

Minutes of General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

14 March 2023 at 4.00pm

Present: Councillor Millar (Chair);
Councillors Dhariwal and Trumpeter.

Also present: Councillor Fisher.

In Attendance: Suky Suthi- Nagra (Democratic and Member Services Manager), Susanne Moore (Business Partner – Adult Social Care and Public Health), Manny Sehmbi (Business Manager – Community Partnerships), Stuart Hall (Home Improvement Manager), Charlotte Leadbeater (Operations Manager – Independent Living Team), Ambia Smith (Lead Occupational Therapist) and John Swann (Democratic Services Officer).

1/23 **Election of Chair**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice- Chair, Members were requested to elect a Chair for the Committee Meeting.

Resolved that Councillor Millar be elected Chair for the Committee meeting.

2/23 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Costigan, Dhallu and Simms.

3/23 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

4/23 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

5/23 **Urgent Items of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider as a matter of urgency.

6/23 **Nominations for Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen**

The Local Government Act 1972 gave authority to the Council to confer the honour of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen of the Borough on Elected Members who had given eminent service to the Borough. This honour was in accordance with the Council's honorary scheme.

A nomination for the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman had been received from Councillor Gavan in respect of former Councillor Mohinder Singh Tagger.

Former Councillor Mohinder Singh Tagger served on Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for 26 years, he had served as the Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2006-2007, had held the position of Vice- Chair for Licensing Committee and Scrutiny Boards for a number of years.

The Committee considered his additional contributions to the Borough of Sandwell through his various charitable, community and voluntary activities and concluded that he fulfilled the eminent service criteria associated with the honour.

Mohinder Singh Tagger had confirmed that, if the Council was so minded, he would accept the nomination for the honour.

Resolved that Council be recommended to confer the title of Honorary Alderman to Mohinder Singh Tagger in recognition of his eminent service to the Borough of Sandwell.

7/23

Nominations for the Offices of Mayor/Chair of Council and Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair of Council of Sandwell for the 2023/24 Municipal Year

The Democratic and Member Services Manager informed the Committee that one nomination had been received for the office of Mayor of Sandwell for 2023/24.

In accordance with the Council's agreed process, the Committee considered the sole nomination for the office of Mayor for the 2023/24 in respect of Councillor Bill Gavan.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor would be considered at the Full Council meeting.

Resolved:-

- (1) that Council be recommended to elect Councillor Bill Gavan to the office of the Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell/Chair of Council for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year;
- (2) that Council be recommended to consider nominations for Deputy Mayor on 28 March 2023

8/23

Leonard Andrews Poole Trust Annual Report 2022/23

The Committee was informed that the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust was established in 1980 and had been registered with the Charities Commission.

The Trust held shares on deposit with COIF Charities Investment Fund managed by the CCLA valued at £145,031.40. Interest which had accumulated from the investment could be utilised for the benefit of Grafton Lodge Care Home or any care home managed by Sandwell Council.

No financial expenditure had been incurred during municipal year 2022/ 23, the Trust had an average annual income of £4,200 via interest per annum.

Funds had been available to Harvest View and Fountain Court residences upon the submission of a report, subject to approval by the Committee.

The Committee considered and noted the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust financial position.

9/23

Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to any individual.

Meeting adjourned 4.22 – 5.07pm)

(Councillor Dhariwal joined the meeting)

10/23

Appeal against the Decision of the Adaptations Panel

The Committee considered an appeal against the decision of the Adaptions Panel in respect of Ms N R.

The Committee was advised that Ms N R had sought to appeal the decision of the Adaptation Panel to adapt the property, to include a ground floor access shower, .

Ms N R stated that the approved adaptation did not adequately meet the needs of her son due to his disabilities and sought approval to an alternative adaptation, which would exceed the cost of £25,000, but would provide dignity and privacy for her son and his complex disabilities.

Having considered all the information before them, the Committee was minded to uphold the appeal on the grounds of dignity and privacy and felt that the appellants proposed adaptation better suited her son's needs for the future as well as making better use of space.

Resolved that the appeal is upheld and that the Appellant's proposed scheme of adaptations is approved.

Meeting ended at 6.29pm following an adjournment between 5.58pm and 6.27pm

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