

MINUTES OF THE SACRE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015 AT
HENDON TOWN HALL

MEMBERS

| Committee A | Group Representative |
|--|-----------------------------|
| *Shahab Meshi on behalf of Mr H Alaei/Mrs Vicky Golesaneh | Baha'i |
| Vacancy | Buddhist |
| Mrs Catherine Salinger | Free Churches |
| *Mrs Judith Smith | Free Churches |
| *Mrs Mary Karaolis (attending on behalf of Very Revd AC Damiano) | Greek Orthodox Church |
| *Mr Himangshu Bose | Hindu |
| *Mr Rakhal Saha | Hindu |
| Mrs Veena Vendi | Hindu |
| Edward Barbor | Humanist |
| Mrs Amreena Husain-Ali | Islam |
| Dr N Shah | Jain |
| Mr Arnold Levin | Jewish |
| Rabbi Mark Goldsmith | Jewish |
| Mr Surinder Singh Attariwala | Sikh |
| Mr S Chadha | Sikh |
| Mr C O'Halpin | Roman Catholic |
| Vacancy | Baptist |
| *Major Diane Henderson | Salvation Army |
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| Committee B | Church of England |
| *Mrs Jane Pavlou | London Diocese |
| Revd Dr Gregory Platten | London Diocese |
| *Mrs Mel Adams | Diocese of St Albans |
| The Revd Tristan Chapman | Diocese of St Albans |
| | |
| Committee C | |
| *Gerry Cohen (Whitefield School) | ATL |
| *Mr Kevin McSharry (Chairman) | ASCL |
| Vacancy | NASUWT |
| *Marina Robb (East Barnet School) | NUT |
| | |
| Committee D | |
| *Cllr Alison Cornelius | |
| *Cllr Claire Farrier | |
| *Cllr Brian Gordon | |
| *Cllr Sury Khatri | |
| *Cllr Joan Scannell | |
| *Cllr Agnes Slocombe | |

* denotes member present

KTC 3rd. March 2016

IN ATTENDANCE

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|---------------------|--|
| *Dr Anna Sallnow | LA, RE Consultant |
| *Mr Neil Marlow | LA, Head of School Improvement, representing the Director for Education and Skills |
| *Mrs Janet Robinson | Clerk to SACRE |

15/39 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members to the autumn term meeting. An additional welcome was given to the new Members; Gerry Cohen a teacher at Whitefield School representing NASUWT; Marina Robb a teacher at East Barnet School representing the NUT; Major Diane Henderson representing the Salvation Army and Shahab Meshi, Baha'i representative attending on behalf of Mr H Alaei/Mrs Vicky Golesaneh. Round the table introductions took place for the benefit of the new Members.

Members were informed that due to family commitments, the Islam representative, Mrs Amreena Husain-Ali had submitted her resignation from the Barnet SACRE. Dr Anna Sallnow explained that Mrs Husain-Ali would recommend a suitable representative to take on the role of Islam representative.

15/40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr Alaei; Mrs Vicky Golesaneh; Mr Con O'Halpin; Revd Gregory Platten; ^{Mrs Catherine Sallnow} and The Revd Tristan Chapman.

Members were informed that Cllr Mark Shooter was no longer a council representative for SACRE. The Clerk stated that she would enquire as to whether a replacement representative had been appointed by council.

Action: Clerk

15/41 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST WITHIN THE CURRENT AGENDA

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest within the current agenda.

15/42 MINUTES OF THE SACRE MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2015

The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 16 June 2015, a copy of which had been distributed earlier, were checked for accuracy. They were then confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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15/43 **MATTERS ARISING**

Pg 4: 15/29 SACRE representation at council meetings (update)

Members were reminded that Cllr Brian Gordon and Cllr Sury Khatri had recommended to council that a SACRE representative should be appointed to attend council meetings. It had been recommended that the SACRE Chairman, Kevin McSharry should carry out this role. Mr McSharry reported that at its meeting in December, it was anticipated that the council would discuss and hopefully approve this and thanked Cllrs Gordon and Khatri for their support for the appointment to be made.

15/44 **UPDATE ON WESTHILL BID**

Dr Sallnow reported that a bid had been made for a joint research project with Barnet SACRE and Enfield Local Authority (LA) SACRE. She stated that she was pleased to report that £4,000 had been awarded to the Barnet and Enfield SACRE groups to support secondary schools and to help the students to explain and talk to their peers about their faiths, and what their faith means to them, for example, Judaism, ^{and} Hinduism ~~and Orthodox~~ being just some of the faiths represented. Reflective diaries would be used for the students to record their experiences and these would be used in the evaluation of the project and resources would be provided for the students. Once the project had been completed it might be possible to make a presentation to the Headteacher groups in the Autumn Term 2016 and students would be invited to attend. The project would be beneficial to schools wanting to acquire the RE Qualification mark in RE as it involves pupil voice, action research and the sharing of expertise between schools. Dr Sallnow explained that the project would involve two primary schools within Barnet LA who had expressed an interest for the students from Hendon to come in and talk to their pupils. The students would be trained to talk about the different perspectives and the issues of which so few people are aware. The research would be accredited and students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 would be invited to participate. The students would be invited to provide a presentation to SACRE at the summer term meeting. It was hoped that students from a number of faith groups would register their interest to participate. They would be known as Faith Ambassadors. Dr Sallnow suggested that the project could link with the 2016 summer term SACRE meeting and be included as an agenda item for discussion. She stated that she would provide an update to Members at the 2016 spring term SACRE meeting.

Action: Dr Anna Sallnow and Clerk

Dr Sallnow reported that SACRE member, Rabbi Mark Goldsmith had given permission for the Alyth Synagogue to be used for the Youth SACRE. It was anticipated that Youth SACRE would engage with their peers concerning discussions, for example, the change of thinking and mindset of different faith groups. Applicants would be interviewed. Members were informed that the Chairman, Kevin McSharry and Dr Sallnow would be attending Hendon School on 14 December 2015 to hear the presentation from students, who it

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was noted, had expressed considerable enthusiasm for participation in the Youth SACRE.

Action: Chairman, Mr Kevin McSharry and Dr Anna Sallnow

Members were informed that the NUT representative, Marina Robb, would provide details of the RE leadership scheme.

Action: Marina Robb

15/45 **BARNET SACRE NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM**

The SACRE newsletter, a copy of which had been distributed earlier, was noted by the Members. The Chairman stated that it provided interesting reading and useful information. On behalf of the Members, the Chairman thanked Dr Sallnow for her input and production of the document. Arising from the newsletter:

New GCSE proposals

Dr Sallnow reported that all units within the RE qualification had to be covered, including two additional faith groups, which in most instances included Catholicism and Judaism. Cllr Gordon challenged this and enquired if it was a statutory requirement for schools to teach about two religions. Dr Sallnow stated that it was compulsory and that religious text would be included in the teaching. Catholic schools had been advised to study Judaism as the additional religion. A number of courses have been provided for teachers who will be teaching another religion for the first time and these details have been circulated to teachers. Discussions are still taking place about the new examinations and time is becoming very tight before their implementation..

15/46 **VISIT TO THE BRITISH LIBRARY**

Dr Sallnow reported that the visit to the British Library had been positive and beneficial. The group had looked at the sacred texts including pages of the Lindisfarne Gospel and the Qu'ran. Free workshops are available to school groups.

Dr Sallnow reported that the British Museum was hosting an Egyptian exhibition which included the Egyptian faith after the Pharaohs. Dr Sallnow stated that she would arrange for a visit to the exhibition to take place at the end of January 2016. She would distribute information to Members and those interested in attending, should notify the Clerk.

Action: Dr Anna Sallnow; SACRE Members and Clerk

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15/47 **BARNET SACRE ANNUAL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2014 – AUGUST 2015**

The Barnet SACRE Annual Report – September 2014 – August 2015, a copy of which had been distributed earlier, was noted by the Members. Arising from the report:

Examination Results

The examination result, a copy of which was tabled at the meeting, was noted by the Members. Dr Sallnow explained she did not have the information on short course entries but that she hoped to have obtained them by the next meeting, nationally the numbers of students taking the short course had dropped and the number of students studying the RE full course had increased. So it was to be expected that the figures from Barnet would reflect these trends. It is a concern that nationally many schools no longer enter pupils for the RS examination. Members noted that 165 Barnet students had entered for the RE A Level course in 2015. This was a decrease in applications compared to 2004 when 188 students had entered the course and in 2013 when 263 students had entered the course. Dr Sallnow reported that primary schools taught RE and it had been reported that the pupils enjoyed the subject. She would carry out a survey and would provide the RE school representatives with a standard list of questions associated with the survey.

Dr Sallnow explained that Ofsted no longer reported on RE in schools. She suggested that the future SACRE Report should include a summarised version of RE in schools, with the inclusion of 'Why RE is important' Members **AGREED** that this would be a beneficial exercise for inclusion.

Action: Dr Anna Sallnow

15/48 **CORRESPONDENCE**

It was noted that nil correspondence had been received.

15/49 **NASACRE BRIEFING PAPER**

The NASACRE Briefing paper on the Clarke/Woodhead proposals, a copy of which had been distributed earlier, was noted by the Members. Arising from the paper:

Dr Sallnow explained that it was argued that a national RE Syllabus would be written as opposed to the current individual syllabus written by local SACRE's at a ~~SACRE~~ ^{an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)}. These proposals will be discussed and a number of SACREs thought that a national syllabus would be beneficial providing that local elements were included, however other SACREs were totally opposed to a national syllabus. There were a number of other suggestions that also have generated heated debates.

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15/50 REPORTS

Dr Anna Sallnow

Dr Sallnow reported that two young people's reflections on their visit with the Holocaust Education Trust to Auschwitz in October 2015, would be included in the Holocaust pack and that they would also read the Barnet Statement of Commitment at the Holocaust Memorial Day event on the 17 January 2016. Enfield students from Winchmore School had also completed some work on art and the Holocaust that would be included in the pack it is also on the Enfield SACRE website. Once the publication had been approved by Rev Bernd Koschland it would be distributed to all Barnet and Enfield schools.

Members were informed that the next set of INSET training within schools would include British Values; respect with a golden rule for all responsible; fellowship; truth and justice and freedom. This would link with the Magna Carta which represents justice; freedom and humanity. Cllr Gordon questioned this and stated that it could not be expected that all faiths felt the same within the different communities of the LA. Dr Sallnow explained that the schools would look at the sacred texts and that activities would be based on them.

Mr Kevin McSharry

Mr McSharry stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

15/51 SACRE REPRESENTATION AT COUNCIL MEETINGS (UPDATE)

It was noted that this item had been discussed earlier in the meeting under item 15/43 Matters Arising: Pg 4: 15/29 SACRE representation at council meetings (update).

15/52 SACRE WEBSITE (UPDATE)

Dr Sallnow reported that the SACRE website was available for use and items had been uploaded. Information would be distributed to Members to explain access to the site.

The Chairman, on behalf of the SACRE Members, thanked Dr Sallnow; Mr Neil Marlow, the Head of School Improvement and Nick Burr for his advice and input. Dr Sallnow and Mr Marlow thanked the Chairman and Members. Dr Sallnow stated that she would write a letter of thanks to Nick Burr for his help and support to complete the build of the website.

Action: Dr Anna Sallnow

15/52 REVIEW OF SACRE MEMBERSHIP (UPDATE)

Cllr Brian Gordon expressed his concern that SACRE did not have a Muslim representative. A council representative challenged this and enquired why

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SACRE did not have a Shiite Muslim representative. The Chairman stated that he would investigate the reason for this.

Action: Chairman, Kevin McSharry

It was noted that this item had been discussed earlier in the meeting under item 15/40 Apologies for Absence.

15/53 **FAITH PRESENTATION**

Quakers, led by Cllr Claire Farrier

Cllr Claire Farrier explained that there are four Quaker meeting groups within Barnet. She explained that:

- The Quaker faith was a breakaway group from the church, which had started with a belief that God is within us all and speaks directly to us.
- The meetings are not programmed.
- The meetings do not take place in a sacred building and are held in a meeting house.
- The group does not have a priest and all believers can minister.
- All believers have a responsibility as an elder
- All believers have the freedom to think and live with the Quaker testimonies.
- The beliefs have remained since 1652
- The Quaker faith believes that the faith is led by an inner light and that there is a light in every person
- Believers accept and listen to people
- There is no religious text. However, some believers read the Bible, whilst some do not
- Believers of the Quaker faith are against all war and conflict. They are friends of truth and honesty. ~~Members should not have more than others.~~

Following the presentation, Members were given an opportunity to ask questions. It was noted that the Quaker beliefs had a Humanist element.

Cllr Brian Gordon enquired as to how the Quaker faith could be known as a religion. Cllr Farrier explained that the Quaker faith is a way of life. Members have faith in what they do. It is stated that all believers have an inner light

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and turn towards the light. Other religions are taught that they should pray multiple times each day. Members of the Quaker faith pray within themselves. A Quaker's prayer group consists of a gathering together and the power of prayer within.

Members were reminded of the owners of the Cadbury and Fry chocolate groups who were Quakers and who built villages for their workers to live near to the factory and place of work and to mix within their community together.

There being no questions, the Chairman, on behalf of the Members, thanked Cllr Farrier for her presentation.

Cllr Farrier stated that she would provide SACRE Members with further information should they require this.

15/54 **FUTURE FAITH PRESENTATIONS**

The following faith presentations were confirmed:

2016 spring term: Hinduism – Led by Mrs Veena Vendi
2016 summer term: Jainism – Led by Dr Shah

15/55 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no additional business for discussion.

15/56 **DATES OF SACRE MEETINGS**

The following SACRE meetings were confirmed:

2016 spring term: Wednesday 2 March 2016, Hendon Town Hall

2016 summer term:

The Clerk explained that the room availability for Hendon Town Hall was yet to be published. As soon as the information was available she would inform the Members of dates to ensure that a meeting did not clash with a faith holiday. Once confirmed, the room booking would be made.

Action: Clerk

15/57 **CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no further business for discussion, The Chairman thanked the Members for their attendance and the meeting closed.

Kevin McSharry
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