

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 APRIL 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
- Mr Leslie Cree
- (2) Mr Alex Maskey
- (3) Mr Basil McCrea
- (4) Mr Ian McCrea
- (5) Mr Daithí McKay
- Ms Mary McKee
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Professor Sir Desmond Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- Mr David Rose
- Mr Alastair Ross
- Mr Suneil Sharma
- (3) Mr Jimmy Spratt

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (6) Mr Matt Baggott (Chief Constable)
- (6) Mrs Judith Gillespie (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (7) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)
- (7) Mr Will Kerr (ACC Criminal Justice)
- (7) Mr Alan Todd (A/ACC Rural Region)
- (7) Mr Gary White (A/ACC Operational Support)
- (7) Mr Michael Cox, Deputy Director of Human Resources
- (7) Ms Liz Young, Head of Media & PR
- (7) Superintendent, Command Secretariat
- (7) One Official

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Dr Debbie Donnelly (Acting Chief Executive)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (3) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- 3 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 to 3.1, 6.1, 13 to 17, 19 & 20**
- (2) Except part item numbers 4.1, 8 to 12**
- (3) Except item numbers 6.1, 13 to 17, 19 & 20**
- (4) Item numbers part 4.1, 9 to 12 & 18**
- (5) Item numbers 6.1, 13 to 20**
- (6) Item number 18 only**
- (7) Part item number 18 only**

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman) and Mr Dominic Bradley. 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 declared.

The Acting Chairman advised Members that it was his intention to hold a one minute silence as a mark of respect to Constable Ronan Kerr who was murdered in Omagh on 2 April 2011. There was agreement that the mark of respect should be held at the start of the Board meeting in public.

The Acting Chairman reminded Members that as this was the last scheduled meeting of the current term. He advised that he would be seeking the approval of Committees to the minutes of their respective meetings and would ask the Chairperson of each Committee to sign the minutes when agreed. NOTED.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 3 March 2011

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting. Professor Sir Desmond Rea requested that it be recorded that he was unable to attend the March 2011 Board meeting as he was representing the Board at a meeting of the Association of Police Authorities.

Subject to this amendment, it was:-

RESOLVED:

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

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 3 March 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 March 2011 be approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 PSNI Budget – Downpatrick Station (Item 3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Acting Chairman referred Members to correspondence received from PSNI concerning plans to improve the overall appearance of Downpatrick PSNI station. NOTED.

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

The Acting Chairman referred Members to a letter dated 15 March 2011 from the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in relation to the funding of hearing loss claims. NOTED.

Members noted financial information on PSNI expenditure for February 2011, contained in the minutes of the March 2011 Resources and Improvement Committee meeting, in respect of hearing loss and equal pay provision. Officials advised that a further update on these figures was now available and undertook to circulate these to Members later in the meeting.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

To write to the Permanent Secretary, DOJ, noting the content of his letter and advising that the new Board would consider funding for future years in more detail.

3.3 Confidential Item (Item 6.3 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 6.1.

3.4 Communication Issues – Police Beat Magazine (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

The Acting Chairman referred Members to a letter received from the Chairman of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland, welcoming the opportunity for the Federation to discuss the article with Members, following the appointment of the new Board. NOTED.

3.5 Association Of Police Authorities

In his capacity as Board representative at the Association of Police Authority (APA) Board meetings, Professor Sir Desmond Rea updated Members on the current position. He advised, that at the meeting of APA Board held on 3 November 2010 and at meetings since then, there were discussions about the position of the APA and the issues it faced through the introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. These focused on the implications following from the election of Police Commissioners in place of Police Authorities.

One area of particular concern was the liabilities that would fall to individual Board Members should there be an issue of potential negligence if the Board allows the APA to continue knowing that it does not have the assets to pay. At the APA Board meeting on the 3 March 2011, Professor Sir Desmond Rea was satisfied that the latter did not constitute a risk. NOTED.

4. ACTING CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- PSNI Site Meeting – Ballymoney – 4 March 2011;
- NI Police College Awards Ceremony – Belfast - 8 March 2011;
- Police Advisory Board Meeting – Belfast - 10 March 2011;
- Meeting with the Superintendents' Association – Belfast - 15 March 2011;
- Meeting with NIPSA – Belfast – 16 March 2011;
- Opening of New Special Operations Centre – Belfast – 21 March 2011;
- Launch of the Policing Plan – Belfast – 24 March 2011;
- Lunch with Minister of Justice and Justice Minister from the South of Ireland – Belfast – 24 March 2011;
- Custody Visitors Annual Conference – Newcastle – 24 March 2011;
- Filming of DVD for the NI Safety Centre – Belfast – 25 March 2011;
- Meeting with OPONI – Belfast – 29 March 2011;
- Meeting with Colin Neill of "Pubs of Ulster" – Belfast – 30 March 2011;
- Chief Constables' Annual Dinner – London – 31 March 2011;
- PSNI Vision Briefing – Belfast – 4 April 2011.

In addition to the engagements listed, the Acting Chairman informed Members about his visit with the family of Constable Kerr. He also referred to his attendance, with other representatives from the Board at Constable Kerr's funeral on 6 April 2011.

NOTED.

4.2 Correspondence

The Acting Chairman highlighted the following correspondence which had been received/issued:-

- Letter dated 15 February 2011 from HMIC regarding an inspection of aspects of undercover policing;
- Letter from Chief Constable dated 14 March 2011 regarding the McGurk's Bar Bombing;
- Letter to Donnelly and Wall, Solicitors dated 28 March 2011 regarding legal costs in respect of Mr Marc Ringland (deceased).

NOTED.

The Acting Chairman advised that he had received 2 letters from the Chief Constable in relation to his proposals for 'acting-up' arrangements following the retirement of ACC McCausland and in relation to the appointment of a permanent replacement.

Members discussed the content of the correspondence and a confidential note of this item is attached at Appendix 'A'.

5 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Letter From The Department Of Justice

The Acting Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to a letter dated 25 March 2011 from the Directorate Accountant of Policing Resources Branch to a consultation

on the proposal to issue a determination to extend the lifetime of severance schemes on discipline/medical grounds. NOTED.

5.2 PSNI 2010/11 Statistics

The Acting Chief Executive advised the Board that the PSNI's finalised statistics were due to be published on 12 May 2011. As it is unlikely that there would be a new Board in place at that time, consequently it would not be possible to offer a Board view on the statistics and that in this eventuality, a line would be issued from a Board spokesperson. NOTED.

6 CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 16 March 2011

The Members of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee present at the meeting considered the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16 March 2011. A Member of the Committee referred to Item 3.4 of confidential Appendix 'A' and proposed an amendment to the wording. Subject to this amendment, the minutes were agreed by the Committee Members present.

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

6.1.1 Leadership Group (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- To approve a recommendation for the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee to have delegated authority to consider the recommendations contained in the organisational review and to make recommendations to the reconstituted Board;
- To approve the arrangement of a special meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee at the end of April 2011 to consider the organisational review recommendations.

6.1.2 Reconstitution Of The Board (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:

RESOLVED:

- To approve a recommendation from the Committee that the Standing Orders of the Board which are currently suspended, should remain suspended and that the reconstituted Board should consider its own Standing Orders in due course;
- To approve a recommendation that the first meeting of the reconstituted Board should consider any recommendations from the organisational review on the Committee structure;
- To approve that delegated authority be granted to the Acting Chief Executive to deal with any urgent items of business in the period from the end of the current Board's term of office until the election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the new Board.

6.1.3 Draft Communication Strategy 2011 – 2014 (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the Committee's recommendation to approve the Draft Communication Strategy 2011 – 2014.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Corporate Planning, Policy and Performance Committee meeting held on 16 March 2011 be approved.

6.2 Briefing On Her Majesty's Inspectorate Of Constabulary (HMIC) Report On The PSNI

The Committee considered a paper which provided an overview of the Inspection findings contained in a report by HMIC on his inspection of PSNI in 2010.

The report submitted to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee had been deferred due to time constraints and was referred to the Board for consideration.

It was:-

AGREED:

To defer consideration of the report until after the reconstitution of the Board and to advise HMIC accordingly.

7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

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

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 24 February 2011 be approved.

7.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 24 March 2011

The Members of the Community Engagement Committee present at the meeting agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24 March 2011.

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

7.2.1 Monitoring Framework – Policing With The Community (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 24 March 2011 be approved.

8 HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

8.1 Minutes Of The Human Resources Committee Meeting Held On 10 March 2011

The Members of the Human Resources Committee present at the meeting agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10 March 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:-

8.1.1 PSNI Equal Pay Update (Item 4 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.2 PSNI Secondments (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.3 PSNI Workforce Review (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.4 PSNI Equality And Diversity Strategy 2011 – 2014 (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.5 PSNI Performance Management And Development System (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.6 Information Papers (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

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

9 HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Meeting Held On 23 March 2011

The Members of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee present at the meeting agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 23 March 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:-

9.1.1 Meeting With The Office Of The Police Ombudsman For Northern Ireland (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.2 Professional Standards (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.3 Thematic Review On Domestic Abuse: Update Report (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.4 Department of Justice Consultation – Retention Of Fingerprints And DNA (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.5 Cost Of Human Rights Advice (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member sought reassurance that the Committee was content that the costs associated with the provision of advice on human rights was acceptable. In response, the Chairperson of the Committee advised, that there was unanimous agreement on how the provision of human rights advice had been provided and the cost would be taken forward.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting held on 23 March 2011 be approved.

10. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

10.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 25 March 2011

The Members of the Resources and Improvement Committee present at the meeting agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25 March 2011.

The Vice 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 National Policing Improvement Agency – 3rd Independent Validation Report On PSNI IS Strategy (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.2 Draft 2011 – 2012 PSNI Continuous Improvement Strategy (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.3 NIPB Approach To Continuous Improvement 2011 – 2012 (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.4 Monitoring Of PSNI Estate Strategy – March 2011 Update (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

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

10.2 NIPB Approach To Continuous Improvement 2011 – 2012

The Board considered a paper containing a recommendation from the Resources and Improvement Committee to approve the NIPB approach to Continuous Improvement for 2011 – 2012. It was also proposed that in order to provide Members with additional independent assurance of progress, that the Board's internal auditors, PWC, should be asked to validate the assessments made by Board officials in February 2012.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To approve the Committee's recommendations in respect of the NIPB approach to Continuous Improvement for 2011 – 2012 and to endorse the proposed additional independent assurance of progress.

11. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

11.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Audit And Risk Management Committee Held On 25 March 2011

The Chairperson of the Committee referred to item 14 of the draft minutes and proposed a slight amendment. Subject to this amendment, the Members of the Committee present at the meeting agreed the minutes of the Committee held on 25 March 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 Training On Risk Management (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

A copy of the training material provided to the Committee Members was tabled for all Board Members. NOTED.

11.1.2 PWC Internal Audit Annual Report 2010 – 2011 (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

11.1.3 NIPB Annual Internal Audit Plan For 2011 – 2012 (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

11.1.4 NIPB Corporate Risk Register And Directorate High Risk Exception Report
(Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

11.1.5 PSNI Corporate Risk Register And Strategic Assessment (Item 11 Of
Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 25 March 2011 be approved.

The Chairperson of the Committee informed the Board that the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) was carrying out an audit into 4 issues raised by a member of the public. The Chairperson advised that most of the issues had already been considered by the Committee.

During subsequent discussion, a Member confirmed that he had raised the issues referred to with the NIAO and had sought further investigation.

12. CORPORATE PLANNING BUSINESS

12.1 NIPB Corporate Business Plan 2011 – 2012

The Board considered the final draft of the NIPB Corporate Business Plan 2011 – 2012, tabled at the meeting. Officials reminded Members that the Corporate Business Plan was designed to be consistent with the 2011 – 2014 Corporate Plan and it provided more detailed and measurable targets for the incoming year. Officials also reminded Members of the circumstances that resulted in tight timescales for preparing the Business Plan and accepted that it was less than ideal that the Business Plan was being tabled at the final meeting of the Board. The Acting Vice Chairman commented that delays were due to the actions of Board Members, rather than officials.

Following discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

- To approve the draft NIPB Corporate Business Plan for 2011 – 2012; and
- That the Corporate Business Plan should be published on the Board's website.

12.2 NIPB Corporate Business Plan 2010 – 2011 End Of Year Assessment

The Board considered a paper which provided an end of year assessment of progress in relation to targets contained in the 2010 – 2011 NIPB Corporate Business Plan.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- To approve the end of year assessment; and
- The end of year assessment should be published on the Board's website.

The Acting Chairman requested that his thanks be placed on record to all officials involved in the corporate business planning process, and for their work in meeting extremely tight deadlines.

13. PUBLICATION OF POLICING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a paper which set out the arrangements for the publication of the Board's Annual Report 2010 – 2011.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To give delegated authority to the Acting Chairman of the Board to 'sign off' on the text of the Annual Report, to ensure the Annual Report and Accounts were laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly before the required deadline.

14. INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT (ILEF) CONFERENCE ON MINIMAL FORCE

The Committee considered a paper which advised of an invitation to the Board to attend the 8th International Law Enforcement Forum Workshop, due to take place at the Justice Institute of British Columbia in New Westminster, Canada on 12 May 2011.

It was:-

AGREED:

That there was no requirement to nominate a Member or official to attend the conference.

15. CONSULTATION PAPER ON UK LESS LETHAL WEAPONS STEERING GROUP

The Board considered a paper which informed Members of a consultation paper received from the UK Less Lethal Weapons Steering Group, in relation to a proposed future direction for the group. Officials advised that the Board currently had observer status on the Steering Group and that officials periodically attended meetings, which to date had been held in London on a quarterly basis. The consultation letter proposed that the current group structure be disbanded and a smaller strategic group should be set up that would meet twice a year. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

To note the paper and that the Board should not issue a response.

16. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no information papers.

17. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

That a news release should be issued in relation to the publication of the Board's Corporate Business Plan 2011 – 2012.

18. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Acting Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting.

The Acting Chairman and Members expressed their sadness and condolences to the Chief Constable and his colleagues following the murder of Constable Ronan Kerr on 2 April 2011.

The Chief Constable and Members discussed the reaction of the community to the murder and the positive leadership that had been displayed throughout the community and the need to build upon public support during forthcoming months, particularly in the marching season. ACC Crime Operations briefed Members on the circumstances surrounding the murder and subsequent police investigations, including the arrest of 2 persons in connection with the murder.

The meeting discussed the impact of the murder on the morale of the Service, particularly in relation to new trainees.

In response to a question, ACC Crime Operations briefed Members on the current threat from loyalist organisations.

With regard to questions to the Chief Constable from Committees, the meeting discussed the adoption of a thematic oversight approach in relation to topics such as estates, transport and workforce modernisation with a view to delivering greater efficiency savings. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that such an approach would be welcomed by PSNI.

Members of the PSNI Top Team left the meeting to facilitate discussion between the Board and the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable in relation to a confidential staffing matter. A confidential note of this item is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The Board then moved into public session and following the Board meeting in public the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Acting Chairman advised that it was anticipated that, subject to the appointment of new Board Members, the next Board meeting would be held on Thursday, 2 June 2011. It was planned to hold an induction event on 1 June 2011 for the new Board.

The Acting Chairman thanked all the Members and staff of the Board who had contributed to the work during its current term. He paid particular tribute to Professor Sir Desmond Rea, Mr Barry Gilligan, Mrs Rosaleen Moore and Mr Suneil Sharma for their tremendous contribution to the work of the Board since its formation in 2001.

(Meeting closed 2:10pm).

Secretariat

April 2011

Acting Chairman