The Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Committee: -

"That appointments to Committees and Panels for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09 be agreed in accordance with the nominations from the respective political groups, as set out in paragraph 2.1 (i) of the report."

and it was: -

Resolved:

1. That the following appointments to Committees and Panels of the Council be agreed for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09: -

Committee/ Panel	Councillor Deputy Appointments
Appeals	Cllr Md. Abdus Salique representing Cllrs Salim Ullah, Denise Jones, Ahmed Omer, Bill Turner and Motin Uz-Zaman
Audit	Cllrs Motin Uz-Zaman and Rajib Ahmed each representing Cllrs Helal Abbas, Denise Jones, Joshua Peck and Md. Abdus Salique
General Purposes	Cllr Rajib Ahmed representing Cllrs Md. Shahid Ali, Carli Harper-Penman, A. A. Sardar and Salim Ullah
Health Scrutiny	Cllr Denise Jones representing Cllrs Ann Jackson, Bill Turner, Md. Abdus Salique and Motin Uz-Zaman
Human Resources	Cllr Rajib Ahmed representing Cllrs Waiseul Islam, Alibor Choudhury, Fazlul Haque and Joshua Peck
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllrs Carli Harper-Penman, Md. Shahid Ali and Salim Ullah each representing Cllrs Abdul Asad, Waiseul Islam, Ann Jackson, Shiria Khatun, A. A. Sardar and Bill Turner

The meeting ended at 7.57 p.m.

Chair, Councillor M. Shahid Ali
General Purposes Committee