

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2011 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Brian Rea (Acting Chairman)
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára (Acting Vice Chairman)
Ms Martina Anderson
(1) Mr Jonathan Bell
(2) Mr Dominic Bradley
(3) Mr Leslie Cree
(1) Mr Alex Maskey
(4) Mr Basil McCrea
(1) Mr Daithí McKay
(5) Ms Mary McKee
(1) Mr Trevor Ringland
Mr David Rose
(6) Mr Alastair Ross
Mr Jimmy Spratt

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(7) Mr Matt Baggott (Chief Constable)
(8) Mrs Judith Gillespie (Deputy Chief Constable)
(7) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)
(7) Mr Dave Jones (ACC Rural Region)
(7) Mr Will Kerr (ACC Criminal Justice)
(7) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Operational Support)
(7) Mr Joe Stewart, Director of Human Resources
(8) Mr David Best, Director of Finance & Support Services
(7) Ms Liz Young, Head of Media & PR
(7) Superintendent, Command Secretariat
(7) Three Police Staff, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

(9) Dr Debbie Donnelly (Acting Chief Executive)
(9) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
(10) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
(6) Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
(9) Two Board Officials
One Board Official

- (1) Part Item number 2 to close
- (2) Part Item number 1 to close
- (3) Item number 1 to part item number 3
- (4) Item numbers 1 and 2, part item numbers 3 and 15, 16 and 17
- (5) Item numbers 1 to 8
- (6) Item numbers 1 and 2
- (7) Part Item number 2 only
- (8) Part Item number 2 and item number 3
- (9) Except Item number 6.3
- (10) Except Item numbers 6.3 – 8

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman), Mrs Rosaleen Moore, Professor Sir Desmond Rea (who was representing the Board at a meeting of the Association of Police Authorities), and Mr Suneil Sharma. NOTED.

The Acting Chairman of the Board asked Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interest arising from the agenda were recorded.

The Acting Chairman advised Members that a request had been received from TG4, through the Belfast Media Centre in relation to a documentary they were producing regarding Irish speakers and seeking approval to film the Acting Vice-Chairman at a private meeting of the Board.

The Board:-

AGREED:

That TG4 should be invited to film the Acting Vice-Chairman at a future Board meeting in private.

2. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Board discussed the questions to be put to the Chief Constable in the private and public sessions.

A Member referred to a letter from the PSNI dated 15 February 2011, which provided written answers in response to questions raised at the February 2011 Board meeting. The Member referred to the timescale for the provision of the written responses by the PSNI to the Board.

The Board discussed the issue and it was:-

AGREED:

That the PSNI should be asked to provide the Board with written responses to questions at Board meetings within one week of the meeting.

The Acting Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting and referred to a request by the Board earlier in the meeting that written answers to questions at Board meetings should be provided to the Board within one week of the meeting.

Discussion centred on the following issues:-

- The dismissal of a former PSNI officer and a decision which has to be made by the Board regarding whether the officer's pension should be subject to forfeiture regulations. The matter would be considered at the March 2011 Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting;
- Ongoing review of Police Officer Terms and Conditions.
- The Police Ombudsman's report published on 21 February 2011 regarding the circumstances of the bombing of McGurk's Bar, Belfast in 1971.

The Chief Constable gave a confidential briefing to the Board in relation to his decision regarding the recommendations contained in the Ombudsman's report. He advised the Board that he had recently met with some of the families bereaved as a result of the bomb at McGurk's Bar and the families had requested that the discussion on the Ombudsman's report should remain confidential.

Extensive discussion took place following the confidential briefing from the Chief Constable when Members set out their positions. Members indicated they would also set out their respective positions in the public session.

During the discussion a Member referred to a letter dated 2 March 2011, tabled at the meeting, from the Pat Finucane Centre and British/Irish Rights Watch, to the Chief Constable and copied to the Board regarding the bombing of McGurk's Bar. The Chief Constable indicated that he had not yet had sight of the letter. Following discussion the Member asked to be provided with information in relation to the circulation of the letter.

The Board then moved into public session and following the Board meeting in public, the PSNI representatives, except the Deputy Chief Constable and Director of Finance and Support Services, left the meeting.

3. PSNI BUDGET

The Board noted a paper regarding the PSNI's balanced budget for 2011/2012 which had been approved by the Resources and Improvement Committee on 25 February 2011. NOTED

The PSNI Director of Finance and Support Services briefed the Board on the PSNI Budget 2011/2012 and draft plans for the 4 Year Budget 2010 period.

Discussion which followed centred on the following issues:-

- The PSNI's assessment of the cost of Policing the Past;
- Income generation;
- Equal pay/back pay for PSNI Support Staff;
- Proposals regarding the removal of certain allowances to police officers;
- Correspondence which had been received by the Acting Chairman from community representatives regarding the condition of Downpatrick PSNI station. The Director of Finance and Support Services undertook to look into the matter and provide a response to the Board;
- Assisted Removals (PSNI) Schemes;
- Assistance to officers faced with negative equity. The Deputy Chief Constable undertook to provide the Board with details of the scale of the problem;
- PSNI Efficiency Plan.

The Acting Chairman thanked the Deputy Chief Constable and the Director of Finance and Support Services for briefing the Board and they left the meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the PSNI Budget 2011 – 2012.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

4.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 3 February 2011

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 3 February 2011 be agreed.

4.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 3 February 2011

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 3 February 2011 be approved.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

5.1 PSNI Hearing Loss Claims (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted correspondence regarding the funding of the PSNI hearing loss claims during the current financial year. NOTED.

5.2 Special Purposes Committee (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted the minutes of the Special Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 February 2011. NOTED.

5.3 Allowances Payable To PSNI Officers (Item 10.1.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted information regarding allowances payable to PSNI Officers would be provided at a future meeting. NOTED

5.4 Budget 2010 – Departmental Allocations And Reduction Considerations

(Item 12.2.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board's Full Management Accounts was dealt with at item 12.2.

The Board noted a paper which outlined:-

- Details of the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to independent Members from 22 February 2010;
- Hearing Loss claims and Historical Enquiries Funding for 2010/11.

NOTED

A Member requested details of allowances paid to independent Board Members during the past 5 years. Details of this information was subsequently circulated to Members.

6. ACTING CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

6.1 Engagements

The Acting Chairman referred Members to a list of the following engagements which he had undertaken on behalf of the Board:-

- Meeting with Chief Constable regarding Policing Plan – Belfast – 16 February 2011;
- Meeting with Police Ombudsman and Chief Executive – Belfast – 18 February 2011;
- CIPFA Annual Luncheon – Belfast – 24 February 2011;
- Meeting with Chair and Chief Executive of the Parades Commission – Belfast – 2 March 2011.

NOTED.

6.2 Correspondence

The Acting Chairman highlighted the following correspondence which had been received by the Board:-

- Letter dated 22 February 2011 from the Pat Finucane Centre and British Irish Rights Watch regarding the bombing of McGurk's Bar in 1971;
- Letter dated 23 February 2011 from Kevin Winters, Solicitor regarding a Notice of Appeal in the matter of an application for Judicial Review of the Chief Constable's decision to introduce Taser;
- Letter dated 2 March 2011 from PSNI regarding estimates of legacy costs.

NOTED.

6.3 Confidential Item

The Board discussed a confidential item. A confidential note of this item is attached at Appendix 'A'.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

8. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 17 February 2011

The Chairman of the Committee referred Members to his speaking note, tabled at the meeting, which highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

8.1.1 Correspondence From The Chief Constable (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman of the Committee advised Members that the Chief Constable would not be available on 8 March 2011 and that another date would be arranged for the informal meeting with the PSNI Top Team.

8.1.2 Leadership Group (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman of the Committee advised the Board that a meeting of the Leadership Group scheduled to be held on 4 March 2011 would be rearranged for 10 March 2011 at 12:00noon.

The Chairman of the Committee updated Members on the appointment of a contractor to conduct an organisational review of the Board.

8.1.3 Final Draft 2011 – 2014 Policing Plan (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman of the Committee informed the Board that he and officials had met with the PSNI to discuss the draft Policing Plan and outlined a few issues relating to the Plan which still had to be resolved.

8.1.4 Second Draft 2011 – 2014 NIPB Corporate Plan (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.5 Independent Assessment Report Implementation Plan (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.6 Resources And Improvement Committee Meeting 28 February 2011 (Item 14.1 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Corporate Planning, Policy and Performance Committee meeting held on 17 February 2011 be approved.

9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The Community Engagement Committee Meeting Held On 27 January 2011

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 27 January 2011 be approved.

9.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 24 February 2011

As the minutes of the meeting of 24 February 2011 were not yet available, the Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to his speaking note, tabled at the meeting, which highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee.

9.2.1 Policing With The Community Strategy 2020

9.2.2 Consultation On Code Of Practice For Victims Of Crime

9.2.3 Consultation On The Revised Community Safety Strategy Produced By The Department Of Justice

9.2.4 Update On Local Partnership Working On Policing And Community Safety

9.2.5 Community Engagement Committee Work Plan

9.2.6 Interim Report In Relation To The Work Of The Loyalist/Republican Consortium

9.2.7 Policing With The Community Award 2011

9.2.8 District Policing Partnership (DPP) Briefings On Policing With The Community Strategy

9.2.9 Consultation With The Muslim Community

9.3 PSNI Policing With The Community 2020 Strategy

The Board considered a paper, tabled at the meeting, containing a recommendation from the Community Engagement Committee to approve the Policing with the Community 2020 Strategy.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the recommendation from the Community Engagement Committee regarding the Policing with the Community 2020 Strategy.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

10.1 Minutes Of The Human Resources Committee Meeting Held On 10 February 2011

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to his speaking note, tabled at the meeting, which highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

10.1.1 Injury On Duty Awards – Assessment Of Officers Applying For Injury On Duty At Age 60 And 65 And Setting Aside Of Reviews For Officers Suffering From Severe Psychological Conditions (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.2 Human Resources Decisions Impacting On Service Delivery And Policing (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.3 PSNI Training And Development Strategy And Business Plan 2011/2014

(Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member requested that the Resources and Improvement Committee be kept updated in relation to training for NICHE.

10.1.4 PSNI Human Resources Dashboard (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 10 February 2011 be approved.

11. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

11.1 Minutes Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Meeting Held On 9 February 2011

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to his speaking note, tabled at the meeting, which highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

11.1.1 Policing For And With, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual And Transgender (LGBT) Individuals Thematic Roundtable Meeting (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

11.1.2 Discussion On Parading (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

11.1.3 Independent Custody Visiting Scheme – Self Introduction (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting held on 9 February 2011 be approved.

12. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

12.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 25 February 2011

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to his speaking note, tabled at the meeting, which highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

12.1.1 December Monitoring Round Submission (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

12.1.2 Policing Arrangements Following Police Station Closures (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

12.1.3 PSNI Budget For 2011/12 And Review Of Years 2012/13 To 2014/15 (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

12.1.4 NIPB Accounts To January 2011 (Item 6.1 Of Minutes Refers)

12.1.5 NIPB Budget Proposal (Item 6.2 Of Minutes Refers)

12.1.6 Normal Assisted Removals (PSNI) Schemes (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Resources and Improvement Committee meeting held on 25 February 2011 be approved.

12.2 Northern Ireland Policing Board Budget

The Board noted papers regarding:-

- The Policing Board budget for 2011/12 which had been approved by the Resources and Improvement Committee on 25 February 2011;
- The Board's Management Accounts which outlined details of expenditure against budget to 31 January 2011.

NOTED.

A Member requested a breakdown of costs in relation to audit consultancy fees, Crown Solicitor's advice, staff recruitment and human rights advice. Officials provided information to Members regarding the budgets for Human Rights Assistant and corporate consultancy.

In response to a question from a Member, Officials undertook to provide information to the Board in relation to the Equality Scheme.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the Board's Budget 2011 – 2012.

13. TRIALS ON INDICTMENT WITHOUT A JURY – JUSTICE AND SECURITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 2007

The Board considered a paper regarding correspondence which had been received from the Department of Justice (DOJ) with regard to consultation in relation to trials on indictment without a jury.

The Board discussed the matter, and it was:-

AGREED:

That Members should respond individually to the DOJ outlining their views on trials on indictment without a jury.

14. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no matters arising.

15. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

That a news release should be issued regarding the PSNI Budget 2011/12.

The Board considered a paper, tabled at the meeting, in relation to an editorial in the Police Beat magazine regarding comments about the Board's work, its Members and approach to human rights issues. Members noted that the article contained a number of factual inaccuracies.

The Board considered options for responding to the Police Beat's editorial and it was:-

AGREED:

- That a letter should be sent to the Police Federation inviting them to meet Board Members to discuss the editorial in Police Beat;
- That the Board should hold a discussion regarding issues around a shared understanding between the Board, PSNI and Police Federation Northern Ireland regarding human rights, its application and agreed standards.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Reconstitution Of The Board

The Acting Chief Executive updated the Board on the timetable set by the DOJ for the reconstitution of the Policing Board. NOTED.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting with the Chief Constable was arranged for 7 April 2011 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 3:40pm).

Secretariat

March 2011

Acting Chairman