



Council for  
**Christian Muslim**  
Relations

[www.ccmr-wycombe.co.uk](http://www.ccmr-wycombe.co.uk) | [info@ccmr-wycombe.co.uk](mailto:info@ccmr-wycombe.co.uk)

## **Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Chauhdry M Shafique (Chair), Hugh Ellis (Vice-Chair), Tony King, Ghayas Siddiqui, Mark Macaulay, David Snoxell, Laurence Smy, Jackie Lock, Helen Byrne, Asmat Mohammed, John Richey, M L Raja, Zafar Iqbal, Imam Sultan Mahmmod, Ann Bowker, Tony Dickinson, Sajjad Tameez, Steve Baker, Martin Davis, Prav Liyanage, Nawaz Sayal.

#### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Shafique opened the meeting with a welcome to all and introduced the guest speaker, Dr Jenny Taylor.

#### **2. Apologies**

Dr Katy Simmons, Simon Cronk, Daniel Sullivan, Paul Bowen, Jeff Singleton, Karen Johnstone, John Parry, John Bajina, Rana Sarfraz, Greg Livingstone.

#### **3. Minutes of the last meeting 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

The meeting agreed they were a true record of events.

Matters Arising -

Laurence Smy asked the meeting if the conference or standing committee idea for the Wycombe Mosques in relation to pastoral need had been taken forward? Zafar Iqbal, chairman of Mosque committee informed members that it was still pending.

It was commented that we should not lose sight of Jeff Singleton's offer of describing the Channel system of mentoring at a future meeting.

Laurence Smy informed the meeting that Mrs Sally Evans will not be coming to a future meeting of the CCMR.

#### **4. Current Issues**

Over the last 3-4 weeks there has been press coverage about Omer Hussain, a Jihadi who has gone to Iraq to support the Islamic State, from Castlefield, in High Wycombe. The Local muslim community volunteered and came forward to notify the police that they recognised and knew this man whom they had watched on a Newsnight programme on BBC2. Thus regrettably Wycombe came to the forefront of the national news again. The Thames Valley Police in High Wycombe called an emergency

meeting to speak to key people in the muslim community following which the CCMR also convened an urgent meeting where TVP briefed members about the current situation. CCMR members thanked the TVP for sharing this information with them and after a lengthy discussion the Chair suggested the idea of a Workshop for CCMR members and invited guests with a view to learning from the incident and boosting community resilience and empowerment further. The point was also made and noted at this meeting that this incident represented an incredible anomaly in High Wycombe, because we have such a strongly bonded community and cohesive relations which have been put in place over several years.

The Chair anticipated that amongst other things a report or paper from the workshop could be produced for appropriate circulation and distribution. The chair informed the meeting that a date had now been set for 5<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am to 2.00pm in The Oakley Hall, 8 Castle Street, High Wycombe. He further informed members that he had held a first planning meeting with Daniel Sullivan and Safina Shafique to agree the aims and objectives of this Workshop and its outline parameters of and then delegated the detailed planning work to them.

#### **5. Think Tank Update**

Laurence Smy informed members that at the 18<sup>th</sup> September meeting it was noted that the CCMR needs to be even more proactive and continue its successful programme of visits to local schools with an Imam and a local priest.

#### **6. Presentation by the guest speaker Dr Jenny Taylor**

Jenny gave a very engaging talk about her journey as a journalist on a wide range of issues involved in building relationships and understanding across communities from different faiths and cultural backgrounds. Her contribution was greatly appreciated by all the members and they expressed their hope that she could make a return visit and continue her theme for further developments.

Date of next CCMR meeting – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 10.30am for 11am in The Oakley Hall, Castle Street, High Wycombe.