

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE 31<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 20 MAY 2004 AT 12.00 NOON IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)  
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr Alex Attwood  
Viscount Brookeborough  
Mr Joe Byrne  
Mr Sam Foster  
Mr Barry Gilligan  
Mr William Hay  
Mrs Pauline McCabe  
Mr Alan McFarland  
Mr Ian Paisley  
Mr Sammy Wilson

#### **CROWN SOLICITOR'S OFFICE**

Mrs Mary O'Neill

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)  
Director of Community Affairs  
Three Board Officials

### **REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNCILLOR TEMPLETON**

The Chairman referred Members to the decision of the Policing Board at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May to convene a special meeting of the Board on 20 May 2004 for the purpose of hearing representations from Councillor Arthur Templeton, a political member of Newtownabbey DPP. He advised that following the hearing of the representations that Members would then be asked to consider what action the Board should take relative to his future as a member of Newtownabbey DPP.

The Chairman reminded Members of the circumstances surrounding the conviction of Councillor Templeton of charges under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protection From Harassment Order (Northern Ireland) 1997. The Chairman further reminded

Members that this issue had been considered by the Community Involvement Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> April and by the Corporate Policy Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2004. The Chairman reminded Members of the Board's powers under Schedule 3 paragraph 7 (1) of the Police (NI) Act 2000.

The Board noted that in advance of this meeting, Councillor Templeton had been notified of his right to make representations and of the issues the Board would consider in coming to a decision relative to his future position on Newtownabbey DPP. A letter to this effect had been delivered to Councillor Templeton. To date a reply had not been received. Councillor Templeton had confirmed to officials by telephone on 7<sup>th</sup> May that he would attend the Board meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

The Board awaited the arrival of Councillor Templeton, however he did not attend the meeting.

The Board agreed that officials should attempt to ascertain the reason for Councillor Templeton's absence from the meeting.

Members discussed the implications of the case.

Following discussion, the resolution put to the Board by the Corporate Policy Committee was amended as indicated in italics as follows:

"The Committee recommends that the Board, using the powers granted to it in paragraph 7(1)(e) of Schedule 3 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, removes Councillor Arthur Templeton from office as a political member of Newtownabbey DPP subsequent to his conviction on 2 April 2004 under the Protection from Harassment Order (NI) 1997 as the Policing Board considers him to be unfit to discharge the functions of that office and *in the future the Board will consider any member of a DPP unfit to continue in office, if they are convicted during their time in office, of a criminal offence committed before the date of their appointment.*"

Officials were asked to take further legal advice on the amended motion, taking account of the discussion at the meeting. The Board agreed to make a decision on the matter at June Board meeting.

(Meeting closed 1:40pm).

**Secretariat**

**May 2004**

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**Chairman**