

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE and ASC meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Tuesday 16 September 2020

On Zoom

These minutes were approved by the ASC on:

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRESENT
A	Baha'i	Afonso Veiga	
A	Buddhism	David Hutchens	APOLOGIES
A	Free Church A o G	Pastor Nick Hughes (Chair)	✓
A	Free Church	Leanne Rudder (substitute)	
A	Free Church (Baptist)	(Vacant)	
A	Free Churches (URC)	Rev Raymond Singh	
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	
A	Hinduism	Narmadha Saravanan	
A	Hinduism	Mrs Sriskandarajah / Dr Raj	
A	Humanism	VACANT	
A	Independent Evangelical	Nigel Desborough	APOLOGIES
A	Independent Evangelical	Ray Brown (substitute)	
A	Islam	Dr Ahmed Adem	
A	Islam	Aisha Lodhi	APOLOGIES
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	✓
A	Pentecostal	Layo Segun	APOLOGIES
A	Pentecostal	Cheryl Abbam (substitute)	✓
A	Roman Catholic	Rt Rev Monsignor Nicholas Rotherham	
A	Sikhism	(Vacant)	
B	The CoE - Southwark Diocesan Board of Education	Shaun Burns (Deputy Chair)	✓
B	The Church of England - Secondary teacher	Samantha Alder	APOLOGIES
B	The Church of England - Primary teacher	Karen Hansen	✓ (LATE)
B	The Church of England - Governor	(Vacant)	
B	The Church of England - Minister	Paul Wynter	
C	NEU	Kim Knappett	✓ IN PART
C	NEU	(Vacant)	
C	Academy/Free school	(Vacant)	
C	NEU - NUT	(Vacant)	
C	NAS/UWT	Mandy Keeble	APOLOGIES
C	Lewisham Headteachers and deputies	(Vacant)	
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Jacq Paschoud	✓
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin	✓ (LATE)
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Hilary Moore	APOLOGIES
D	School Governors - Primary 1/2	Isaac Sackey (shared place)	
D	School Governors - Secondary	Adelere Adedeji	
D	Representative of the Executive Director of Education	Angela Scattergood	✓
D	Representative of the Executive Director of Education	Ruth Griffiths (substitute)	
Others	Primary Teacher	Judith Nweze	
	Secondary Teacher	Korka Burnett	✓
	Rastafarians	(Vacant)	
	Young Mayor Team	c/o Katy Brown and Malcolm Ball	
	RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin	✓
	Minuting clerk	Stephen Sealy	✓

(Boxed sections in these minutes signify actions, and underlined sections signify decisions)

The meeting began at 6.35pm.

The Chair began by outlining the protocols for the meeting, given its platform.

1a Welcomes and introductions

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1b Apologies for absence

These are noted on page 1.

1c Confirmation of order of items for the meeting

It was agreed that point 5 would be brought forward as Kim would be leaving the meeting early.

5 'Understanding Faith and Belief in Lewisham' unit – circulated previously

I UPDATE FROM KIM AND DECISIONS ABOUT A WAY FORWARD

Kim reported that she was happy to approve the minutes on behalf of Group C when they are discussed later if no other Group C members were in attendance.

She explained that information about places of worship was being sporadically sent to her and that she had also received five or six submissions related to Covid.

She encouraged those groups who hadn't already submitted to submit.

She added that she had spoken to Denise and would need to speak to Angela and Councillors about support for the formatting of the text for the website. She expressed uncertainty over the requirements, adding that an external party may need to complete this.

II VISITS AND VISITORS, TOUR OF VENUES ETC

Kim reported that several members had expressed a willingness to conduct a virtual tour; she reiterated her willingness to receive these videos.

Denise added that both Gerald and Nick had agreed to organise and film a virtual tour. She expressed the hope that when a few of these were available to be shared, this would motivate others to record theirs. She added that hosts should also post these videos on their website.

III UPDATING THE OLD PLACES OF WORSHIP (for educational visits) DIRECTORY (2002) ATTACHED

Kim reported that Denise had sent these out to members. They were notes from a document previously circulated across Lewisham schools in 2002, adding her hope that updating these would be completed within this term. She requested that members who are included to email her to confirm that these are accurate or to send updated information but that otherwise she would contact members.

Denise expressed an apology with regard to III as some people will have moved on and others passed on since the document was originally produced. She asked Shaun to please pass the CofE data around via the diocese, adding that she would need to know if churches were willing to welcome people in. She added that the text would serve as a taster if they were but that, if they weren't, more details would be necessary.

Shaun committed to update the document.

Kim committed to action it also upon her return to England from Wales.

IV FOLLOW UP FROM SUGGESTIONS AT THE MEETING IN THE HINDU TEMPLE (MARCH) REGARDING LEWISHAM'S BOROUGH OF CULTURE STATUS

Kim reminded that group that Borough of Culture Status had been mentioned in the previous meeting.

Angela clarified that this status would be postponed for a year.

Denise reported that the committee was in the same position that it had been in in the last meeting. She acknowledged that Councillors would know more about the particulars and suggested that Kim, Nick and herself meet with the Councillors with regard to this.

Jacq reported that, due to Covid she had no updates regarding this, although she added that this was in discussion at Cabinet. Shaun suggested that someone from the SACRE attend when it is next discussed.

Kim suggested as an alternative that someone from SACRE could be asked to join the committee, particularly if one of the Councillors on the committee isn't involved. She added that that would be a good route of entry for the committee.

At this point she left the meeting.

Karen joined the meeting at this point.

2 Minutes of the previous SACRE and ASC joint meeting held on 18 June on Zoom

All accepted the minutes of the previous meeting as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Membership update

Nick asked if this item was being linked to the 2010 list.

Denise reported that several of the named colleagues hadn't attended recently. She specified the following:

Dr Raj had attended the last Hindu temple meeting and was supposed to be Mrs Shri's deputy; she reported that she'd emailed them with regard to their attendance.

Bala hadn't been seen for a while either and asked if any members were encountering these members.

Nigel needs a substitute as when he's unable to attend his current substitute neither attended nor send an apology.

She added that there was an NUT vacancy. She expressed a hope that with Korke on board there would be a secondary RE person.

She also reported a Baptist vacancy.

Nick explained that he had been speaking to David French about this and, having further emailed him, would chase a response to this communication.

Denise added that Aisha had now given birth and that she had asked Shakeel to cover for her.

She added that an academy representative was needed but referred to Angela for how to progress this.

Angela stated that she didn't think that academies met but committed to write to Heads and mention this in the Schools Mailing for the attention of RE teachers.

Denise added that a Governor was needed, and committed to speak to Suhaib regarding this.

Nick asked if anyone had any other contact with people that they could approach, reiterating the importance that networking plays in achieving the outcomes.

Denise suggested that Nick and Kim write a letter to those who haven't been in attendance. She mentioned the benefit of Nick Rothon's links to the whole of the region's Roman Catholic community.

Jacq committed to speak to him as she expected to be in attendance with him on the following Monday.
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With regard to using Zoom, Gerald reminded the committee that members were able to phone into the meeting on a regular (videoless) call, which Nick confirmed was the system his church group used.

Shaun committed to refer the vacancies to the Interfaith group.

He asked if the ecumenical deans still met, which Nick responded was part of the conversation that he had with David French.

Shaun added that the committee needed to consider equality of access.

The Chair welcomed the committee to let him know if they thought of anyone to join or that needed him or Kim to write to with regard to joining.

4 Minutes arising from the minutes not on the agenda

I PRIMARY RE ASSESSMENT ADVICE AND SECONDARY RE ASSESSMENT ADVICE PLAN

Denise reported that she hadn't done a lot on this matter but suggested that the committee start to think about Secondary, convening a group meeting in the second half of the term. She committed to write to all heads, and expressed a hope that Korka and Sam would engage.

II LEWISHAM PEACE WALK

She reported how good a model of a 'talking to camera' tour the Lewisham Peace Walk video was, which the Chair then played.

Denise, the Chair and Joan commended the video.

Shaun reported that the event had traditionally taken place on the first weekend in June. Korka added that tours like this would serve as good reminders for Year 7s of what they had studied in Year 6.

Denise requested that a link to the video be included in the bulletin.

Nick added that the video had promotional value for the event next year. Shaun confirmed that dates for the next year's event hadn't been finalised.

Gerald added that it would be good for schools to know what places of worship there are when the link is publicised.

III RECOVERY CURRICULUM

Denise asked if the recovery curriculum was being used, and how it was.

Angela reported that she didn't have data about this but that it was discussed constantly. She added that many primary schools are using it, dipping in and out of it as required to support them as adults and children. She reported that she had seen videos posted online that were informed by the recovery curriculum. She added that after a false start Trinity had used it effectively to help children and parents, which she had found very moving.

The Chair asked if anyone else had used it.

Karen replied that her school 'dipped in and out of it' also, and that she considered it to be very good.

Angela reported that all but one of the borough's schools have opened in accordance to plan. She added that attendance within the first few days had been high, with 98/99% attendance in secondary schools. She explained that numbers this week had reduced, citing normal childhood illnesses alongside Covid as the reason for this.

Angela has meetings twice weekly with heads, with approximately 28 attending last week, but that Covid cases were on the rise. She emphasised the importance of not underestimating the challenges that these leaders are facing, being the source of guidance for their school's personnel.

Angela opined that this period was more challenging than lockdown, referring to a video made by Coopers Lane that illustrates the logistical challenges.

She noted that the circumstances have brought families of schools closer together.

The Chair questioned if emotional or spiritual support was needed and if there was any help that SACRE could offer. Angela responded that she'd think about this. She acknowledged that there were great existing resources but committed to ask heads about this in their meeting tomorrow.

Joan remarked what a good idea a recovery curriculum was, having read the document. Angela added that meetings were held with unions every week also.

The Chair reported that his church were navigating the process of returning people to the building, which he was finding harder to negotiate than the earlier process of closing down attendance.

With reference to supporting the wider community, Jacq commented on the disadvantaged people receiving food provisions and other provisions that schools have made beyond

education. She posed the question of how the gap was being filled. She added that the school at which she's a governor was taking steps to avoid the gap widening.

Angela suggested that schools were being creative in keeping in touch with parents, working closely with Children's Social Care to support the vulnerable. She added that there were specific issues of BAME groups and vulnerable communities.

Shaun commented that it was important to hear a positive perspective in the circumstances, expressing gladness that people were thinking of the school communities holistically rather than taking a narrow approach.

Denise reported that Aisha had sent her apologies by text.

6 Faith groups adapting to the new normal – can we capture the experiences of Lewisham faith communities for the schools?

Denise commented that normal practices in faith communities was taught in schools but emphasised that the last few months hadn't been normal; she made particular reference to services, supporting people, weddings and funerals.

She suggested that a document about these communities have adapted should be sent to schools. As an example of such these adaptations, she cited how a colleague's terminally ill daughter had managed to arrange her wedding the following Friday, placing significance on the value of a legal wedding.

Gerald reported that he had been contacted by an ex-pupil of Forest Hill who was researching for a dissertation on the effects of Covid in faith communities, having also spoken to the vicar of Dulwich Church and faith leaders in Streatham. They had had a lengthy Zoom conversation and Gerald had referred him on to Shakeel. Gerald suggested that the student be asked to share the dissertation with the committee.

He reported that his synagogue had only hosted one Sabbath service and that initial worries when the permitted sizes of meeting groups had been reduced to six were allayed when the Prime Minister omitted faith groups from this instruction.

The Chair suggested that members sharing their anecdotal experiences of adjustments and what has and hasn't happened may create momentum.

Karen reported that the previous Sunday, her church has held a lovely leavers' service for their youth group and their families, which she found very moving. She remarked that the fact the lockdown circumstances had prevented the youth from sealing closure from their schools had made the gesture of attending a leavers service more important, commenting on how lovely an occasion it was. She expressed an intention to send photos to the Diocese of Southwark's newsletter, The Bridge.

Cllr Jacq reported that her church presenting its services online had enabled her to attend more regularly than she ever had, as they effectively lessened the restrictions, allowing the service to be enjoyed after the actual event. She remarked that as people become more technically able and more at ease, more people will be involved, even if at a distance. She added that everyone had received a phone call from someone within the church.

Karen agreed with Jacq, commending the ability to reach people through this media, adding that their services had been joined by people from different countries.

Cllr Liz liked the idea of an A4 sheet chronicling the changes. She shared how her six year old grandchild has been preparing for her first Holy Communion but, unable to experience it in the normal way, will be partaking in an alternative version of it. She remarked on the number of changes that focussed on children, adding that a lot of celebrations are big events for the community.

Shaun reported that he had seen a number of past members rejoin services, adding that his housebound mother was now able to listen on the telephone to her service. He commented that these changes had made the church think about its purpose, adding that some of this technology will be here to stay.

He added that an online leavers service had been conducted for all of the Diocesan's leavers.

He reported that viewer figures for religious broadcasting had increased.

Gerald commented on the range of resources now available, reporting that the United Synagogue had now started their own TV channel.

He added although the Jewish community were unable to conduct Sabbath and festival services via Zoom as they were prohibited from using the equipment on the Sabbath, the introductions to these services had been filmed. He reported that he had Zoom activities with others around the country, remarking also that whereas in South London there is a single Thursday morning service, other synagogues are hosting services on other days, providing the advantage of increased accessibility to services. This has meant that congregants unable to attend the synagogue have still been able to have a connection with the services.

He explained that ten men were required to be present in person for the morning practice; it wasn't permitted for this to be carried out via Zoom.

Joan remarked on the amazing adjustments that were being made for her only grandson's bar mitzvah in January. Denise requested that Joan see if the family would be happy to capture it, with photos or film documenting how people felt and what happened.

She enquired what changes Eucharist/communion had undergone. Karen explained that for her church the priest takes the bread and wine on Zoom on behalf of the community. She commented that while some congregants respond with sadness to this, most are glad. She added that she was scheduled to serve for the first time the following day.

Joan reported that she had been asked to submit an article about changes to the coming new year's event (taking place the following week) as opposed to the previous year.

Denise noted that this point segued into point 7

The Chair noted Angela's view that the recovery curriculum be referred to for this point.

Gerald reported the services from the United Synagogue and bar mitzvahs could be used by schools for resources as well as YouTube and Facebook recordings if schools were allowed them.

When asked about the changes within her faith group Cheryl reported that her church hadn't returned to its place of worships but instead were conducting Bible studies via Zoom with prayers sessions in the morning and evening. No funerals or weddings had been arranged, although some congregants had given birth during this period. She added that her place of worship hadn't facilitated a communion service although other Redeemed Church of God

congregations had done this via Zoom with everyone partaking of their own bread and wine substitute, blessed by the Pastor online.

The Chair added that in his church families were asked to share communion together.

He explained his hope that this initial reporting would create momentum for members to draft their A4 sheet on the adaptations that their places of worship had made.

7 Continuation of discussion from previous meeting on how to move forward with supplementary support for 'The Journey of Life and Death' unit (year 6) in the Agreed Syllabus – circulated previously

The Chair commented that this had been covered in the discussion.

8 Information exchange and AOB

Joan reported that this had included information on the customs but despite mentioning Judaism hadn't offered any information on any of the Jewish customs.

Denise replied that this problem would likely be rectified by viewing the document on an i-pad.

Jacq reported that she had experienced the same issue with Buddhism.

Denise commented that, although she hadn't noticed any issues with the document when viewed on the council's website, she would check this.

I HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY, JANUARY 27 2021 – BE THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Denise reported that she had circulated the theme paper, adding that she didn't normally send this to schools as Lewisham usually hosted its own event.

Gerald reported that he had phoned Mayor Egan who serves as Chair of the HMD committee and had also spoke to Mark Curtis, the event manager, whom he hadn't heard from before lockdown. He expressed the intention to look at how Zoom could be sued and how Mark could work with schools after the upcoming Jewish festivals. He noted that the group needed to consider that schools could be sent home at any time. He added that Mayor Egan intended to meet with the Lewisham HMD group in October.

He reported that the group intended to host an event but not in the theatre. He added that Mark's contract had ceased but that the Mayor wanted his involvement to continue as a fresh face would spoil the continuity that had been achieved. Mayor Egan would speak with others to see how this can be worked out. Denise asked if sending a link would help.

Gerald confirmed that sending the theme paper to schools was fine, adding that the group was encouraging all schools to conduct an assembly in the week of the 27 January if not on the day itself.

He reported that it might be suggested that schools look at similarities between the situation recorded in Anne Fran's diary and children being sent home in the current pandemic.

He added that children feeling the difficulties of the current situation could refer to Anne Frank's situation of being unable to make external communication, fearful of making a sound etc.

Denise committed to getting the theme paper sent out.

She reported that she had also circulated the RE subject information in the bulletin.

She committed to seeing what information would be sent around in relation to Black History Month, noting the significance of the year's news on this event.

Angela noted that Lewisham schools were moving towards Black History year.

9 Future meetings

The committee were reminded of the next meeting on 23 November at 6.30pm

The meeting was then concluded.