

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 16 MAY 2017

ROOM G87, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD, HOVE, BN3 3BQ

MINUTES

Present: Colin Vincent (Chair), Mike Bojczuk, Lynne Shields, Penny Morley and Francis Tonks

Co-opted Members: John Cook (Older Peoples Council) and Jack Hazelgrove (Older People's Council)

Others Present:

PART ONE

307 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

307.1 Apologies were received from John Eyles and Michael Whitty. No Declarations of Interest.

308 MINUTES

308.1 The minutes were amended as follows:

- MB pointed out in item 305 included in his Members update was a reference to New Home being built in Hollingdean
- FT mentioned that Point duplicated. Check with Simon....re about inviting Ken to this meeting (16th May)
- Again in item 305 – Members update – in relation to LS's point about the ICT service desk MB confirmed that he had since spoken to ICT regarding the automated reply – it was agreed that MB would resend the details, tutorial suggested.

Points arising:

FT said that he had invited Ken Childerhouse to this meeting but sadly he was unable to attend. It was therefore agreed that he, Ken, should be invited to the next meeting.

309 UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

- 309.1 Simon Newell (SN) and Emma McDermott (McD) were welcomed to the OPC. Simon described his role within the council as Policy Partnership & Scrutiny Lead and how this relates to the Older People's Council. Emma also explained her role, as Head of Communities, Equality and Third Sector, and that this area now falls under the Executive Director - Neighbourhoods Communities & Housing, she also explained how roles within community and third sector relate to the OPC.
- 309.2 Jessica Sumner (Age UK) sadly was unable to attend as ill.
- 309.3 SN began a presentation entitled 'Building our Future' explaining what will happen over the transitional period until financial and administrative support for the OPC is withdrawn in April 2018. The presentation was based on the committee report recently agreed by members at Policy, Resources and Growth Committee on 9th February 2017. SN explained that financial and administrative support from BHCC will continue to be provided during 2017/18, giving OPC members time to review and agree alternative arrangement for their financial and administrative support from April 2018.
- 309.4 The OPC will continue to have free access to meeting rooms in Hove Town Hall in 2017/18 where these do not clash with Council meetings. In addition, in order to facilitate the move to a self-supporting model the OPC has been offered a one off payment of £5,000 in 2017/18.
- 309.5 JH suggested that we check that the library and other meeting rooms have been booked up to 31st March 2018 as all OPC meeting dates have been set. KA clarified that the public meetings are booked in the Jubilee Library up until 12th December 2017.
Action: OPC to inform KA if they wish to book Jubilee Library for the March 18 meeting.
- 309.6 SN explained that it is thought these arrangements will give opportunity for the OPC to seek other funding, including from the council's annual grant programme although any such applications must be considered in accordance with the criteria applied to all applications. Furthermore, the OPC would be eligible for a free grantfinder service from the Communities Team to help identify other funding sources. Link to information on the Communities Fund and Grantfinder: <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/community-and-life-events/community-and-voluntary-sector-support/grants-community-and>
- 309.7 PM explained that she wrote to Geoff Raw on 24th April 2017 challenging the committee decision in particular the lack of consultation on the proposal. She sent an email and a letter but has no response to either. JC questioned the criteria to replying to such correspondence. EMcD said that the policy was an acknowledgement within two days and a response with ten working days. The OPC requested a reply from the Chief Executive, including an apology for not replying to date. **Action: SN to follow up.**
- 309.8 CV explained that the OPC's was considering writing to the Local Government Ombudsman Service regarding the process and the decision. EMcD explained that the OPC would need to follow the council's complaints procedure to ensure consideration from the Ombudsman. She said that the complaint could be made directly to the

council's standards and improvements team that logged and investigated complaints against the council. Link to the council complaints procedure:

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/council-and-democracy/compliment-or-complain/information-complaints>

309.9 EMcD went on to discuss how the OPC can engage through Community Works (CW) in city networks and get organisational support from CW. CV explained that the OPC does already work with other organisations for example Age UK. CV asked if this will equate to the same level of support specifically secretarial support. EMcD explained in more detail the role of Community Works and clarified that CW does not provide secretarial support.

309.10 JH expressed concern over the four yearly elections held by the OPC, if these do not happen then the OPC cannot continue in its current form. The OPC were concerned that there is no reference to this in the report produced for PR&G committee. The OPC asked that if election can't happen, what the options are. FT suggested that OPC ask BHCC electoral services for a costing for the election. This had been requested previously but nothing had been forthcoming. It was agreed by all that this was the key issue to resolve in the transitional year. **Action: SN: To clarify this issue.**

309.11 CV said that currently the OPC is independent and want to remain independent. PM said that with the proposed alterations to the relationship with council, no grant funder will look favourably on it where one party has effectively pulled out.

309.12 EMcD gave further details' of a number of funds available either through the council and other local sources, for example, Sussex Community Foundation. She also explained that clarity of purpose, strong structure and governance, and track record on delivery were key things funders considered. CV made the point that the OPC are no strangers to raising funds, SN reiterated how council can help in the meantime, over the next year. MB raised concerns that post March 2018 the OPC's access to council officers and NHS staff, and participation in meetings would reduce. This would reduce the voice of older people in decision making and service changes in the city. MB explained that the OPC had been involved in scrutiny of the budget process and discussions on the future of Tower House. Having a positive affect for the benefit of older people and local communities. In addition, the OPC currently has a co-optee on the HOS Committee, is involved in the HOSC Sustainability Transformation Planworking group and represented on Planning Committee. EMcD explained that there are other routes that the OPC can influence through, for example, annually there are very robust debates with the community & voluntary sector during the budget process and this includes meeting directly with the directors of the city council.

309.13 Concerns were raised that the current CEO of CW was leaving. EMcD advised to use the link below to make contact with Community Works to arrange a meeting with new CEO and also in the meantime to meet with the Sector Support Manager. It was decided that Jess Sumner should also attend this future meeting.

<http://www.bhcommunityworks.org.uk/members/advice-support/>

309.14 The OPC felt they were value for money, and whilst it's acknowledged that there is paid officer support, it is a volunteer led organisation. The OPC felt that its contribution and

achievements for the benefit of older people in the city over the last 15 years had not been acknowledged. LV was heartened by the many robust discussions with community organisations and the council. EMcD and SN both offered to attend a future meeting of the OPC if that would be helpful.

310 OPC HUSTINGS FOR GENERAL ELECTION

310.1 SN referred to the Legal advice he had received – the invitation to the Hustings should be offered a cross party. PM confirmed that the event will be chaired by Frank Le Duc. PM gave an update regarding the Hustings, a flyer has been produced and at this stage the Liberal Democrats have confirmed, Greens confirmed, and as yet no response from Labour, although this has been chased, the Conservatives have said no – PM agreed to check if it's national policy, and will ask party to reconsider. It is felt important to get good turnout, and as such necessary to reach out to a wider audience, PM is contacting The Argus, Brighton Independent with flyers being distrusted in older people's housing, retirement homes, as well as to the email details to all Age Friendly City representatives. Also broadcast on Grey Matters, advertised on the website, Twitter and Facebook page – advised to share on individual accounts where possible. FT asked how do we react to the fringe parties, should these parties be invited? **Further Action: OPC agreed that letter to be sent to UKIP candidate.**

310.2 CV raised questions with regard the financial issues and costs of the Hustings, JC agreed to share his details to those at the Brighthelm – an Invoice will be sent later. CV said that there should no council advertising, nor will council pay as this is an infringement of Purdah.
Further action: PM to email around to arrange collection of flyers.

311 OPC WORK PROGRAMME

311.1 This item was taken together with Agenda Item 312. There is to be a public meeting 20th June, PM had asked Larissa Reed to attend but she is sadly unable to, the invitation was also shared with Adam Doyle (CCG) but he is also unable to attend so it is thought that an alternative is needed and JC suggested someone from HealthWatch – David Liley (who has agreed to attend) – **Further Actions: CV and PM to follow up. KA to arrange for the Communications Director at the CCG to attend a future meeting as he is not available for the June Meeting.**

311.2 The OPC raised their concerns about the future of Age Friendly City Forum, that due to staff leaving the next meeting will not take place until September. They asked how AFC would be supported. **Action: The OPC agreed to ask Rob Persey for an urgent update on the Age Friendly City forum.**

312 THE FUTURE OF THE OPC

313 GREY MATTERS

313.1 JC explained that Chris English is now working closely with Richard – a programme is broadcast on a weekly basis, a real positive step forward. The University of Brighton is

looking at offering technical support – and there is a need to raise £2k for a new telephone line and broadband, better lighting in the studio and computer system.

313.2 MB spoke about Wifi issues in communal buildings and has asked officers - Peter Huntbatch had suggested speaking to the Manager of the building, but MB confirmed that security issues might be raised.

314 SECRETARY'S UPDATE

314.1 SECRETARIAL REPORT - MAY 2017

- **Future of the OPC** - Letter sent to the Chief Executive on the 24th April outlining our objections to the decision to withdraw support in support of our outstanding request for a meeting. We currently await a response.
- **Age Friendly City Steering Group** - wrote to both Annie Alexander (Chair) & Becky Woodiwiss to thank them for all their efforts for older people in the City as they are both leaving BHCC. Annie confirmed that they will be seeking a replacement but we await confirmation re: the future of the AFC process. Research paper on exercise for the over 50s circulated.
- **Age Friendly City Forum** - Next meeting is on the 22nd May at Age UK at 2 pm where we will update about developments. Minutes of previous meeting were circulated.
- **Active for Life** - meeting been arranged for the 24th May to be held at Withdean sports centre. Will discuss low take up of Leisure Card by those on Pension Credit, Active Ageing Bid and Age UK Active Living report. Meeting with BHCC offices and Freedom Leisure.
- **OPC Officers Meeting** - held on the 3rd May discussed a range of outstanding issues including the letter to the Chief Executive. Agreed that older people should be able to quiz Parliamentary Candidates about their proposed policies and views on issues. Booked Brighthelm for the 30th May at 2.00 and officers would contact the main four political parties to provide speakers and seek neutral Chair for the meeting. A letter to candidates and flyer for the meeting would be prepared.
- **OPC email** - the new email is brightonhoveopc@gmail.com. Mike has been communicating with Karen & IT about this but problems remain in automatic transfer.

Invitations

• **Dementia friendly music sessions** - 15th, 18th & 19th May at Mycroft, Friends Meeting House, & New Larchwood. Information from emma@openstrings.co.uk or 01273-569096. Also regular info from Dementia Action Alliance.

• **Portslade LAT** -Minutes re Portslade LAT

315 MEMBERS' UPDATE

John Cook

Nothing to add as already updated regarding Grey Matter

Francis Tonks

Recently attended the Kemptown LAT Annual General Meeting and whilst the usual issues were raised it was interesting as the meeting had been held at the EF language school

where 240 students attend and every week, having a huge environmental and economic impact in the area – good for local businesses.

He also attended the Patient Participation Meeting on Healthy Eating, there are plans for a Healthy Living Event November in the Open Market, hopefully other surgeries will also attend. He has been asked to talk to Pensioners Association about the OPC on the 8th August from 11am until 12 midday at Patcham Lodge and would like someone to come along for support – LS agreed to attend.

Mike Bojczuk

Digital Inclusion :

- Attended several drop-in teaching sessions e.g. Broadfields, the Dene, + church group
- Digital Partnership meeting : showed health apps for the phone and how to apply for universal credit.
- Attended Health & Wellbeing event at Somerset Point - included Pet Pals, Lifelines, Patching Lodge, Time to Talk, Pavilions
- Senior Housing Action Group meeting : Mears presented their code of conduct for their contractors
- EngAgeNet (England Age Network) collaborating with OPC around engaging business.
- The Argus launching Prime Magazine – 6th June first issue – interested in OPC.

Colin Vincent

- 18th April CV attended the Local National Pensioners Association, and asked for a motion on STP to be raised with view to asking to start national campaign on STP, at the bi- annual meeting this was passed with one objection referred to national committee of NPC. They are suggesting a public meeting held on STP in Brighton which they would support , and would be pleased to do a jointly with us if we want to but they would meet the cost later in the year. Members agreed to be involved.
- Also attended a Grey Matters planning meeting attended with JC and on 2nd May attend Grey matters Board Meeting.
- Attended an officers meeting on 3rd May discussing Hustings Meeting & Age Friendly Action Plan
- 5th May attended local branch National Pensioners Convention whose finances are extremely stretched, as previously discussed could we offer a small donation – sum of £10.00 – there is currently no contribution for organisation – confirmed that this s acceptable. Cheque to be sent to the treasurer – JC to do.
- 8th May joined the Mens Networking meeting at Fabrica – ‘Men in Sheds’ noted carpentry facilities in Youth Centre in Edward Street, and that the group can use the fabulous workshop at Brighton College.

Lynne Shields

To provide update.

316 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

316.1 There was no A.O.B.

The meeting concluded at 1pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

