



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICHESTER HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, NORTH STREET, CHICHESTER
ON WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 6.00PM**

- PRESENT : The Mayor (Councillor Hughes)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Siggs)
Councillors Apel, Budge, Campling, Chaplin, P Dignum, T Dignum, Evans,
French, Garrett, Plowman, Rankin, Scicluna, Smith and Woolley
- APOLOGIES : Councillors French, Holman and Shone
- ABSENT : Councillor Bell
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk, Administration Manager, Mayor's Chaplain and Macebearer

50 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 7 January 2015, having been printed and circulated be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record.

51 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Civic & Heritage Awards Ceremony - Monday 9 February 2015

The Mayor asked members who had not already confirmed their attendance at the Civic & Heritage Award Ceremony to let the Administration Manager know if they are attending.

(ii) Mayoral Charity Quiz Evening

The Mayor advised that the last Mayoral charity event would be a Quiz Evening on Friday 20 March 2015 and extended the invitation to all members.

52 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor invited Mrs Pingree-Rogerson to address the Council on a matter concerning a tree planted at Canal Wharf some 20 years ago by Mrs Pingree-Rogerson and children from the Chichester High School for Boys; the City Council had funded the scheme.

Mrs Pingree-Rogerson expressed concern over the current size of the tree and was requesting the City Council carry out the maintenance work of the tree.

The Town Clerk advised that the he had been in contact with the Trees and Woodlands Officer and confirmed that the land belonged to West Sussex County Council and leased to the Chichester Ship Canal Trust and that the Licence Agreement should be checked regarding any maintenance work to the tree. It may also be case that the Canal and local residents association could take on the responsibility of the tree.

(a) Planning & Conservation Committee

It was moved by Councillor Woolley, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2014 be approved and adopted.

Councillor Woolley reiterated the Resolution in Minute 73 Neighbourhood Plan for the West Ward, to not proceed with the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the West Ward until the Local Plan had been produced.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Woolley, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2014 be approved and adopted.

(b) Planning & Conservation Committee

It was moved by Councillor Woolley, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2015 be approved and adopted.

Councillor Woolley advised that the next Planning & Conservation Committee meeting on Wednesday 11 February 2015 at 5.30pm would be held in the Assembly Room. The main item for discussion was the outline planning application for Whitehouse Farm.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Woolley, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2015 be approved and adopted.

(c) Community Affairs Committee

It was moved by Councillor Apel, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2015 be approved and adopted and that the Recommendation in Minute 40 be discussed separately from the Minutes being approved and adopted.

Councillor Scicluna commented on amendments to Minutes 42 and 43; these would be dealt with at the next meeting of the Community Affairs Committee.

Councillor Evans commented on Minute 41, Community Engagement, and asked the Town Clerk for an update following the meeting with West Sussex County Council on Wednesday 28 January 2015 on the matter of Busking in the City Centre.

The Town Clerk advised that the meeting had been positive and that officers of West Sussex County Council were discussing further with Cabinet members the matters raised by the City Council concerning the administration of Busking and Pre-Planned Activities on the Highway'.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Apel, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2015 be approved and adopted with the exclusion of the Recommendation in Minute 40.

Councillor Apel asked that consideration be given to the Recommendation to Full Council in Minute 40 namely :

“It was proposed by the Mayor and duly seconded that it be RECOMMENDED to Full Council that £5,000 be included in the 2016/2017 Budget for the twinning with Valletta”

Councillor Evans explained the Recommendation was for a new administration to decide whether an amount of money should be included in the 2016/2017 budget for a twinning link with Valletta.

This would enable more information to be obtained from Valletta and for a Friends of Chichester group to be established in Valletta before the City Council committed any money for a twinning link.

Members discussed the virtues of twinning and the benefits to the residents of the City with advice being given from Councillors who had been involved with the twinning of Ravenna many years ago. It was noted that a twinning with Valletta was not included in the Business Plan, although this could be rectified.

It was also discussed whether the current administration could make a recommendation to the new administration coming into office in May 2015. Further discussions pursued and it was agreed that the word 'possible' should be included in the Recommendation. Therefore it was proposed, seconded and put to the vote that a Recommendation be made to the new administration that a budget of £5,000 be included in the 2016/2017 budget for a possible twinning link with Valletta; the motion was carried.

(d) Business Review Committee

It was moved by Councillor Plowman, as Chairman of the Committee that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2015 be approved and adopted.

Councillor Plowman commented on Minute 32 Heritage Lighting and said that the new lighting scheme was enhancing the streetscape in the City. Councillors asked about whether the heritage lighting would be carried out in St John's Street and Baffins Lane. The Town Clerk would check this West Sussex County Council and report back to the appropriate members.

In connection with Minute 31 Section 106 Monies, Councillor Scicluna asked about the proposal for a swing for wheelchair bound people as it was not included in the list of Section 106 projects listed in the Minutes. Councillor Plowman advised that project listed were all highway related projects that required a certain degree of design work before any of them progressed.

Councillor Scicluna commented on the last paragraph in Minute 34 Localism which related to the possibility of changes to the number of Councillors and was surprised this was being discussed. Councillors Plowman and Evans explained that demographics of the City would be changing with new developments and the if the District Council were considering changing boundaries then this would affect parish councils.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Plowman, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2014 be approved and adopted.

54 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from representatives on Outside Bodies.

55 WARD REPORTS FROM CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

There were no reports from Chichester City Council members.

56 REPORTS FROM CHICHESTER DISTRICT AND WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S
WARD MEMBERS

Councillor T Dignum, as a District Councillor and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance advised that the District Council's Council Tax would be frozen for the forthcoming year; the New Homes Bonus allocation for Chichester City would be £170,000 and that the Council Tax Grant would continue to be passed onto parishes, albeit at the on-going reduced level as received by Chichester District Council.

West Sussex County Councillor Simon Oakley spoke about drainage works being carried out on roundabouts on the A27 and parking issues that were still on-going in the City. He also said that he hoped that the City Council would be able to work together on the West Sussex County Council's project of resurfacing the access road to Florence Park Pavilion and car park, off Pound Farm Road

West Sussex County Councillor Margaret Evans advised on the works connected with the new footbridge at Whyke Road roundabout and highway improvement works at Cathedral Way. Councillor Evans also spoke about the petition being raised for the installation of a crossing near Rumboldshwhyke School.

57 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2015/2016

A draft Calendar of Meetings 2015/2016 was circulated to all members with the Agenda.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Calendar of Meetings 2015/2016 be approved and adopted.

58 QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the Council pursuant to Standing Order 24.

59 COMMON SEAL

RESOLVED that the Common Seal be affixed to any documents necessary to give effect to the resolutions passed at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.