

# Minutes



## Council

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Date: 26 July 2016

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors D Atwell (The Mayor, in the Chair), M Al-Nuami, O Ali, T Bond, J Cleverly, P Cockeram, M Cornelious, K Critchley, E Corten, D Davies, V Delahaye, C Evans, M Evans, C Ferris, D Fouweather, E Garland, G Giles, J Guy, I Hayat, P Huntley, R Jeavons, M Kellaway, M Linton, D Mayer, S Mlewa, R Mogford, R Poole, J Mudd, M Rahman, J Richards, M Spencer, C Suller, T Suller, H Thomas, K Thomas, R Truman, T Watkins, M Whitcutt, R White, K Whitehead and D Wilcox

Apologies: Councillors R Bright, P Hannon, D Harvey, R Hutchings, C Jenkins, C Maxfield, A Morris and D Williams

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### 1. Preliminaries

#### Mr Ted Travers

The Mayor announced that since the last meeting, Council had been informed of the loss of a former mayor and great friend, Ted Travers who would be sadly missed.

#### Mr Harry Polloway

The Mayor also referred to the passing of Mr Harry Polloway who had acted as master of Ceremonies at many civic events

#### The City of Nice

The Mayor referred to the tragic events in Nice and informed Councillors that he and the Leader of the Council had written jointly to the Mayor of Nice expressing our city's support and condolences

#### The Battle of the Somme

The Mayor mentioned that we are currently in a period of commemoration of the Battle of the Somme which began this month in 1916 and lasted until November of that year. More than one million men were wounded or killed, making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history. The Mayor said we must never forget sacrifices they made

Members and officers stood in silence as a mark of respect to Mr Travers, Mr Polloway, the people of Nice and those brave individuals who fought at the Somme

## 2. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the City Council held on 26 April, 17 May and 19 May 2016 were confirmed as a true record by the Council and signed by the Mayor

## 3. Appointments

### Audit Committee

It was resolved that Mr John Baker be re-appointed to serve as the Chair of the Audit Committee for the coming four year term

The following appointments were also agreed:

### Planning Committee

Cllr Al Nuaimi has been appointed to the vacancy

### Licensing Committee

Cllr Harvey has been appointed to the vacancy

### Appointment Panel: Corporate Director

Cllrs Ray Truman; Roger Jeavons; Paul Huntley, Matthew Evans and Chris Evans were appointed

### Education Achievement Service Commissioning Group (Education) (JEG)

Councillor Deborah Harvey was appointed to replace Councillor Deb Davies as the substitute Member for the Education Achievement Service Commissioning Group (Education) (JEG)

### SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)

Councillor Hayat was appointed

### Newport Wastesavers

Councillor Deb Davies will replace Tom Bond who has a declared interest

### Community Health Council, Newport Committee

Councillor Hayat was appointed

### Governors

<b>New Appointments</b>	
<b>School</b>	<b>Name</b>
Caerleon Comprehensive	Wendy Hoskins
Duffryn Infants	Catharine Jones
Glan Usk Primary	Cllr Rhys Hutchings
High Cross Primary	Jackie Martin
Kimberley Nursery	Georgina Cooper
Lliswerry Primary	Vanessa Yon
Maindee Primary	Hannah Williams

Milton Junior	Kimberley Cowan
Mount Pleasant Primary	Kelly Jones
Rogerstone Primary	Caroline James
St Gabriel's RC Primary	Jan Furtek
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teynon	Shereen Williams
Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd	Llio Elgar
Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael	Olwen Allender
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	Helen Crosbie
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	Elin Maher
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	John Harris
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	Christopher Chapman

<b>Re-appointments</b>	
<b>School</b>	<b>Name</b>
Alway Primary	Cllr Ray Truman
Bassaleg School	Cllr Tom Bond
Bassaleg School	Cllr Margaret Cornelious
Caerleon Comprehensive	Cllr Clifford Suller
Clytha Primary	Cllr Matthew Evans
Crindau Primary	Cllr Paul Cockeram
Crindau Primary	Cllr Robert Poole
Duffryn Infants	Chris Jarvis
Duffryn Junior	Chris Jarvis
Eveswell Primary	Stephen Chandler
Eveswell Primary	Cllr Mark Spencer
Glan Usk Primary	Cllr Emma Garland
Glan Usk Primary	Kenneth Goodger
Glasllwch Primary	Cllr Matthew Evans
High Cross Primary	Cllr Sally Mlewa
Langstone Primary	Cllr Ray Mogford
Llanmartin Primary	John Davies
Llanmartin Primary	Cllr Martyn Kellaway
Llanwern High	Cllr RC Bright
Llanwern High	Cllr John Guy
Llanwern High	Cllr Ray Truman
Llisbury High	Cllr Kenneth Critchley
Llisbury High	Nicola Godsall
Maes Ebbw	Donald Mlewa
Maindee Primary	Cllr Majid Rahman
Malpas Church in Wales Junior	Andrea Mulcahy
Malpas Court Primary	Cllr Jane Mudd
Marshfield Primary	Cllr Thomas Suller
Monnow Primary	Cllr Valerie Delahaye
Mount Pleasant Primary	Cllr Tom Bond
Mount Pleasant Primary	Stephen Bowen

Newport High	Cllr Valerie Delahaye
Newport High	William Langsford
Newport High	Cllr David Mayer
Newport High	Cllr Robert Poole
	Cllr Margaret
Pentrepoeth Primary	Cornelious
Somerton Primary	Cllr John Guy
St David's RC Primary	David Hutchings
St Joseph's RC High	Cllr David Fouweather
St Joseph's RC High	Cllr Mark Whitcutt
St Woolos Primary	Cllr Miqdad Al-Nuaimi
St Woolos Primary	Cllr Kate Thomas
Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael	Glyn Jarvis

#### 4. **Police Issues**

The Mayor welcomed Superintendent Glyn Fernquest to his first meeting since his return to work

The Superintendent reported on recent serious criminal activity and action taken. He also mentioned two ongoing operations where the aim was to address relatively low level crime and antisocial behaviour

Superintendent Fernquest mentioned that Friars Walk was a real success, helping to change the activities around that area with many people shopping and enjoying the leisure offer. In this area, antisocial activity had reduced even though many more people were around. Inevitably perhaps there were now some issues around shoplifting

He also mentioned some great partnership working around parking with 522 parking tickets handed out in the City Centre

Superintendent Fernquest reassured Councillor Whitcutt that police would attend a local meeting to discuss parking issues.

Superintendent Fernquest shared Councillor Guy's concerns about cyber-crime and the targeting of older and vulnerable people. He described action being taken by the Cyber Crime unit and action against old fashioned 'rogue traders'.

The Superintendent informed Councillor Whitehead of action being taken locally in relation to off-road bikes. He also stated that the Force was reviewing the current pattern of staffing in stations.

Councillors Jeavons, Ali, and Hayat each thanked local police for their actions and assistance in their wards.

Superintendent Fernquest informed Councillor Kate Thomas that he would raise with local officers her concerns about charities approaching people in the city centre to extract money.

Superintendent Fernquest informed Councillor Fouweather that he would raise with local officers his concerns about parking in the Allt Yr Yn Ward

Superintendent Fernquest informed Councillor Cockeram that he would ask the local inspector to contact him about a lack of response to e- mails.

Superintendent Fernquest informed Councillor Critchley of action being taken to move on illegal traveller encampments and described the limitations of the Police powers

Superintendent Fernquest informed Councillor Garland that he would raise with local officers her concerns about drug dealing locally and asked the Councillor to provide specific information to the local team

The Leader of the Council thanked Superintendent Fernquest for his warm words in relation to Friars Walk and the successful manner that things in the city centre had changed

## 5. **Notice of Motion: Hate Crime**

The Leader of the Council presented the following motion:

“We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Our council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We will work to ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia.

We reassure all people living in this area that they are valued Members of our community.”

The motion was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

In moving the motion, the Leader of the Council stated that hate crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards their disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, transgender identity. In fact, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime.

The Leader mentioned that according to the police there had been a spike in hate crime the week following the Referendum as well as an increase in the run up to the referendum. SEWREC, Victim Support and Tell Mama had also reported significant increases.

The Leader informed Members that, as leaders of the community elected Members are in an ideal position to promote community cohesion and it was more important than ever that they show leadership.

The Leader stated that Newport is a great city and the people are great. It is a vibrant and thriving place with a rich heritage and history and a fantastic future. However, it is all those things because Newportonians get along, whatever backgrounds, race or faith. The Leader said it was often the very differences of culture and background that draws people together. It was a wonderful thing about our home.

The Referendum and the ensuing uncertainty had highlighted a number of divides across Britain and had resulted in some expressions of the worst of human nature. There are many people across the country who now felt more vulnerable, less safe and less part of our communities. The Leader said that, as Leader of the Council she was determined that not one single person is made to feel this way in Newport. Newport would stand together to support those who are vulnerable, welcome those who are isolated and protect those who are intimidated and abused. And absolutely will not tolerate or ignore any act that threatens to undermine this.

In seconding the motion, the Leader of the Opposition stated that he was pleased to present the joint motion about a matter that transcended party politics and was a concern for all. He referred to some examples which highlighted the issues.

Councillor Matthew Evans stated that targeting anyone because they come from a different country, or they are a different colour, or have different sexual is completely unacceptable and as a society we cannot tolerate. It was comforting that locally incidents had remained static over the past few years. The Council needed to work with organisations to ensure such incidents were isolated in nature whilst at the same time recognising genuine concerns. Plenty of positive work was being done and there were good examples. The City was great because of the heritage and our ability to welcome all people from around the world.

A significant number of elected Members spoke in favour of the motion. Comments included

- The cross party initiative was welcomed
- The spike in incidents was not a local issue but UK – wide
- It was intolerable that differences led to hate crime being committed against individuals or groups
- Newport has a rich history of diversity and people working together in harmony
- Modern cultural democracy had benefitted hugely from citizens and migrants from other countries
- Loyalty to the nation should not be questioned because of individuals' background or the community in which they live
- This was an opportunity to review what we are currently doing in the City and how we can move forward
- Crimes such as child exploitation happen across all communities and are not restricted to any specific community
- Hate crime needed to be removed from society and all political parties represented on the Council take a similar view
- Some of the publicity prior to the referendum contributed to the present spike in feelings and actions
- Everyone should be treated fairly
- People are not born with prejudices as evidenced by children in all our communities.
- Education is key.
- All communities make a positive and full contribution to the city
- All people should be respected and treated properly
- The Hate Crime Forum makes a positive contribution
- Work needs to be done with women in some communities who suffer racism and other hate crimes
- British Muslims make significant contributions to Charities, along with many other communities both in terms of financial contributions and volunteering
- Whether based on race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or belief hate crime is never justified and it will not be tolerated in Newport

## **Resolved**

It was resolved that the motion as set out above and moved and seconded be adopted by the Council

## 6. Notice of Motion: Local Traders

The Leader of the Opposition moved the following motion

This Council supports the City's small businesses and market traders and recognises that occupancy levels in the market have recently fallen. The Council encourages the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment\*\* and Newport Norse to provide additional assistance, as a matter of urgency, to increase occupancy levels and footfall in the market.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Margaret Cornelious

*(\*\* It was pointed out that the appropriate Cabinet Member for this issue was the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and it was agreed this would be shown in the minutes)*

In moving the motion, the Leader of the Opposition expressed his concern about the situation in Newport market and the perceived inaction by the Council. He felt tangible steps should be taken to assist the market traders and independent traders. He considered that Friar's Walk should be the start of the city centre regeneration. The Leader of the Opposition referred to communication and action taken by the previous coalition administration at the market and the setting up of events such as the food festival and Big Splash, both of which seem now to have reduced in nature. He considered relatively small costs could assist in helping encourage use of the market. Occupancy levels were falling.

The Leader of the Opposition recognised the traders needed to do something and that shopping habits have changed. He pointed out that markets in other cities were, however, thriving.

The Leader of the Council moved the following amendment to the motion:

"This Council supports the City's small businesses and market traders and welcomes the recent meeting between the City Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources with representatives of the market traders, council officers and Newport Norse, to agree a programme of constructive engagement and an examination of a range of proposals designed to promote footfall, improve management of the market itself, and further improve the market environment;

We note the substantial efforts made by elected Members and officers to improve the retail and leisure offer in the city centre. This includes significant increases in footfall since the opening of Friars Walk as evidenced by figures released by Queensbury.

Furthermore, the Council recognises the important role to be played by Newport Now and the Business Improvement District in supporting traditional stores, smaller businesses and the indoor market.

The Council asks the Executive to continue its positive dialogue with the market traders to discuss the various roles participants can play in progressing this and ensuring that appropriate action is taken, whilst at the same time working with businesses of all sizes to ensure that the improved offer continues to benefit customers and traders in the City."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Whitcutt.

The Leader of the Opposition stated he would support the amendment

In moving the amendment the Leader of the Council stated the success of Friar's Walk and the impact on the footfall in the City Centre since the retail and leisure offer was improved by this development. She mentioned a press article in May 2016 which showed that 5 million

people had visited Friar's Walk in the first 6 months of operation. The Leader stated that the Council enhanced the entrance to the Market to help make it more attractive

The Leader mentioned that the previous Leader, Councillor Bright, wrote to the Bus Companies asking them to reconsider their decision to cease the bus services into the High Street, thereby supporting the view of the market traders

The Leader informed Council that before being aware of this motion, the Leader had met, along with Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources the local market traders where issues were discussed in a positive manner

The Leader stated she had no wish to simply move against this motion and give the impression that we will do nothing to help the traders but there is a role for the traders themselves too to encourage business

The Leader commended the work by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment to develop Newport Now and the Business Improvement District and referred to the proposed development at Newport Arcade and the hotel development which would help promote that area of the city centre.

In seconding the motion, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources stated that since being appointed to the portfolio he had visited the market to speak with traders and he and the Leader met recently with traders to discuss challenges faced. The discussion centred on how a positive partnership could work together to improve the situation. The Cabinet Member described the range of issues which had been discussed around how things could improve in what traders described as a superb market building.

A number of Members participated in the debate mentioning issues such as:

- The need to support events that promote small businesses in the city centre
- The market quarter needs support and development
- The encouraging action taken recently by the Leader and Cabinet Member
- Friar's Walk needs to act as the anchor for the whole city centre retail and leisure offer
- The need for the traders to play their part in the proposed way forward whilst at the same time recognising potential restrictions
- The market traders need to consider opening times to encourage footfall
- People with the right talents and skills need to be involved
- The Business Improvement District / Newport Now had been developed and there were now 541 businesses in the city centre that are Members of the organisation. The board discussed events and marketing and safety and security issues, among other things
- There had been references to the lack of success of the upper level
- The market cannot rely on produce alone
- The credit union encourages footfall

## **Resolved**

To adopt the amendment as moved by the Leader of the Council and as set out above.



## 7. Annual Report by the Director of Social Services

The Director of Social Services presented his annual report

He informed the Council about the significant impact of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 and the need for partners to work together and to focus upon delaying and preventing the need for care and/or support to stop people's needs from escalating. Local authorities must promote co-operation across its services and with, relevant partners and must empower people to seek, innovative solutions and ensure that people have greater voice and control over the care and/or support they receive.

The Director mentioned the requirement for Local Authorities and Health Boards to establish a Regional Partnership Board that will aim to improve outcomes and well-being of people, as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

In response to the Act, action was being taken to integrate population assessments from the Future Generations and Social Services and Wellbeing Act and Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act; provide information, advice and assistance; enhance preventative services and early intervention; and to develop the workforce further

The Director informed Members that performance during 2015/16 was mixed with notable improvements for Adult Services but for Children's Services the year on year trajectory of improvement has dropped and we only achieved target performance on 60% of indicators. Targets were set at or above the last recorded Wales performance and compared to the previous year 2014/15 Children's Services dropped from 85% better than Wales average to 60% and compared to our benchmark group from 77% in 2014/15 to 70% in 2015/16.

Performance outcomes for children in care and young offenders had not hit target for educational outcomes and for those in appropriate education, training or employment when they leave school or leave care. As a result Education colleagues had agreed to provide joint leadership in these areas in order to see improved performance.

The Director stated that some measures are counter – intuitive and ironically we can get a "red" for what is essentially 'good news'. An example being when children in care are placed in a foster home and so move school.

Adult services had improved significantly and the misreporting by the Health Board of some statistics made a real impact which means we would have been able to report even better performance if they had reported more accurately. Delayed Transfer of Care issues had improved significantly.

Members were informed that despite the disappointment in performance in relation to some indicators, there was a much better story to tell in relation to inspection reports of the quality of services which show good performance across the board with particularly good performance in relation to services that were seen as poor in 2014/15 in particular the Youth Offending Service and the Adult Residential Services.

He stated the challenges of significant budget reductions at a time of increasing need had been faced The City's population continues to grow quickly and indicators for deprivation in Newport show some of the highest rates of vulnerable children and adults in Wales. It was becoming harder to manage within budgets

The Director described improvements in safeguarding and reports a reduction in the number of children on the Register He referred to toll out of training; an increase in referrals to the

Adult protection Service brought about by better reporting; the establishment leadership and a review of policies and procedures in relation to sexual exploitation of children

The Director went on to describe how we listen and respond to people receiving services, referring to consultation and participation groups; individual surveys of users; complaints monitoring and reviews where outcomes were most important.

Members were informed of the benefits of the thriving Carers' Forum and the Director referred to the updated Newport Carers' Handbook.

As to staff, the Director stated that the workforce indicates that they are settled and positive about their experience at work with a clear sense of purpose. He stated that more is being done to engage citizens in the design and delivery of our services and we have designed our 'stay well' plans for older people based on feedback from users of the service.

In conclusion the Director stated:

- 2015/16 has been a year where we have focussed upon strengthening the quality of our services and preparation for the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014.
- We have done less well on our performance indicators but all the evidence indicates a big step forward in service quality as seen by inspectors and independent reviewers.
- We have managed a real terms reduction of between 15 and 20% in our base budgets from 2013/14 and signs of strain are showing in some overspending for the year 2015/16
- We have set out a vision to develop more integrated services and shared assets with the Health Board as we roll out the Older Persons Prevention Pathway, create integrated teams based on the three Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCNs).
- In 2016/17 will see closer links particularly in NCNs with adult community and primary care health services, team around the school clusters, community hubs for anti-poverty services and libraries and community centres

The Leader of the Council referred to the need for some performance measures to be addressed whilst recognising the quality of the service and the counter – intuitive nature of some measures. The Leader welcomed the improvements and mentioned in particular the Delayed Transfer of Care and the Youth Justice Board. The Leader referred to the budget pressures and the need for budget – makers to take account of the changes in demographics and the requirements of the Act. Increasing demands were being faced as resources were diminishing

Councillor Fouweather welcomed the theme of bringing services to the communities and focussing on needs. He welcomed the comments of the Scrutiny Committee being included in the report. It was important to maintain progress on Delayed Transfer of Care and improvements in Youth Justice needed to be maintained

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Housing and other Members were concerned about the impact of the demographic changes which were happening now and the decreasing budgets that presented a real challenge. The Cabinet Member considered the report should cover the compliments received as well as the complaints.

## **Resolved**

To receive the Director of Social Services Annual Report

### **8. Annual Report by the Democratic Services Committee**

The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee presented the Committee's annual report as required by the Local Government Measure.

He informed the Council that the report sets out the activities of the Committee in its past year of operation and the things it was likely to be looking at in the coming year.

The Chair was pleased to report that the Committee had discussed matters in a non-party political manner

The Chair stated that at the Committee's recent meeting Members had discussed the issue of succession planning and had agreed to ask the appropriate Cabinet Member to have a look at HR policies to see if they could be reviewed to encourage this practice.

The Chair thanked Members and officers for their contribution to the work of the Committee

## **Resolved**

To receive the Annual Report

### **9. Welsh Language Scheme Annual Report**

The Council was informed by the Leader of the Council that this had been a year of transition from implementing the Welsh Language Scheme under the Welsh Language Act 1993 to implementing the Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The first Welsh Language Standards implementation date was the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

As such, the report to Council officially covered the first two days of implementing the Standards (the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2016).

The report presented data on the indicators relating to complaints, staff language skills, Welsh medium training for staff and recruiting to empty posts.

The Leader stated that next year Council will receive a more detailed analysis of progress and remaining risks.

The Council, along with other Councils in Wales, had challenged some of the Standards during the consultation process and challenged further Standards in advance of their implementation date of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Many of these challenges, if accepted, would ensure greater consistency across the Standards and between the regional local authorities.

Good progress had been made in the current year. Monitoring systems needed to be developed to ensure that the procedures that we have put in place facilitate the intended outcome: greater use of the Welsh language.

Councillor Fouweather was concerned that the bar had been set too high. Language choice had not been monitored in previous years and there was little information on individuals who had expressed a wish not to receive information in Welsh or who had complained about receiving information in Welsh. He was concerned about costs that had risen from £3,671 in 2012-2013 to £17,375 in 2014-15, although he understood it was a difficult issue. He felt

there should be options to allow people to opt out. Councillors Herbie Thomas also was concerned about affordability of meeting obligations

### **Resolved**

To approve the report and publish the report on the council's website, in accordance with statutory deadlines.

## **10. Financial Policies**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources introduced a report that updated Contract Standing Orders which had been reviewed in light of recent changes to legislation and updated internal governance and processes

A review of Financial Regulations had also been undertaken. The update included changes to the regulations regarding budget virements, an update of job titles and other minor amendments to update the document. These updates fitted into the review of the Constitution

In response to Councillor Fouweather the Cabinet Member confirmed that EU procurement regulation remain in force at this time

### **Resolved**

To adopt the updated documents

## **11. Treasury Management**

The Leader of the Council presented a report which explained that the Authority's treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code"), which requires authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that Members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.

The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are therefore central to the Authority's treasury management strategy.

The 2015/16 Treasury Management Strategy was approved by the Council as part of the overall Medium Term Financial Plan and 2015/16 budget in February 2015.

The Cabinet was presented with the following information.

- details of capital financing, borrowing, debt rescheduling and investment transactions
- reports on the risk implications of treasury decisions and transactions
- details the outturn position on treasury management transactions in 2015/16
- confirms compliance with treasury limits and Prudential code

The Leader reported that the Cabinet was informed that the report shows we have met our indicators. The strategy remains to keep our investments low and not to undertake long – term borrowing.

## **Resolved**

To adopt the report

### **12. Questions to the Chair of the Cabinet**

There were no questions to the Chair of the Cabinet on this occasion

### **13. Questions to Cabinet Members**

There were no questions to the Cabinet Members on this occasion

### **14. Questions to Chairs of Committees**

There were no questions to the Chairs on this occasion

### **15. Standards Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 26 May 2016 were received by the Council

The meeting terminated at 7:40 pm