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WAR: CIVIL DEFENCE

Birmingham City Council Minutes: Civil Defence

1. Birmingham War Hospitals Committee

10/4/1915-1/12/1920 Minutes 1-916

Purpose: To manage Rubery Hill Asylum and Hollymoor as temporary military hospitals.

2. Air Raid Precautions

14/2/1936-8/3/1937 Minutes 1-20

Purpose: To consider the various representations of the Home Office in regards to air raid precautions, and to report their recommendations to the General Purposes Committee.

Sub Committees See separate sheet.

3. Air Raid Precautions (Later Civil Defence)

	14/3/1938-6/5/1968	Minutes 1-11,567
A.R.P:	14/3/1938-2/2/1942	Minutes 1-3,083
Civil Defence	2/3/1942-6/5/1968	Minutes 3,084-11,567

Purpose: To exercise the powers and duties of the Council under the A.R.P Act 1937. To submit to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs for approval schemes required under the Act, and to be responsible for carrying into effect such schemes, or directing and controlling other Departments of the Council to do this, where appropriate.

Sub-Committee: see separate sheet.

4. Emergency Committee

1/9/1939-13/6/1945 Minutes 1-759

Purpose: to oversee the A.R.P./Civil Defence measures operated by the City Council.

Sub Committee

10/10/1940-18/12/1940

Minutes 1-82

Purpose: To consider communal feeding and the feeding of persons rendered homeless by air raids.

5. Reconstruction Committee

17/2/1942-4/9/1945

Minutes 1-158

Purpose: To consider and make recommendation to the Council....upon matters relevant to the future development and welfare of the City and its inhabitants, with special reference to conditions likely to arise at and after the conclusion of hostilities.

6. Watch Committee

17/2/1942-4/9/1945

Minutes 1-358

Purpose: To ensure that public safety be maintained, particularly through Police and Fire Services/

Sub Committee-see separate sheet

7. Fire Brigade Committee

1/11/1940-21/2/1974

Minutes 1-11,963

Purpose: To administer and control the Fire Brigade and the Ancillary Fire service, these responsibilities being transferred from the watch Committee.

Sub Committee:

Ambulance: 18/3/1948-21/3/1968

Minutes 1-1,535

Purpose: To manage an Ambulance Service on behalf of the Health Committee.

Air Raid Precautions Committee-Sub Committee 1936-1937

1. A.R.P. (Officers) Sub
23/3/1936 only

Minutes 1-6

Purpose: Those Officers of the Council listed were to consider a draft A.R.P Scheme for the City:

Town Clerk
City Surveyor
Medical Officer of Health
Chief Constable
Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade
General Manager of the Gas Department
General Manager of the Tramways Department
Chief Engineer of the Water department

2. A.R.P (A) Sub

23/11/1936

Minutes 1-14

Purpose: To organise six District Depots for Breakdown gangs, service for the utilities, distribution of gas masks, protective clothing and provision of shelters, dig outs etc.

3. A.R.P (B) Sub

21/10/1936-23/7/1937

Minutes 1-19

Purpose: To organise First Aid, Decontamination, ambulances, casualty relief, and Hospital provision.

4. A.R.P. (E) Sub

21/10/1936-23/7/1937

Minutes 1-19

Purpose: To organise First Aid, Decontamination, ambulances, casualty relief, and Hospital provision.

5. A.R.P. (F) Sub (later A.R.P (Finance & General Purposes) Sub)

5/2/1937-4/2/1938 Minutes 1-17

(F) Sub: 5/2/1937-3/3/1937 Minutes 1-17

(Finance & General Purposes)

Sub: 4/2/1938 only Minutes 7-17

Purpose: To organise financial arrangements.

Air Raid Precautions Committee-Sub Committee 1938 – 1945

1. General Purposes (later Finance and General Purposes)

12/4/1938-22/10/1945 Minutes 1-1,588

A.R.P General Purposes

12/4/1938-25/8/1938 Minutes

2. Works (A.R.P only)

28/2/1938-27/10/1941 Minutes 1-241

3. Special Purposes

11/11/1941-14/2/1944 Minutes 1-305

A.R.P 11/11/1941-12/1/1942 Minutes 1-28

Civil Defence 9/2/1942-14/2/1944 Minutes 29-306

Purpose: To be responsible for the establishment and operation of anti-gas measures, all mobile canteens, canteens for all Civil Defence Personnel, first aid repairs to houses damaged by enemy action, the removal and storage of furniture from bombed houses, Civil Defence Service depots and staffs, Report and Control Centres.

4. Casualty Services

28/3/1938-8/10/1945 Minutes 1-1348

A.R.P 28/3/1938-12/1/1942 Minutes 1-949

Civil Defence 9/2/1942-8/10/1945

Minutes 950-1348

Purpose: To give instruction and advice to the public as to A.S.P., to arrange for dealing with casualties (First Aid posts, ambulances etc), detection of poison gas etc.

5. Air Wardens (A.R.P only)

28/3/1938-27/10/1941

Minutes 1-374

Purpose: To give instruction and advice re: A.R.P, give air raid warnings, organise Wardens, recruit and train personnel for A.R.P scheme, distribute respirators, collect and distribute information on air raid casualties and damage.

6. Chairman's Meeting

28/7/41 only

Purpose: To appoint a new councillor to the A.R.P (Air Warden's) Sub Committee.

7. Wardens and Fire Guard

11/11/41-22/10/45

Minutes 1-542

A.R.P. 11/11/41-26/1/42

Minutes 1-40

Civil defence: 23/2/42-22/10/45

Minutes 41-542

Purpose: To be responsible for the Air Raid Warden Service and the Fire Guard. To formulate recommendations on matters of policy. To carry out instructions of the General Committee not specified previously.

8. Auxiliary Fire service (A.R.P only)

28/3/38-10/11/39

Minutes 1-145

Purpose: To organise for an emergency fire brigade service, including such provision as is necessary for auxiliary fire stations, fire patrols and fire posts. To arrange for natural and static water supplies. To recruit and train personnel for fire and other duties.

9. Air Raid After Care (Later British Restaurants)

19/12/40-3/3/47	Minutes 1-5,507
A.R.P. (Air Raid After Care)-19/12/40-1/42	Minutes 1,651
Civil defence (Air Raid After Care)-18/2/42-17/10/45	Minutes 652-1988
Civil Defence (British Restaurants)-27/10/45-3/3/47	Minutes 1989-5507

Purpose: To provide care for the homeless due to bombing, billeting etc, mobile canteens, communal feeding kitchens etc.

Note: This sub-committee developed from the Special Sub-Committee of the Emergency Committee concerned with feeding of homeless people caused by Air Raids.

10. Air Raid Shelters

11/11/41-7/5/45	Minutes 1-272
A.R.P 11/11/41-26/1/42	Minutes 1-46
Civil Defence 10/11/42-7/5/45	Minutes 47-272

Purpose: To ensure adequate public and domestic shelters available in all parts of the city. To be responsible for the construction, maintenance, cleansing and inspection of public and domestic shelters, provision of amenities and matters of health.

11. Joint Civil defence, Fire Brigade and Health Committee Meeting

20/7/50

Purpose: To agree arrangements for ambulance services to be available to and controlled by Civil defence authorities in either peace time or was crises.

12. Emergency Feeding Caterers Consultative Committee Meeting

23/11/53-22/2/54

Minutes 1-5

Purpose: To examine the Draft Emergency Feeding Plan and make recommendations to the Civil Defence Committee.

13. Civil Defence (Special) Sub

2/8/65 only

Purpose: To draw up a short list for the appointment of Civil Defence Officer.

14. Civil Defence (Special) Sub

29/1/51 only

Purpose: To discuss the appointment and salary of the Civil Defence Officer.

Watch Committee-Sub Committees Relevant To The Defence Of Britain Project

1. Police

10/11/36-21/10/42

Minutes 670-4670

2. Fire Brigade

12/12/1879-22/10/1940

Minutes 1-1326

3. Auxiliary Fire Service

Meetings of Committee Chairman of:

Watch Committee

Watch (Police) Sub

Watch (Fire) Sub

20/10-27/10/39

4. Auxiliary Fire Service Joint (A.R.P and Watch) Sub

2/11/39-25/10/40

Minutes 1-622

Fire Protection For Birmingham

1. Fire Brigade

12/2/1874-22/10/1940-Reported to Watch (Fire Brigade) Sub Committee

2. Auxiliary Fire Service

28/3/38-10/11/34-Reported to A.R.P (Auxiliary Fire Service) Sub Committee

20/10-27/10/34-Meetings of Chairman of Watch Committee, Watch (Police) Sub, Watch (Fire) Sub

2/11/39-25/10/40-Joint Sub Committee (Watch and A.R.P)

3. Fire Brigade and Auxiliary Fire Service

1/11/40-21/2/1974-Fire Brigade Committee

Note: the Government in May 1941, ending any distinction between Brigade and Auxiliary Service, created a National Fire Service.

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