

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2014 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Evans and Macey
- EX-OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor Hughes)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Siggs)
Councillor Plowman
- ALSO PRESENT : Councillors Campling and P Dignum
PC Upton - Sussex Police
Graham Pound - Friends of Valletta
Brenda Gay - Friends of Ravenna
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk and Administration Manager
- APOLOGIES : Councillors Apel, Budge, Holman and Woolley

45 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 October 2013, having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman.

46 POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

(a) General Update for Sussex Police

The Chairman welcomed PC Upton to the meeting.

PC Upton reported on a successful of Operation Tinsel over the Christmas which had resulted in the recovery of over £3,000 worth of goods and twenty six arrests.

The recent murder incident in Bosham had been a draw down on resources and police officers from the City had been temporarily relocated to Bosham.

PC Upton spoke on the 'Street Community' initiative which helped vulnerable people living on the streets to be homed or help find them accommodation at local hostels.

(b) Community Wardens

The Community Wardens were unable to attend the meeting but Reports had been submitted by Sue Long, Community Warden for the West Ward and Jon Logan, Community Warden for Chichester East and Whyke Estate; both Reports had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

The Community Wardens reports were noted.

47 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.

48 WALLED TOWNS SYMPOSIUM 2014 - UPDATE

The Town Clerk confirmed that the 24th European Walled Towns Symposium would be held in Chichester between Tuesday 2 September and Saturday 6 September 2014. A draft programme was currently being devised and representatives from the Walled Towns would be visiting Chichester in February.

49 KURSK REPRESENTATIVE

Councillor Campling had produced a report which outlined a proposal for the appointment of an unpaid Honorary Representative of Chichester City Council to its partner City Council of Kursk to further partnership and friendship links between Chichester and Kursk.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Mr Christopher Holgate be the Honorary Representative of Chichester City Council to the City of Kursk. A token of identification for Mr Holgate would be investigated, for example, a badge.

50 WHYKE ESTATE COMMUNITY BUILDING - FEASIBILITY REPORT

All members had been emailed the Feasibility Report prepared by John Bloomfield of Harrington Design and Bloomfield Ltd on the proposed Whyke Estate Community Building and asked to comment on it.

Councillor P Dignum reported that there had now been changes to the Chairmanship of the Whyke Estate Community Association following a meeting held in December that had been acrimonious for those who had attended to hear the presentation by John Bloomfield on the proposed Community Building at Whyke.

Under the new Chairmanship of the Association a different approach was now being taken and a new constitution was being drawn up for the Association. With regards to the proposals for a Community Centre in Whyke, a written questionnaire for all the residents to complete would be circulated to ascertain the comments from all residents of the area as opposed to those who attended the meeting in December 2013.

It was RESOLVED to note Councillor P Dignum's comments and the Feasibility Report produced by Harrington Design and Bloomfield Ltd and wait for the comments from the Whyke Residents on the proposed Community Centre.

51 STREET LICENSING ACTIVITIES - UPDATE

The Town Clerk reminded the Committee of the Resolution contained in Minute 39 of the last meeting which had subsequently been approved and adopted by the City Council :

“RESOLVED that the Town Clerk approach Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council requesting the administration involved with Charitable Street Collections, Street Trading Consents, Busking, and Pre-Planned Activities on the Highway become the responsibility of Chichester City Council.”

The Town Clerk subsequently discussed this matter further with Officers of West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council.

As far as West Sussex County Council were concerned, there was a positive reaction to the City Council administering licensing activities in the City Centre, eg. Busking, pre-planned events on the highway.

If the City Council wished to pursue this the County Officers would take the matter forward for member consideration with a positive recommendation. The City Centre Partnership had also been discussing licensing matters with West Sussex County Council but the County had declined this approach as the City Centre Partnership was not a local authority.

A number of recent examples of ‘local knowledge benefit’ by City Council staff were given and which had received favourable comments from County Council colleagues.

With regard to the District Council, the Chief Executive had directed the Town Clerk to discuss the matter further with the outgoing Assistant Director, Matt China, and his successor Louise Rudziak. Whilst the Town Clerk said that he would be attending this meeting, he saw little real benefit (other than perhaps to provide updates) as the key issues had already been discussed both extensively and amicably between the Licensing Team at the District Council, the Town Clerk and Administration Manager, some considerable time ago. He expressed this view to Mr China. In order to obtain firm direction from District Council colleagues, the Town Clerk felt that the only course of action left would be to request District Council officers to report the key issues of these latest officer discussions to the appropriate District Councillor forum. Post Chichester District Councillor discussions the City Council would then have clear direction upon

- (a) whether or not this matter would proceed further, and
- (b) whether a joint or single authority approach would be pursued by the City Council.

It was RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the Town Clerk, at his forthcoming meeting with Chichester District Council officers request that the City Council’s position in Minute 39 of the Community Affairs Committee meeting held on 28 October 2013 be taken forward and given consideration by District Councillors.

52 CHICHESTER IN BLOOM

The Administration Manager confirmed that Chichester District Council would be contributing £5,000 towards the funding of the City Centre floral displays in 2014. Although Chichester would not be entering the South & South East in Bloom Competition, the ‘Chichester in Bloom’ initiative would still be promoted and the high standard of floral displays continued with hopefully more displays around the City.

The Committee were asked to consider waiving Standing Order 71(a)(iv), the requirement to obtain at least three written tenders if the proposed contract exceeds £10,000, so that Ferring Nurseries who have provided and maintained the City Centre floral displays in previous years be approached. The standard and track record of this contractor had helped Chichester achieve ‘Gold’ in the South & South East in Bloom Competition.

It was therefore RECOMMENDED to Full Council that Standing Order 71(a)(iv) be waived to enable a quote to be obtained from Ferring Nurseries who have provided and maintained the City Centre floral displays in previous years.

53 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITEES/WORKING GROUPS

(a) World War One Commemoration Working Group

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2014 having been circulated be approved.

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

- Policing & Security in the City
- Reports from Friends of Chartres & Ravenna & Valletta

The meeting ended at 6.58pm.