

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 16 May 2017

Present:

Members: Councillor L Harvard (Chair)

Councillor F Abbott	Councillor R Lancaster
Councillor N Akhtar	Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor P Akhtar	Councillor A Lucas
Councillor R Ali	Councillor P Male
Councillor A Andrews	Councillor K Maton
Councillor R Auluck	Councillor T Mayer
Councillor S Bains	Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor L Bigham	Councillor C Miks
Councillor J Blundell	Councillor K Mulhall
Councillor R Brown	Councillor J Mutton
Councillor K Caan	Councillor M Mutton
Councillor J Clifford	Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor G Crookes	Councillor T Sawdon
Councillor G Duggins	Councillor P Seaman
Councillor D Gannon	Councillor R Singh
Councillor M Hammon	Councillor D Skinner
Councillor J Innes	Councillor H Sweet
Councillor B Kaur	Councillor R Thay
Councillor L Kelly	Councillor C Thomas
Councillor D Kershaw	Councillor S Walsh
Councillor A Khan	Councillor D Welsh
Councillor R Lakha	Councillor G Williams

Honorary Alderman J. Gazey

Apologies: Councillor R Bailey, J Birdi, J Lepoidevin, G Ridley, E Ruane, B Singh, T Skipper and K Taylor

Public Business

142. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

143. Recommendations of Ethics Committee following Code of Conduct Hearing - Councillor Jaswant Singh Birdi

The following motion as set out in the requisition for an Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council signed by Councillors Duggins, A. Khan, J Mutton, Seaman and O'Boyle had been received:

"We the undersigned call for an Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council to be held following the decision of the Ethics Committee held on 17 March 2017 that

the Committee should report its findings to full Council with a recommendation that it censures Councillor J S Birdi.”

The Council considered a report of the Chair of the Ethics Committee which set out the findings of the Ethics Committee held on 17 March 2017 in respect of the hearing into a complaint that Councillor Jaswant Singh Birdi had breached the Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members in respect of an incident which took place on 4 January 2016. The report requested the Council to consider censuring Councillor Birdi in respect of those breaches of the Code of Conduct.

In accordance with the Constitution, in moving the Recommendation to censure Councillor Birdi, Councillor Walsh, Chair of the Ethics Committee, clarified that the Recommendation, if accepted, should be formally minuted by the Council and that a formal letter of censure be sent from the Leader of the Council to Councillor Birdi to include the expectation of the Council that all Councillors must uphold the principles of public life including demonstrating leadership by treating others with respect; that Councillor Birdi had failed to do this and his comments were unacceptable.

Councillor Walsh also indicated that the Leader also considered it appropriate that the Leader, on behalf of the Council, should write to the Complainant to assure him that such behaviour by Councillors is not tolerated.

RESOLVED that the City Council note the findings of the Ethics Committee and agree that Councillor Birdi be censured by the City Council in the terms outlined above.

Note: In accordance with the Constitution, a recorded vote was taken.

The Councillors voting for and against the Recommendations were as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Councillor Abbott	Councillor Williams	Councillor Blundell
Councillor N Akhtar		Councillor Crookes
Councillor P Akhtar		Councillor Hammon
Councillor Ali		Councillor Lapsa
Councillor Andrews		Councillor Male
Councillor Auluck		Councillor Mayer
Councillor Bains		Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Bigham		Councillor Skinner
Councillor Brown		
Councillor K Caan		
Councillor Clifford		
Councillor Duggins		
Councillor Gannon		
Councillor Innes		
Councillor Kaur		
Councillor Kelly		
Councillor Kershaw		
Councillor A Khan		
Councillor Lakha		

Councillor Lancaster		
Councillor Lucas		
Councillor McNicholas		
Councillor Maton		
Councillor Miks		
Councillor Mulhall		
Councillor J Mutton		
Councillor M Mutton		
Councillor O'Boyle		
Councillor Seaman		
Councillor R Singh		
Councillor Sweet		
Councillor Thay		
Councillor Thomas		
Councillor Walsh		
Councillor Welsh		
Lord Mayor		

Result: Carried

For: 36

Against: 1

Abstentions: 8

(Meeting closed at 2.20 pm)