

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Apel, Galloway (Chairman), Macey, Sharp and Tupper
- EX-OFFICIO : Deputy Mayor (Councillor P Evans)
Councillors Dignum and Kilby
- ALSO PRESENT : Councillor Plowman
Ray Brown - Friends of Chartres
Brenda Gay - Friends of Ravenna
Colin Hicks - Friends of Brewery Field
Edward Cooke - Solicitor
Sara Fildes - Solicitor
- APOLOGIES : The Mayor (Councillor P Budge)
Councillors P M Budge, J French and Holman
Graham Pound - Friends of Valletta
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk and Administration Manager

15 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings held on 13 June and 18 July 2016, having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman was authorised to sign the same as a correct record.

16 CLOSURE OF CHICHESTER COURTS - UPDATE

The Town Clerk explained that an initial date of 8 September 2016 had been agreed to hold a Public Meeting to discuss the closure of Chichester Courts. However, this date was then not convenient to all parties and another date of 27 September 2016 was suggested for the meeting. During the early part of September it had been announced by Central Government that the Chichester Courts would close.

Mr Cooke circulated at the meeting a chronological schedule dating back to July 2015 when the closure of the courts was first announced and all the subsequent correspondences between the Law Society, Ministry of Justice, and HMCTS. Mr Cooke advised that the latest letter received from the Local Leadership Group, which had been established to look into the closure of the courts, stated that the proposals put forward were unable to be responded to by the Local Leadership Group as they were 'not within the remit of the Group to respond' and that the proposals had 'come too late'. A meeting with the Secretary of State for Justice would be sought.

It was felt that any Public Meeting held now would be to discuss and query the transparency of the decision that had been made as opposed to discussing the closure of the courts. Invitations would be extended to the relevant Sussex Members of Parliament and the MP for Havant 'due to a suggestion that court cases from Chichester might be heard at Havant Court. The meeting would be chaired by the Mayor of Chichester.

Councillor Apel proposed and was duly seconded that a Public Meeting to discuss the actions of the Ministry of Justice and HMCTS be held on Tuesday 27 September 2016 at 6.30pm in the Assembly Room.

17 POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

(a) General Update for Sussex Police

There was no Sussex Police representative at the meeting. However, Chief Inspector Justin Burtenshaw had been invited to attend the meeting but was unable to do so but it is hoped that he can attend the next Community Affairs Committee Meeting on 31 October 2016.

(b) Community Wardens

A Report had been received from the Community Warden representing the West Ward of the City and had been circulated to all members.

The Chairman welcomed Chichester District Council Communities Interventions Manager, Pam Bushby to the meeting. Ms Bushby was able to explain that the new policing structure was having an effect on police attendance at the Neighbourhood Management Panels and the community side of policing in the City. PCSO's were being trained to use Chibac Radios so they would be able to work in the City Centre and be connected to the Chibac scheme.

The anti-social behaviour taking place at the Roman Amphitheatre was being monitored and all agencies involved with crime prevention were part of an Action Plan for the area.

18 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.

19 REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF BREWERY FIELD

The Chairman welcomed Colin Hicks, Chairman of the Friends of Brewery Field to the meeting. A report produced by Mr Hicks had been circulated to members of the Committee. Residents were happy that the City Council had taken over the responsibility of the open space. However, engagement with the surrounding community about being involved with the field was progressing slowly. Complaints had been received about litter even though new litter bins had been installed.

A report from the Friends of Brewery Field would be a standing agenda item for all forthcoming Community Affairs Committee meetings; Mr Hicks would be invited to attend the meetings.

20 VISIT TO THE MECHANICAL BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT PLANT (MBT) AT BROOKHURSTWOOD, WARNHAM

Councillor Sharp explained that she had been asked to help organise a visit to the Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant at Warnham, nr Horsham on Thursday 20 October 2016. Members were advised to contact Councillor Sharp direct if they wished to attend the visit.

21 POST OFFICE CONSULTATION

The Committee noted the consultation feedback on the decision taken by Post Office Limited to proceed with the proposal to move Chichester Post Office into the WHSmith store at 9 North Street, Chichester known as British Bookshops Stationers where it would continue to be operated by Post Office Limited. The new relocated Post Office would open on Thursday 6 October 2016.

Members were disappointed that it appeared that local representations about the closure of the Post Office in West Street and the points raised about the unsuitability of the new premises in North Street had been ignored.

22 CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL'S ALL PARISHES MEETING WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2016

It was RESOLVED that Councillors Tupper and Sharp would be the City Council's representatives at Chichester District Council's All Parishes Meeting on Wednesday 28 September 2016.

23 CHICHESTER IN BLOOM

(i) City Centre Floral Displays

The Administration Manager advised that favourable comments had been received from members of the public on the City Centre Summer floral displays. A total of 101 hanging baskets had been supplied to businesses.

The floral displays would be removed towards the end of September 2016 when the Autumn/Winter displays would be planted up.

(ii) Improvements to other landscaped areas in the City

The Committee noted the Licence Agreement from West Sussex County Council about the City Council maintaining areas in the City had now been received. A resident would be supplying over 200 spring bulbs for planting at Northgate and the City Council would help these to be planted.

(iii) Schools Competition

The Mayoral/Administrative Assistant's report had been circulated to all members with the Agenda. The Chairman commented that he had had an enjoyable day visiting and judging the schools and it was apparent the schools valued the competition. All schools had been notified of the results and the Mayor would be visiting the schools to present awards later in October.

24 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

- Review of Discretionary Grant Guidelines
- Update on the Closure of Chichester Courts

25 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT) 1960

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from this meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted namely financial and business affairs of third parties

26 DISCRETIONARY GRANTS 2016/2017

(a) Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester

It was RESOLVED that a grant of £2,500 be awarded to Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester for continuation of their core services.

The meeting ended at 6.56pm.