# Minutes

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Tuesday 4th October 2016 at 7.30pm**

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| Present:  (Groups in brackets) |  | Rev M Williams (B) (Chair)  Cllr R Broadbent (D) (Vice-Chair)  Mr K Siddiqi (A)  Mr L Bracken (A) | | |  | | Mrs M Cockram (C)  Mr P Henry (C)  Cllr S Gordon (D)  Cllr N Patel (D) | |
| Apologies: |  | Ms M Cucharo (C)  Mrs Sharon Roberts  – LA School Improvement Team  Miss V M Stone (C)  Mrs C Smyth (B) | |  | | Cllr H Ramsey (D)  Cllr M Burstow (D)  Rev D Smith (A)  Mrs R Johnson (A) | | | |
| In attendance: |  | Ms P Smith-Orr - Consultant/Observer  Mrs P Garry - Clerk |  |  | | | |
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|  | **ITEM** | **ACTION BY** |
| **1.** | **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**  The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. There were no new members. |  |
| **2.** | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  Apologies had been received from Councillor Ramsey, Councillor Burstow, Rosey Johnson, Revd D Smith, Christine Smyth, Michaela Cucharo and Sharon Roberts and were consented. |  |
| **3.** | **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**  Nominations were invited for the positions Chair and Vice-Chair.  In the absence of any other nominations, Revd Mark Williams agreed to stand for the position of Chair.  Cllr Broadbent also agreed to stand again as Vice-Chair.  **RESOLUTION: Revd Mark Williams unanimously appointed as Chair for the period of one year i.e. until Autumn 2017 and Cllr Richard Broadbent unanimously appointed as Vice-Chair for the same period.** |  |
| **4**. | **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH JUNE 2016**  Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record with the following amendments:  Attendees – “Miss” Holly Ramsey to “Councillor Holly Ramsey” and to note that Mr L Bracken was present.  Some actions had been completed, and those not already elsewhere on the agenda are further discussed under Matters Arising below. |  |
| **5.** | **MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA**  From Item 4 (Matters Arising c/f from Feb Minutes)**:**  **Item 8 of document (from Spring) - in respect of the promotion of SACRE to Councillors and Schools**  It was confirmed that KE had not forwarded the SACRE leaflet to schools.  **Action: PS-O will re-send the leaflet to Sylvie at the local authority to circulate.**  **Item 12 of previous (Spring) minutes – AOB**  SG had been successful in her request to Andrew Theobald (Chair of FOSG) in that he had agreed to promote SACRE. However, there were still some outstanding IT issues to overcome in order to enable a link to the SACRE page to be embedded on the FOSG webpage.  From June Minutes:  **Item 5 (Summer) NASACRE AGM Report**  Members wanted to formally thank Rosey Johnson for her report back to SACRE on the AGM.  **Item 11 Any Other Business – SACRE Funding**  Cllr Broadbent updated members that it had been confirmed by Colin Stewart at the CFE Committee on 16 June that the Education Services Spin-out would not affect SACRE funding. | **PS-O** |
| **6.** | **NASACRE EXISTING AND PROPOSED CONSTITUTION 2016**  The proposed NASACRE constitution was circulated with amendments/deletions highlighted for ease of reference.  A member asked for the background on how this would affect the Sutton SACRE and it was explained that NASACRE is an over-arching organisation to which SACRE’s choose to belong. By being a member it is possible to access information and attend the annual conference.  Members felt that the changes proposed were reasonable and had no further comments.  **RESOLUTION: Members agreed to give their approval to the proposed constitution.**  **Action: Clerk to advise NASACRE of the Sutton SACRE view.** | **PG** |
| **7.** | **APPOINTMENT OF SACRE MEMBERS**  The Chair began by thanking members for their continued support and recognised that many had been on SACRE for a very long time.  It was explained that in order to be better organised and in the interests of complying with the new constitution, formal re-appointments would need to be made for those members who had not been appointed during the past four years. MW confirmed that the Diocese had just re-appointed him. The issue of who would be considered as a nominating body was further discussed and it was agreed that it has been historically The Diocese for the Church of England representative, the local authority for Group D (annually) and professional teachers’ associations (e.g. unions) for Group C. The consensus was for Group A that it should be someone who is part of a recognised organisation representing their faith or Christian denomination.  Members felt that the presence of the teachers was vital and due to the problems with identifying the correct people to nominate from the professional associations that it should be Headteachers who nominate representatives.  **RESOLUTION: Under item 2, Membership of Group C in the constitution, to take out “nominated by professional association” and replace with “up to 6 members from schools within the borough, nominated by the Headteacher and representing, as far as is practicable, the full range of schools.**  **Action: Chair will produce a letter addressed to the Headteachers to request formal nominations for Monica Cockram and Paul Henry.**  Further discussion took place about the difficulties of recruiting representatives from other faiths. Cllr Gordon reinforced the importance of finding the right people who have a good knowledge of that faith and so can make a good contribution and who is able to cascade information up and down. Cllr Broadbent added that from the census data the Muslim and Hindu community are the biggest. He further asked if Cllr Patel knew whether there was a structure within the local temple. It was also recognised that there are no Roman Catholic or Methodist representatives.  **Action: Cllr Patel to try and make contact with a representative from the local temple and the Sutton Tamil group.**  MC stated that it would be good to have a Jewish representative.  **Action: MW to write to the new Rabbi at the synagogue.**  LB was asked who would nominate the Humanist representative and it was confirmed that this would be from the local group who are part of the BHA. | **MW**  **NP**  **MW** |
| **8.** | **SCHOOL SURVEY ON RE/AGREED SYLLABUS AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**    The survey had been circulated to schools but unfortunately it would seem that it was only secondary schools. Two teachers did reply but, of course, there is no updated KS3 syllabus available as yet so the question in respect of the syllabus was not applicable.  Attendees at the recent RE Co-ordinators meeting were also asked to complete the survey and there were 16 responses.  **Action: PS-O to send survey results to the Clerk to circulate with the minutes.**  The Chair thanked PS-O and said that it was a good start. PS-O confirmed that there had been a broad mix of schools responding.  PH advised that the current Secondary RE Co-ordinator has stepped down so it is proving difficult to get a list of co-ordinators.  **Action: PS-O to send the survey to Sylvie and ask her to circulate to the primary schools.** | **PS-O**  **PS-O** |
| **9.** | **SACRE 2016 DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND NEW PLAN 2017**  The updated 2016 plan was noted. The 2017 plan was circulated – some dates needed to be changed to 2017.  It was agreed that item on the KS3 syllabus should be included so that its progress can be tracked. It is recognized that the work has already begun.  **Action: In respect of meeting with other SACREs under item 8, the Chair agreed to contact Peter Kendrick, Merton SACRE and possibly Croydon and Bromley.** | **MW** |
| **10.** | **KS3 SYLLABUS**  PH and PS-O are currently working on this.  **Action: PS-O to ask clerk to circulate current draft for comment and**  **then to be discussed at the February meeting.** | **PS-O** |
| **11.** | **SACRE ANNUAL REPORT**  This will be drafted over the coming month or so. It is required to be sent to NASACRE and the DfE by the 31st December.  **Action: PS-O to send to MW and RB by the 8th December for review**  **who will, in turn, request comments from members.** | **PS-O** |
| **12.** | **RE- CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS AND SCHOOL VISITS**  Sutton and Merton teachers network is now only open to Sutton teachers. However, PS-O is now running separate groups for Merton.  Thirteen people attended the recent meeting which focussed on Diwali and Harvest.  Four schools had agreed (in their survey responses) to receive a visit from SACRE.  **Action: PS-O to make arrangements to visit schools and invite SACRE members.** | **PS-O** |
| **13.** | **COURSES FOR RE TEACHERS**  A course will be taking place for New RE Co-ordinators on 2nd November 2016. |  |
| **14.** | **SACRE SECTION 48 REPORTS *(FOR INFORMATION ONLY – ENCLOSURE D)***  Members noted the report for Holy Trinity School. Areas for improvement were noted to be “coverage of other faiths to be progressive and developmental”.  The Chair had written a letter to Mrs S Gruffydd, Head teacher of Holy Trinity CE Junior School from SACRE on 3rd August.    Inspections of Church schools used to be linked to the Ofsted report but now have a separate SIAMS inspection. |  |
| **15.** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  There will be a debate hosted by the Humanist Association on Wednesday 12th October titled “**This house is of the view that publicly funded schools should not be faith schools”. All are welcome to attend.**  **Diwali Celebrations**  There will be a big celebration in central Croydon on 22nd October from 12pm. |  |
| **16.** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**    **Tuesday 28th February 2017 at 7.30pm**  **Venue: Room 2, Ground Floor, London Borough of Sutton Civic Centre** |  |

Closing Time of Meeting: 9.10pm

Chair’s Signature .............................................................. Date.........................