

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HELD ON TUESDAY 19 AUGUST 2014 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Apel, Budge, Evans and Macey
- EX-OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor Hughes)
- ALSO PRESENT : Councillors Bell, Campling, T Dignum, French, Garrett, Rankin and Scicluna
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk and Mayoral/Administrative Assistant
- APOLOGIES : Deputy Mayor (Councillor Siggs)
Councillor Plowman
- ABSENT : Councillor Holman

26 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 August 2014 having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman was authorised to sign the same as a correct record.

27 WALLED TOWNS SYMPOSIUM 2014 - UPDATE

The Chairman said that despite every effort being made by the City Council and officers, the number of registrations for the Symposium was still very low and that for this reason she considered it not viable for Chichester to host the Symposium planned for 2-6 September 2014.

The Town Clerk had previously circulated a position statement to members explaining the background and arrangements for the forthcoming Symposium. He updated members on the current position to date, namely: 23 expressions of interest in attending of which 8 delegates had paid the registration fee. He said that not all delegates would be attending for the whole time

The Town Clerk's report emphasised that the low number of registrations could not be attributed to the work undertaken by the City Council to promote the Symposium and that want of support was an issue for the Walled Towns organisation.

An email confirmation had been received from the President of the Walled Towns that any shortfall in the delegation fees for 25 delegates (ie: 25 x £250) would be met by the Walled Towns. Councillor Dignum sought clarification of this.

The Chairman sought the views of those present on the viability of hosting the symposium, reiterating the low numbers of attendees, and a debate took place. Several members felt that the Symposium could only be good for Chichester and were very reluctant to cancel at this late stage.

Members enquired of the attendance figures at previous Symposia and were advised that numbers had been declining over the years. It was suggested therefore that a re-think of the format for the future should be discussed and that perhaps a bi-annual Walled Towns Symposium would be more practical.

After some debate, it was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to Council that the Walled Towns Symposium 2014 be hosted by Chichester from 2-6 September 2014 on the basis of 25 *paying* delegates (£250 per person) with the written guarantee that the Walled Towns organisation would meet any shortfall in delegates fees (up to £6,250).

The Chairman wished to record thanks to the City Council officers for their word in connection with the arrangements of the Symposium.

The meeting ended at 5.55pm.