

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2015 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Apel, P M Budge, P Evans, Galloway, Holman, Macey and Sharp
- EX-OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor P Budge)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Tupper)
Councillors Dignum and Kilby
- ALSO PRESENT : Councillors T French, Plowman and Scicluna
Ray Brown - Friends of Chartres
Graham Pound - Friends of Valletta
- APOLOGIES : Councillor J French
Brenda Gay - Friends of Ravenna
Sussex Police
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk and Administration Manager

28 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 August 2015, having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman was authorised to sign the same as a correct record.

29 POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

(a) General Update for Sussex Police

There was no representative from Sussex Police at the meeting.

(b) Community Wardens

Reports had been received from the Community Wardens representing the East, West and South Wards of the City and had been circulated to all members.

30 CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER

The Chairman welcomed Michael Rowland, Chichester District Council Emergency Planning Officer to the meeting. Mr Rowland gave a brief presentation on his role as Emergency Planning Officer and that he hoped to engage with the communities in the district via parish councils. He referred to the Sussex Resilience Forum website that gave useful information on how to protect yourself and property in emergency situations. Mr Rowland would make contact with the Property Manager.

31 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF FRIENDS OF CHARTRES AND RAVENNA

(a) Friends of Chartres

The Friends of Chartres report had been circulated to all members and noted.

(b) Friends of Ravenna

The Friends of Ravenna report had been circulated to all members and noted.

(c) Friends of Valletta

The Friends of Valletta report had been circulated to all members and noted.

32 EUROPEAN WALLED TOWNS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER - SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2015 IN RAVENNA

Councillor Scicluna declared a Personal Interest in this matter as Vice-President of the European Walled Towns.

A report produced by Councillors T French and Scicluna had been circulated to all members with the Agenda that outlined the matters that had been discussed at the Annual General Meeting. The association had felt that a re-organisation was required to take it forward and to work for the benefit of the people of the walled towns as over the last few years the main aim and objectives of the association had appeared to be lost. It was hoped this fresh start would reinvigorate the association.

Councillor Apel commented on the low number of European member towns attending the Annual General Meeting.

33 CHICHESTER TRADERS MARKET AND CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk's report on this matter had been circulated to all members with the Agenda.

The report outlined Chichester District Council's intention to retain the traders market in the Cattle Market Car Park on a Saturday and 'road test' a market in the City Centre precinct on Wednesdays and this was supported. The new market on a Wednesday would be operated by a different market trader to the Saturday market operator. It was noted that if a regular Saturday market was held in the City Centre precinct this would preclude events, for example a Gala, Freedom Parades, etc, taking place on a Saturday - this would be for discussion at a later date.

The Committee noted that Chichester District Council's Task & Finish Group also supported the request from BID for Crane Street and the southern end of St Martins's Street to be made consent streets.

Chichester District Council's Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 3 November 2015 would be considering this matter further.

34 DRAFT CHICHESTER INFRASTRUCTURE BUSINESS PLAN

Chichester City Council had been invited to comment on the draft Chichester Infrastructure Business Plan and the projects prioritised for CIL funding. The consultation runs for a six week period from 1 October 2015 to 12 November 2015.

This item had previously been discussed by the Planning & Conservation Committee on Wednesday 21 October 2015 (Minute 52 refers).

The Committee had no comments to make on the document.

35 ROYAL GALA 2016

The Town Clerk advised that a date in mid-June 2016 had been highlighted for a Royal Gala to be organised to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

It was RESOLVED that officers produce a plan for the Royal Gala in June 2016 and report back at the next meeting.

36 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

The Town Clerk explained that City Council officers had meet with the manager of the Novium and had discussed part of the foyer area in the Council House being a Visitor Information Point. Further officer actions and discussions needed to take place but improved lighting in the foyer area had already been investigated.

37 OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATION

(i) Chichester Vision Steering Group

Councillors Kilby, Plowman, Scicluna and Sharp had expressed an interest as the City Council's representative on Chichester District Council's Chichester Vision Steering Group.

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Kilby be the City Council's representative and that Councillor Galloway be substitute. The first meeting of the Steering Group was being held on Thursday 29 October 2015 and Councillor Kilby would be attending.

It was noted that Chichester City Council's officer representatives on the Chichester District Council's Chichester Vision Officer Project Team would be the Administration Manager and the Property Manager.

(ii) Chichester City Council Chichester Vision Working Group

It was RESOLVED that Councillors P Evans, Galloway, Kilby, Plowman, Scicluna and Sharp be members of the Chichester City Council Chichester Vision Working Group.

Post Meeting Note : Councillor Plowman has requested that Councillor Joy take his place on this Working Group.

(iii) Arun Valley Community Rail Partnership

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Sharp be the City Council's representative on the Arun Valley Community Rail Partnership and that they be advised accordingly.

38 CHICHESTER IN BLOOM

(i) City Centre Floral Displays 2015 and 2016

The Administration Manager advised that the Winter City Centre floral displays had now been planted up by Ferring Nurseries following on from the successful Summer floral displays. To date the expenditure for the 2015 floral display was £21,799.29 on a budget figure of £25,000 with an expected income of £4,230 due from businesses taking part in the hanging basket scheme.

The City Centre floral displays for 2016 would be progressed in the new year and as always it was hoped that more businesses would take part in the hanging basket scheme and that maybe floral displays on public conveniences in the City could be re-instated.

It was RESOLVED that officers open negotiations with West Sussex County Council and Chichester Cathedral about improving the Cathedral beds in West Street. An estimate for supplying plants and maintenance to the Cathedral beds had been received from Ferring Nurseries.

The Committee considered that continuing the floral displays and improvement of the Cathedral beds could be an important part of 'Chichester Vision' and in improving the public realm.

(ii) Schools Competition - Way Ahead

Councillor Plowman and Geoff King had produced a report on the future of the Schools Competition and this had been circulated to all members with the Agenda.

The Administration Manager advised that the Schools Competition 2015 had only received four entrants and due to the low number of children planning to attend the Awards Ceremony at the beginning of November, the Ceremony had been cancelled. The Mayor would be visiting the schools that took part in the competition and would be presenting them with their prizes during school assemblies.

The Committee were advised that over the past 5 years, the number of schools participating in the City Council's Schools Competition had fluctuated; the reason for this was unknown. Members discussed that schools were under pressure with other curriculum requirements. It was noted that each year the Mayor's Secretary/Administrative Assistant and Mr King would visit all the City schools promoting the competition.

Councillor Plowman said that it would be sad if the Schools Competition did not continue and that gardening and environmental awareness were an important part of a child's life but he recognised the pressure schools are under.

It was RESOLVED that the officers contact all the City schools and meet with them in the new year to gauge their interest in the City Council's Schools Competition and if the interest was not there, then the competition would cease.

39 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

- Policing & Security in the City
- Reports from Friends of Chartres & Ravenna & Valletta
- Tourist Information Centre
- Gala 2016
- Chichester in Bloom
- Schools Competition

The meeting ended at 7.02pm.