

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Meeting

2 October 2021

Attendees

Memorial Commission

Thelma Stober (chaired jointly) Michael Lockwood (chaired jointly)

Community representatives

(Bereaved representatives)	(Survivor representatives ¹)	(Lancaster West representatives)
Hanan Wahabi	Hanan Cherbika	
Nabil Choucair	Mohammed Rasoul	Andrea Newton
Hassan Hassan		

Apologies

Sandra Ruiz
Abe Abebe
Susan Safadi
Adel Chaoui

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission secretariat, (2)

Other

Stephanie Edwards, independent design adviser

Meeting purpose

The 29th meeting of the Memorial Commission to discuss the Commission's decision to temporarily pause its work following media coverage on 5 September speculating on the future of Grenfell Tower.

Opening

- A one-minute silence was held at the start of the meeting.
- It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
- The September minutes were shared and cleared subject to any views from other community representatives not in attendance.
- Thelma explained that this meeting is about how best to approach ongoing engagement.
- All agreed that there needed to be a pause, however, there was also agreement between all that it is important to continue to be available for people to speak directly to the reps during this period.

¹ For the purposes of the Memorial Commission, this refers to former residents of Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk.

- The secretariat highlighted that the bereaved and survivors had received a response to their letter to the secretary of state and he has agreed to meet them. The Commission also discussed their response from the secretary of state and the offer to meet on a date after the bereaved and survivor meeting on 13 October.
- All agreed there should be no change to the decision in September to pause formal engagement until at least the proposed meetings with the secretary of state with bereaved and survivors, and the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission, have taken place.
- The secretariat highlighted the social media activity over the past few weeks. All agreed to continue the minimal approach to posting but be mindful of community activities. There was agreement from all that the momentum built should not be lost and but also not to resume full activity until after full consideration has been given on the outcome of the meetings with the secretary of state.
- Michael made clear it was important for the secretary of state to hear and feel the emotion and impact that is from the heart, and the effect of the article on the Commission and community.
- All agreed that further discussions with the Commission may be needed and all felt that, if possible, this meeting should be in the community. All agreed that this would be useful to ensure that the secretary of state had a firm understanding of the Commission's history, and role within the community as well as its importance.
- Stephanie joined the meeting and reminded the Commission that she was happy to speak directly to them about any aspect of her role whilst recognising the difficulties the families and community were currently facing.
- All agreed that meeting face to face was a positive step – the secretariat to look at options for resuming face to face monthly meetings and rotating with online meetings – possibly online in November and face to face in December.

Actions

Susan, Sandra, Adel, and Abe to confirm they are content with the minutes by 8 October.

Communications

- Secretariat to work with the comms team to maintain low level presence on social media.

Engagement

Secretariat to:

- Produce WhatsApp message for reps to be able to share – highlighting we are paused but available to speak.
- Produce form of words setting out 'paused but available' for use on individual messages and emails for reps to reach out to people in their networks.
- Newsletter to carry the same message to keep mailing list informed.

- Secretariat to work with the secretary of state's office to arrange date and relay importance of trying to secure a community location for the meeting.
- Secretariat to keep the Commission updated on progress.

To share your ideas about the memorial, contact the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission:

Phone: 0303 444 4831

Email: GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk

Website: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/