

## CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 30 MARCH 2015 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Apel, Budge, Evans, Holman and Macey
- EX-OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor Hughes)  
Councillors Plowman and Woolley
- ALSO PRESENT : Councillor Scicluna - Friends of Ravenna  
Julia Sander - Friends of Chartres  
Graham Pound - Friends of Valletta  
PC Alex Johnston - Sussex Police  
David Geering - representing Network Rail
- APOLOGIES : Deputy Mayor (Councillor Siggs)  
Brenda Gay - Friends of Ravenna  
Jon Logan - Community Warden, Chichester District Council  
Sue Long - Community Warden, Chichester District Council
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk and Administration Manager

#### 47 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 January 2015, having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman was authorised to sign the same as a correct record with the following amendments :

Minute 42 : Chichester in Bloom

Last paragraph “..... Chichester City Advisory Area Committee ...” to be changed to “... Chichester Conservation Area Advisory Committee ...”

Minute 43 : 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of George Murray

Add ‘Councillor Scicluna declared a Personal Interest in the item.’

It was further RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 16 February 2015. Having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman was authorised to sign the same as a correct record.

#### 48 FISHBOURNE ROAD RAILWAY CROSSING - FOOTPATH CLOSURE

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr David Geering, representing Network Rail, to the meeting. Mr Geering explained that since the bridge over the Fishbourne Road Railway Crossing had been built, temporary closures had been obtained to close the footpath across the railway lines, however now a formal application was being made to the Magistrates Court to permanently close the footpath and that any application made required support both from the Parish Council and the District Council.

The Chairman read out representations that had been received by a resident as to why the footpath should remain open.

It was RESOLVED that Chichester City Council support the application to the Magistrates Court to permanently close the footpath at Fishbourne Road railway crossing.

Mr Geering confirmed that the bridge route would become the responsibility of the Highways Agency and Network Rail would maintain the structure.

The issue of litter collecting in the area of land in the ownership of the County Council between Centurion Way and the railway chain link fence boundary was still occurring and Mr Geering explained that it was hoped that Network Rail would release a key to the gates at the land so that periodic clearances can take place. Councillor Evans would investigate this further.

#### 49 POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

##### (a) General Update for Sussex Police

The Chairman welcomed PC Alex Johnston to the meeting who advised that the City Centre had three full time Police Officers and two Police Community Support Officers.

The Committee were advised of statistical information relating to crime in Chichester district and although there were slight increases in some aspects of crime this was possibly due to the different way the crime had been recorded.

PC Johnston explained that with effectiveness of a manned CCTV in the City Centre and Chibac and Pubwatch, Sussex Police had one of the highest success rates for solving shoplifting and other related crimes in the City.

Over the Easter period the Police would be undertaking several 'operations' to increase the awareness of financial scams on vulnerable people and car thefts at beauty spot car parks.

The Town Clerk raised the issue of the increase in homeless people sleeping under the Portico of the Council House and the clearing up the staff had to do each morning. PC Johnston explained that many of the homeless people were aware of the services available to them but chose not to use them and with changes in legislation effecting accommodation at Stonepillow, homeless people were being displaced around the City.

The Chairman suggested that at a further Community Affairs Committee meeting, the Chief Executive or a member of the senior management of Stonepillow be invited to the meeting and give a presentation on the services offered.

Members asked questions regarding problems occurring with on-street parking but were advised that the police would only remove vehicles causing an obstruction and that other issues would need to be dealt with by the Civil Enforcement Officers. It was agreed that parking in the City needed an overhaul.

##### (b) Community Wardens

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

#### 50 CHIEF CONSTABLE AND PCC'S BRIEFING - WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2015

A Public Meeting was being held in the Assembly Room on Wednesday 1 April 2015 whereby questions could be put to the Sussex Police Chief Constable, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and West Sussex Divisional Commander; members were encouraged to attend.

#### 51 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.

52 TOWN TWINNING INVITATION

The Committee were advised that an invitation to twin with the City of Baesweiler in Germany had been received.

The Committee were split on the way this invitation should be dealt with, the two views were to recommend the invitation to twin be considered (with the one relating to Valletta) in the new administration or write a letter thanking Baesweiler for the invitation but it would be declined.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write to the City of Baesweiler in Germany thanking them for their kind invitation of a twinning but on this occasion the invitation would be declined.

53 CHARLES AVENUE COMMUNITY HUB

The matter would be deferred to the next Community Affairs Committee meeting but in the meantime the information received from Pam Bushby Communities Interventions Manager, Community Safety, Chichester District Council in connection with the Charles Avenue Community Hub would be forwarded to East Ward members.

54 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(a) Street Licensing Activities

(i) West Sussex County Council

The Town Clerk advised that information was still awaited from West Sussex County Council on the City Council undertaking the administration of Busking and Pre-Planned Activities on the Highway following a joint meeting in January 2015. Councillor Evans would follow this up.

(ii) Chichester District Council Relocation of Market

The Town Clerk advised that although the formal consultation from Chichester District Council was awaited on the relocation of the Market in the Cattle Market Car Park to North and East Streets in Chichester, it would be beneficial to ascertain the general views of the Committee. It was also noted that the District Council had established a Task & Finish Group for this matter.

Members had a general debate about the relocation of the Market but it was agreed that it would be inappropriate to speculate until the consultation documents were available.

It was noted that in the Chichester District Council's Cabinet Minutes of 3 March 2015 (Minute 736) it stated that prior to 2006 no markets had been held in the pedestrian precinct, this statement was incorrect as the City Council held successful markets in 2001 and 2002 in North and East Streets. Chichester District Council would be asked to amend the Minute.

(b) Residents' Associations

The Committee were advised that the informal gatherings of Residents' Associations were still taking place and that they would contact the City Council as appropriate if assistance was required.

55 CHICHESTER IN BLOOM

The Administration Manager reported that a quote had been received from Ferring Nurseries in the sum of £21,487.45

The City Council would take over the responsibility of the ten flower tower bases (4 Nr in North Street, 4 Nr in East Street and 2 Nr in South Street) and the two hexagonal planters in North Street from 1 April 2015.

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

- Policing & Security in the City
- Reports from Friends of Chartres & Ravenna & Valletta
- Street Licensing Activities
- Charles Avenue Community Hub
- Tourist Information Centre

The meeting ended at 6.45pm.