

Appendix A: Minutes of the Speaker's Committee

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 24 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 5.30 PM

SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Tracey Crouch MP

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

Naomi Long MP

Bridget Phillipson MP

Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meeting on 26 November 2013

The minutes of the meeting on 26 November 2013 were considered and agreed.

2. Consideration of board report for the appointment of an Electoral Commissioner: nominees from the Leader of the Labour Party

The Committee agreed the Speaker would put forward Bridget Prentice as a Commissioner nominated by the Leader of the Labour Party, for the reasons given in the report, in particular her experience as a Minister with responsibility for electoral matters.

3. Consideration of board report for the appointment of an Electoral Commissioner: minority party nominee

The Committee agreed to let the name of Alasdair Morgan go forward, on the recommendation of the panel.

The Committee agreed that Mr Morgan be appointed for a two year term, as had been the case with minor party nominated commissioners in the past, and that Ms Prentice be appointed for four years. In both cases, the term should end on 30 September, to bring it into line with that of existing nominated Commissioners.

The Speaker would consult the leaders of the political parties, asking for responses by 10 March.

4. Statutory designation of posts at the Electoral Commission

The Committee agreed with the proposal from Peter Wardle, Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission to designate 12 posts at the Electoral Commission under the provisions of paragraph 11B of Schedule 1 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

[The Committee adjourned at 5.42 pm until a day and time to be proposed by the Chair.

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 25 MARCH 2014 AT 3.00 PM

SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Tracey Crouch MP

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

Brandon Lewis MP (*ex officio*)

Naomi Long MP

Bridget Phillipson MP

Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2014

The minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2014 were considered and agreed.

2. Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act: briefing from the Leader of the House

The Leader of the House briefed the Committee on the aspects of the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act as they affected the work of the Electoral Commission and the way in which that was reflected in the draft Estimate and Corporate Plan.

3. Consideration of draft Report on the Work of the Committee in 2013

The Committee agreed a small drafting amendment to paragraph 16 of the draft report.

The Committee agreed the report.

4. Any other business

Brandon Lewis gave his apologies for the next meeting and said that he was content with the estimates of the Electoral Commission and LGBCE.

[The Committee adjourned at 3.15 pm until 2 April at 3.30pm.

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 2 APRIL 2014 at 3.30 PM

COMMITTEE ROOM 21

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Tracey Crouch MP

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meeting on 25 March 2014

The minutes of the meeting on 25 March 2014 were considered and agreed.

2. Consideration of LGBCE draft corporate plan and estimate 2014–15

The Committee considered the LGBCE draft corporate plan and estimate for 2014–15.

The Committee agreed the LGBCE draft corporate plan and estimate for 2014–15 without modification.

3. Consideration of Electoral Commission's draft corporate plan and estimate 2014–15

The Committee considered the Electoral Commission's draft corporate plan and estimate for 2014–15.

Jenny Watson, Chair, and Carolyn Hughes, Deputy Chair, Electoral Commission, gave evidence and then withdrew.

The Committee agreed the Electoral Commission's draft corporate plan and estimate for 2014–15 without modification.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 4.15 pm.]

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 29 APRIL 2014 at 6.05 PM

SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Tracey Crouch MP

Brandon Lewis MP (*ex officio*)

Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Ballot paper description for *Britain First*

Mr Speaker informed the Committee that that an independent report into the circumstances in which the ballot paper description of “Remember Lee Rigby” had been commissioned and would report as soon as possible. Nonetheless, Jenny Watson, the Chair of the Electoral Commission, wished to tender her resignation since the Electoral Commission had been responsible for this error.

The Committee agreed that the Chair of the Commission should not resign before the independent inquiry had reported, and it was known whether such a resignation was appropriate. It agreed that Mr Speaker should convey the Committee's views to Jenny Watson.

[The Committee adjourned until Tuesday 6 May at 5.30 pm

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 6 MAY 2014 AT 5.30 PM

SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Tracey Crouch MP

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

Brandon Lewis MP (*ex officio*)

Bridget Phillipson MP

Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meetings on 2 and 29 April 2014

The Minutes were agreed without modification.

2. Nomination of Electoral Commissioner by the Leader of the Conservative Party

The Chair informed the Committee that the Leader of the Conservative Party had rewritten to the Committee seeking the reappointment of Lord Horam as a nominated Electoral Commissioner and that he had written to the Chair of the Electoral Commission to ask for an assessment of Lord Horam's performance.

3. Consideration of the report from Elizabeth Butler

The Committee considered the report and discussed it with Jenny Watson and Elizabeth Butler. The Committee agreed that there were no grounds for the Chair to resign and that it would require further reports on lessons learnt.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 6.08 pm

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2014 at 3.30 PM

SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Tracey Crouch MP

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

Brandon Lewis MP (*ex officio*)

Naomi Long MP

Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meetings on 6 May 2014

The Minutes were agreed without modification.

2. Electoral Commission update

The Committee received an update from Jenny Watson, Chair, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive and Bob Posner, Director of Party and Election Finance and Legal Counsel, Electoral Commission.

3. Consideration of the Electoral Commission's Governance and amendments to the Deregulation Bill

The Committee agreed not to press for further legislative change.

4. Consideration of the appointment process for Electoral Commissioners

The Committee agreed that the reappointment process for Anna Carragher should start before the 2015 General Election.

The Committee agreed that recruitment process for a new Electoral Commissioner should start before the 2015 General Election.

5. Consideration of PHSO report on a complaint about the Electoral Commission

The Committee agreed that ombudsman's report fell within the remit of the Public Administration Select Committee.

6. Party registration update

The Committee agreed that it should be kept informed of the reviews and monitoring of party registration and party descriptions.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 4.38 pm

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4 NOVEMBER 2014 at 3.30 PM

SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meetings on 2 September 2014

The Minutes were agreed without modification.

2. LGBCE update

The Committee received an update from Max Caller, Chair, Alan Cogbill, Chief Executive and Jolyon Jackson, Chief Executive designate

The Committee noted the concern about the appointment of Commissioners.

The Committee noted the letters relating to the Accounting Officer and relocation.

3. Appointment process for the Chair of LGBCE

The Committee agreed to start the process for the appointment of chair of the LGBCE before the Election.

4. Appointment process for Electoral Commissioners

The Committee agreed the procedure for the appointment of Electoral Commissioners.

5. Any other business

The Committee agreed the proposed NAO value for money report.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 4.10 pm

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 16 DECEMBER 2014 at 2.30 PM

SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Tracey Crouch MP

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meeting on 4 November 2014

The Minutes were agreed without modification.

2. Supplementary Estimate

The Committee agreed the draft Supplementary Estimates for 2014–15.

3. Timetable for Main Estimate 2015–16

The Committee agreed the proposed timetable for consideration of the Electoral Commission's and LGBCE's Main Estimates and corporate plans for 2015–16.

4. Reappointment of Anna Carragher

The Committee considered the correspondence relating to the reappointment of Anna Carragher as an Electoral Commissioner.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 3.10 pm

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 16 DECEMBER 2014 at 2.30 PM

SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Tracey Crouch MP

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meeting on 4 November 2014

The Minutes were agreed without modification.

2. Supplementary Estimate

The Committee agreed the draft Supplementary Estimates for 2014–15.

3. Timetable for Main Estimate 2015–16

The Committee agreed the proposed timetable for consideration of the Electoral Commission's and LGBCE's Main Estimates and corporate plans for 2015–16.

4. Reappointment of Anna Carragher

The Committee considered the correspondence relating to the reappointment of Anna Carragher as an Electoral Commissioner.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 3.10 pm

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4 MARCH 2015 at 3.00 PM

COMMITTEE ROOM 21

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair

Tracey Crouch MP

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

Brandon Lewis MP (*ex officio*)

Bridget Phillipson MP

Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015/16 and Corporate Plans.

The Committee considered the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015/16 and Corporate Plans.

The Committee took evidence from Max Caller, Chair, and Jolyon Jackson, Chief Executive, LGBCE and from Carolyn Hughes, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Alex Robertson, Director of Communications, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, and Jenny Watson, Chair, Electoral Commission.

The Committee considered the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015/16 and Corporate Plans.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 3.55 pm