



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICHESTER HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM
AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, NORTH STREET, CHICHESTER
ON WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2016 AT 6.00PM**

- PRESENT : The Mayor (Councillor P Budge)
Councillors Apel, Dignum, T French, Galloway, Holman, Joy, Keyworth,
Kilby, Macey, Scicluna, Sharp and Tupper
- APOLOGIES : The Deputy Mayor (Councillor P Evans)
Councillors Bell, P M Budge, M Evans, J French and Plowman
- ABSENT : Councillor Dempster
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk, Administration Manager, Mayor's Chaplain and Macebearer

42 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 September 2016 and the Minutes of the Council-in-Committee Meeting held on 5 October 2016 and the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 26 October 2016, having been printed and circulated be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record.

43 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor wished all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and reminded members of a Carol Service at Chichester Cathedral on Tuesday 20 December 2016 at 6pm.

44 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public being resident of the City.

45 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

(a) Community Affairs Committee

It was moved by Councillor Galloway, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

Councillor French commented on Minute 26 Discretionary Grant 2016/2017 as he thought all Grant Applications were dealt with by the Community Affairs Committee twice a year. He was advised that the Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester application had been considered at the 12 September meeting due to exceptional circumstances and this would not be setting a precedent.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Galloway, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

(b) Planning & Conservation Committee

It was moved by Councillor Keyworth, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Keyworth, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

(c) Finance Committee

It was moved by Councillor Dignum, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October be approved and adopted.

Councillor Dignum gave an update on the various projects the City Council were currently undertaken. With regard to Minute 43 Seats in the City Centre, members were advised that since the meeting in October 2016, another contractor had been sought for the supply of seats in the City Centre (of the same standard) at a lower cost. An order had not been placed with the contractor named in the Minute and therefore there was no contractual obligation.

Councillor Tupper asked if the seats outside the former Post Office building in West Street would be replaced and was advised they would be replaced.

Councillor Kilby commented on Minute 50 Chichester Vision, and advised that the City Council's Chichester Vision Working Group would be meeting on Thursday 22 December to discuss and comment on the 'Chichester Vision - Consultation Draft' document. The Working Group does not have executive powers and therefore a Full Council meeting will be arranged to finalise the City Council's response. A Public Consultation on 'Chichester Vision' was planned for the end of January 2017.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk be a member of the City Council's Chichester Vision Working Group as he was also a member of the Chichester Vision Steering Group along with Councillor Kilby.

In Minute 50 a list of monies that had been committed by the City Council for improving the public realm would be publicised.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Dignum, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2016 be approved and adopted.

(d) Planning & Conservation Committee

It was moved by Councillor Keyworth, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2016 be approved and adopted.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Keyworth, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2016 be approved and adopted.

(e) Community Affairs Committee

It was moved by Councillor Galloway, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2016 be approved and adopted.

Councillor Macey commented on Minute 31 Cycling in the Precinct, and said the statement about West Sussex County Council looking into this matter was incorrect. For the matter to be investigated further a request was required from the City Council; the Town Clerk advised that this matter had already been discussed with West Sussex County Council but the request would now be formalised.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Galloway, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2016 be approved and adopted.

(f) Planning & Conservation Committee

It was moved by Councillor Keyworth, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016 be approved and adopted.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Keyworth, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016 be approved and adopted.

(g) Finance Committee

It was moved by Councillor Dignum, as Chairman of the Committee, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2016 be approved and adopted excluding the Recommendation in Minute 65 which would be discussed separately.

Councillor Dignum commented on Minute 63 Keats Sculpture, and advised that the money raised to date had increased to £5,215.83. It appeared that some of the shortfall may be met by Chichester District Council from Section 106 monies for public art.

Councillor Dignum explained that the Finance Committee would be discussing the Local Authority Property Fund (Minute 66 refers) further at the next meeting and the Finance Manager would be producing a report on the future of the City Council's investments.

It was RESOLVED that the original motion put by Councillor Dignum, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2016 be approved and adopted.

Councillor Dignum drew the Council's attention to the following Recommendation :

Minute 65 Budget 2017/2018

It was RECOMMENDED to full Council that the City Council's Budget for 2017/2018 be £744,440 resulting in a Precept Demand of £533,235 and a Band D Council Tax Payment of £49.76. After taking the tax base (10,715.10 Band D equivalent properties) into account, this would result in an increase of £1.46 or less than 3p per week for Band D taxpayers. In terms of percentage this was 3.02%.

Councillor Dignum said that the budget had been prepared to reflect the City Council's intention of maintaining its assets and making the City more attractive its contribution to the Chichester Vision being developed by Chichester District Council, West Sussex County Council and the City Council with other stakeholders. The budget also maintained Earmarked Reserves for specific projects. Some budgets had been increased whilst some had been decreased, however the Finance Manager had produced a well-balanced budget.

It was therefore RESOLVED that the City Council's Budget for 2017/2018 be £744,440 resulting in a Precept Demand of £533,235 and a Band D Council Tax Payment of £49.76. After taking the tax base (10,715.10 Band D equivalent properties) into account, this would result in an increase of £1.46 or less than 3p per week for Band D taxpayers. In terms of percentage this was 3.02%.

Members requested a Vote of Thanks be minuted to the Officers for preparing the 2017/2018 budget.

46 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Mayor, as the City Council's representative on the Goodwood Airfield Consultative Committee, advised that he had attended a recently held meeting and that the airfield was continuing to operate within its limits.

Councillor Scicluna, as the City Council's representative on the Friends of Ravenna Executive Committee said there had been an enjoyable visit to Ravenna in October to celebrate the 20th anniversary of twinning between Ravenna and Chichester.

Councillor Tupper, as the City Council's representative on the Sussex Rural Community Council (Transport) advised that he had been unable to attend a recent meeting due to a train strike but had had no acknowledgement of his apologies.

Councillor French, as the City Council's representative on the West Sussex Association of Local Councils had attended the Annual General Meeting at Lodge Hill and had passed all the appropriate papers to the Officers.

47 WARD REPORTS FROM CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Mayor, as a North Ward member, commented that he had chaired the North Ward Neighbourhood Management Panel and that the meeting had been attended by Inspector Kris Ottery of Sussex Police who explained the new structure of Sussex Police. An issue raised at the meeting was the increase in number of rough sleepers appearing in the City.

Councillor Tupper, as a South Ward member, had attended the South Chichester Neighbourhood Panel meeting and a police representative had also been present at that meeting. The main concern raised at the meeting was in connection with anti-social drinking in the Amphitheatre area.

Councillor Sharp, as a South Ward member, said that she had been asked to ask why the Wednesday street market could not trade in the Cattle Market Car Park while the Christmas Market had been in North and East Streets. Councillor Sharp also commented on the footpath in the Winden Avenue, Quest Close and Liberator Place area.

Councillor Apel, as a West Ward member, commented that whilst the Whitehouse Farm development had been approved by Chichester District Council, residents were concerned over the increase of pollution in the area the development would cause. Without a Southern access road the construction traffic would be using the current road system which passed schools and residential properties.

Councillors Keyworth and Scicluna left the meeting.

Members had a very extensive debate about this matter, especially as current air pollution was quite high in Chichester and it was **RESOLVED** that the City Council write to Chichester District Council's Environmental Health Department seeking an explanation of their no objection on the high level of pollution expected from the Whitehouse Farm development. It was noted that a number of parties had an interest in land affecting the Southern access, namely the County Council, Network Rail and Bishop Luffa School.

It was also **RESOLVED** to write letters to West Sussex County Council and the developers urging the urgent provision of a Southern access to alleviate nuisance and pollution.

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

There were no reports from Chichester District and West Sussex County Council's Ward Members.

49 EXTENSION OF ABSENCE FOR COUNCILLOR JO FRENCH

Councillor T French declared a Personal Interest in this matter as father of Councillor Jo French.

A Report of the Town Clerk had been circulated to all members with the Agenda outlining Councillor Jo French's request for an extension of absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 due to her inability to attend City Council meetings caused by her employment abroad and associated business pressures.

It was RESOLVED that due to exceptional circumstances the extension of absence be granted until 1 April 2017.

50 CHICHESTER DISTRICT (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION)
(VARIATION NO 1) ORDER 2017

A Dispensation from Chichester District Council had been granted to allow Councillors Apel, Budge, Dignum, French, Galloway, Kilby, Macey and Plowman to speak on this matter. The Dispensation was applicable from 9 December 2016 until 31 December 2016.

Councillor Dignum, as Leader of Chichester District Council, advised that parking charges in Chichester were satisfactory compared with other areas but appreciated that raising car park charges was never popular. The two car parks namely Northgate and New Park Centre would have parking charges introduced between 6pm and 8pm from April 2017 for a trial period. He also referred to the new ways of paying car park charges which were being introduced.

Members discussed the proposed charges and concerns were raised on matters concerning why the two car parks were being targeted for the trial, any charges would be detrimental to the night time economy of the City, the different user groups of the two car parks would be effected in different ways, signage should be visible if the charges are introduced to avoid Penalty Notices being produced and an initial "amnesty" of warning notices be used for non-compliance and whether the number of Enforcement Officers need to be increased to ensure charges were being adhered to.

Councillor Dignum acknowledged the concerns raised.

It was RESOLVED that the City Council's response to Chichester District (Off-Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) (Variation No 1) Order 2017 is to object to the proposal, especially the extension of parking charges in the two car parks of New Park Road and Northgate. Councillors were concerned about the impact upon the night time economy and question why these car parks have been selected as opposed to all the City car parks. It was felt that two quite different clientele were being targeted between, principally Festival Theatre audiences and users of New Park Road. Also, consideration to be given to initial tolerance in enforcement in the first weeks of operation with those who do not comply with the proposed parking charges being issued with a 'warning ticket' as opposed to being issued with a Penalty Charge Notice and that maximum publicity and signage is given to inform car park users of changes.

51 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2017/2018

It was RESOLVED that the Calendar of Meetings 2017/2018 circulated to all members with the Agenda be approved.

52 QUESTIONS

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

53 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 7.44pm.