

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 13 JUNE 2016 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Apel, P M Budge, Galloway, Macey, Sharp and Tupper
- EX-OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor P Budge)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor P Evans)
Councillors Dignum and Kilby
- ALSO PRESENT : Councillor M Evans
Ray Brown - Friends of Chartres
Brenda Gay - Friends of Ravenna
Graham Pound - Friends of Valletta
- APOLOGIES : Councillors J French and Holman
- IN ATTENDANCE : Administration Manager

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was duly proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Councillor Galloway be elected Chairman of the Community Affairs Committee for the remainder of the year. There were no other nominations.

It was further proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Councillor Tupper be elected Vice-Chairman of the Community Affairs Committee for the remainder of the year. There were no other nominations.

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 April 2016, having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman was authorised to sign the same as a correct record.

3 POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

(a) General Update for Sussex Police

There was no Sussex Police representative at the meeting.

The Committee were aware that under the current restructuring of Sussex Police their presence at meetings were decreasing, however it was suggested that for the next Ordinary Meeting of the Committee in September 2016, the Chichester and Arun District Commander, Chief Inspector Justin Burtenshaw, be invited to the meeting.

Councillor Apel advised that some voluntary organisations that helped out in the community, such as the City Angels, were being asked to undertake some of the services previously dealt with by the police.

(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 commented on a recent press release in the 'Chichester Post' about the good work of the Community Wardens in the City. Councillor Apel added that she had regular monthly meetings with the West Ward Community Warden.

4 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.

5 CLOSURE OF CHICHESTER COURTS

Councillor Dignum explained that although meetings had taken place with local solicitors and a senior officer from the Ministry of Justice and alternative locations had been investigated, it appeared that there had been plans to close the Chichester Courts for many years but the reason for this was not known. A judicial review could be undertaken but no progress had been made in this matter.

Councillor Sharp advised that she had arranged a meeting to hand over 263 letters written in support of keeping the Chichester Courts, unfortunately the representative who met with Councillor Sharp could not guarantee the letters would be read and therefore the letters were withdrawn and not handed over. The advice Councillor Sharp had received was to contact Chichester MP Andrew Tyrie.

6 OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS 2016/2017

(i) Determination of Outside Body Appointments 2016/2017

A schedule of Outside Body Appointments 2016/2017 had been circulated to all members with the Agenda.

The Administration Manager advised that members had confirmed their continuation as the City Council's representatives on Outside Bodies and the following appointments were discussed and RESOLVED as follows :

Chichester Conservation Area Advisory Committee

The City Council's representative would be Councillor Scicluna.

Chichester Welfare Trusts

The City Council's representative would be Councillor Apel.

Rolls Royce

The Mayor in Office would be City Council's representative between the City Council and Rolls Royce.

St John's Chapel Trust

This was a 3-year appointment and the City Council can only put forward a nomination as the Trust would determine if the nomination is acceptable; Councillors T French and Scicluna would be the suggested City Council's representatives and St John's Chapel Trust would determine the representative.

St Wilfrid's Parish Hall Trust

This was a 4-year appointment and although the City Council had nominated a representative, another had been requested. Councillor Apel would be the second City Council representative.

(ii) Chichester District Association of Local Councils

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, as the City Council's representatives, noted the meeting of the Chichester District Association of Local Councils on Monday 25 July 2016 at Chichester District Council's offices at 7pm.

7 EUROPEAN WALLED TOWNS

It was RESOLVED that the City Council nominate Councillor Scicluna as Vice-President of the European Walled Towns; Councillor Scicluna was currently the Vice-President and she wished to continue in this role.

8 DISCRETIONARY GRANT 2015/2016

The Committee were advised that the Garden Fest Event planned for 3-days in June 2016 had been cancelled due to the lack of ticket sales. The City Council had forwarded a Discretionary Grant of £1,000 to the Garden Fest Committee for the set-up costs of the event. A copy of the Final Accounts from the Garden Fest Committee had been submitted and indicated the grant money had been expended.

The Committee agreed that no further action be taken.

It was noted that this was the first time an organisations' event that had received a Discretionary Grant from the City Council had been cancelled. However, the guidelines accompanying the Discretionary Grant Applications did not include any reference to cancelled events and it was thought that the guidelines should be reviewed to reflect this. This matter would be discussed at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Committee.

9 CHICHESTER IN BLOOM

(i) City Centre Floral Displays

The Administration Manager advised that Ferring Nurseries had provided 101 Hanging baskets in the City Centre, planted up the Summer display in the Cathedral Beds, as well as the 3-tier flower towers and barrier baskets at Northgate and Avenue de Chartres. The half baskets on the public conveniences in Tower Street and Market Avenue would be provided shortly. The flower tower bases had been refurbished in-house and regular cutting of the grass at the Cathedral Beds would also be carried out by City Council Officers.

The Officers were thanked for their involvement in organising the floral displays.

(ii) Improvements to other landscaped areas in the City

The Committee noted that the City Council had carried out some general clearing and tidying up of vegetation in Westgate and at the corner of New Park Road/St Pancras. The area at Northgate by the car park had been re-landscaped by West Sussex County Council and the intention was that the City Council maintain this area. Although discussions have taken place with West Sussex County Council about the City Council maintaining these areas a formal Licence Agreement is still awaited.

(iii) Schools Competition

The Mayoral/Administrative Assistants report had been circulated to all members with the Agenda. The report gave an update on the competition and that so far six schools would be taking part and the judging would take place on Thursday 14 July 2016. A Young Gardeners Starter Park provided by Brick Kiln Garden Centre had been delivered to each school in the competition.

10 WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGE

The Deputy Mayor reported on the challenge he had undertaken following a request made by a member of public at the Annual Parish Meeting to push a resident in a wheelchair around the City to see the problems faced by wheelchair users when travelling around the City Centre. Some of the issues raised during the challenge had been reported back to West Sussex County Council.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Councillor Sharp and her husband for their support on the day.

11 POST OFFICE CONSULTATION

The City Council had received notification from the Post Office that it was proposing to move the current Crown Post Office in West Street, Chichester to the WHSmith store at 9 North Street, Chichester, known as British Bookshop Sussex Stationers. The proposal details had been circulated to all members.

Members raised many concerns over this proposal which seemed flawed as it quoted the current store as having wide aisles and, there was no statistical information on the number using the Post Office to justify the relocation as it was agreed that lengthy queues at the Post Office were a regular occurrence. The access to the proposed location would be hindered when a street market was being held in North Street and it would be difficult for the elderly to access. Other comments included that the proposal was not suitable for a City location, was the rear access to the building suitable and that it was denigrating the Post Office.

It was therefore RESOLVED that the City Council would strongly object to the Post Office's proposal to move the current Post Office in West Street, Chichester to the WHSmith store at 9 North Street, Chichester, known as British Bookshop Stationers on the grounds of :

- the proposals appeared to be based on cost cutting rather than improving services
- the access would be difficult for the disabled and elderly
- the aisles were too narrow
- the access off the street when a street market is taking place in the City would be difficult
- proposal was not suitable for a City location
- the lack of a floorplan

Members were advised that although a collective response from the City Council would be forwarded, individual members commenting on the proposal was to be encouraged.

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

- Reports from Friends of Chartres & Ravenna & Valletta
- Closure of Chichester Courts
- Review of Discretionary Grants Guidelines
- Chichester Crown Post Office Relocation

The meeting ended at 6.45pm.