

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 20 MARCH 2017 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Apel, Galloway (Chairman), J French, Holman, Macey, Sharp and Tupper
- EX-OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor P Budge)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor P Evans)
Councillor Dignum
- ALSO PRESENT : Councillors Bell and Plowman
Julia Sander - Friends of Chartres
Brenda Gay - Friends of Ravenna
Graham Pound - Friends of Valletta
Edward Cooke - Solicitor
Graham Hicks - Chairman of the Friends of The Brewery Field
- ABSENT : Councillor Keyworth
- IN ATTENDANCE : Administration Manager

53 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings held on 9 January and 13 February 2017, having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman was authorised to sign the same as a correct record.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

Councillors Apel, P Budge, Galloway, Macey and Plowman declared an interest as members of Chichester District Council. Councillor Sharp declared an interest as a member of Whyke Residents.

55 POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

(a) General Update for Sussex Police

There was no representative of Sussex Police present at the meeting.

(b) Community Wardens

Reports from the East, South and West Ward Community Wardens had been received and circulated to all members.

The Chairman welcomed Pam Bushby, Chichester District Council's Intervention Manager, and Senior Community Warden Declan Moody to the meeting. Mrs Bushby explained that Mr Moody was currently covering the City Centre area and working with the various agencies on any issues that arose.

Mrs Bushby commented on current issues in the City that the Community Wardens were dealing with from anti-social graffiti to an increase in fly tipping. Members raised other issues in the City that the wardens may not be aware of and these were noted by Mrs Bushby.

Councillor Sharp requested that she would like to spend a day with the South Ward Community Warden and this would be arranged.

56 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. The new Chairman, Julia Sander, was welcomed to the meeting.

(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.

57 REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE BREWERY FIELD

The Chairman welcomed Colin Hicks to the meeting. Mr Hicks advised that the community adjacent to the Brewery Field were not taking on the ethos of a proactive friends group and therefore asked the City Council to consider the group be disbanded with all future communications and correspondences on the field being dealt with through the Officers of the City Council.

It was agreed to support the suggestion of Mr Hicks that all future communications and correspondences on this matter be dealt with by the Officers of the City Council.

Mr Hicks explained that a Family Fun Day would be held on Sunday 18 May 2017 from midday on The Brewery Field; this event would coincide with the nationwide 'Big Lunch' event. Dray horses had been booked for the event and the appropriate insurances connected with such an event were being sought from organisations involved with the event.

The Mayor suggested other events that could be considered to ensure the space is used, such as open air opera and screening of films.

The Committee thanked Mr Hicks for his committed involvement over the past months with the Friends of The Brewery Field.

58 CLOSURE OF CHICHESTER COURTS - UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Edward Cooke to the meeting. Mr Cooke explained that there had been a meeting of the Local Leadership Group (who are tasked by the Courts to make recommendations) on Tuesday 7 March 2017 and Chichester's proposal to keep a justice provision in the City was put forward and a decision was anticipated on that date. However, the outcome of that meeting is still unclear and a formal response is awaited.

An article had appeared in the 'Chichester Observer' on Thursday 16 March 2017 reporting the closure of the Crown Court on Friday 17 March 2017. This was in conflict with the closure notice previously submitted which stated an alternative provision had to be in place before the court closed. Mr Cooke had not been informed of this article before it was printed.

A Freedom of Information request had been submitted to the Ministry of Justice and the response received did not give an explanation as to why advice previously given was changed.

A Judicial Review was still an option although costly and appropriate funds would need to be raised.

It was RESOLVED that the City Council write a letter to the Secretary of Justice expressing their concern over the removal of justice provision in Chichester and that if this does not prove successful a deputation to No 10 Downing Street would be arranged. Councillor P Evans would liaise with Mr Cooke on drafting the letter which would be signed by the Mayor of Chichester.

59 FIRE SAFETY FRIENDS OF RUSSIA

The City Council's representative, Mr Chris Holgate, was unable to attend the meeting but had forwarded an Annual Report highlighting the many activities that had taken place between Chichester and the Fire Safety Friends of Russia based in Kursk during the past year.

It was RESOLVED that Mr Chris Holgate continue as the City Council's representative on this organisation.

60 CYCLING IN THE PRECINCT - UPDATE

The Administration Manager advised that the City Council had submitted an application to West Sussex County Council for amending the current prohibition times of cycling in the City Centre (9.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday) be changed to include Sundays. However, the City Council was advised to re-submit the application with further information; this has since been carried out and a response awaited.

61 ADOPTING A PHONE BOX

Councillor Sharp reported on the Whyke Community wishing to adopt the BT Phone Box outside the old Railway Tavern in Whyke Road.

The Administration Manager advised that Chichester District Council had submitted an objection to the removal of the telephony at this location which then prevented the phone box being adopted, the District Council could withdraw their objection to allow adoption to take place.

Councillor Sharp said that since requesting this item be included on the Agenda for this meeting no further action was required on this matter.

62 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2018

Councillors Bell and Apel advised that for the past three years the City Council had been supportive of the events arranged to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and would wish for this support to continue. It was anticipated that future Holocaust Memorial Days would include remembering other violations of human rights that have occurred since 1945.

It was RESOLVED that the City Council continue supporting in principle the commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day.

63 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2018

The Committee were advised that the City Council had been in contact with the Royal Sussex Regimental Association about their plans for Remembrance Sunday 2018 and it had been agreed by the Town Clerk and the Association's representative, Mr Dave Tilley, that some of the suggested ideas could be incorporated within the City Council's Annual Remembrance Sunday Service.

It was stressed that Remembrance Sunday was an occasion and not an event and as it was a Civic occasion, any future discussions would come under the remit of the Finance Committee.

Councillor Plowman spoke on the Friends of Priory Park event 'Priory Park 100' which commemorates the centenary of the Park being given to the City of Chichester by the 7th Duke of Richmond and Gordon. The event would be held for nine days in September 2018 culminating in an outdoor Evensong, Drumhead Ceremony on 30 September 2018.

The Friends of Priory Park were willing to discuss with the Royal Sussex Regimental Association any ideas that they have and which may be able to be included in the 'Priory Park 100' event.

64 CHICHESTER IN BLOOM

The Administration Manager said that Ferring Nurseries quotation for the Summer and Winter floral displays in Chichester City Centre was awaited. The application forms for the Summer Hanging Basket Scheme had been distributed to businesses and works to the Cathedral Beds would commence soon.

The Committee were also advised that the Mayoral/Administrative Assistant had sent out the application forms for the 2017 Schools Competition which this year would include a competition to grow the tallest sunflower. To date only one school had returned an application form but the closing date was mid May. The Schools Competition Judging Day would be on Thursday 13 July 2017.

65 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

- Update on the Closure of Chichester Courts
- Cycling in the City Centre
- Priory Park 100 Event

66 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.

67 DISCRETIONARY GRANT APPLICATION 2016/2017

It was RESOLVED that a grant of £500 be awarded to the Rotary Club of Chichester for their 'Blood Pressure Awareness Day' in April 2017.

Therefore, a balance of £9,842 remained in the Discretionary Grant Budget 2016/2017 and would be the subject of discussion at the next Finance Committee on Tuesday 28 March 2017

The meeting ended at 7.17pm.