

# Older People's Council

Tuesday 9 October 2018, 10 am – 1pm

Brook Mead, Brighton

No	Item	Who
	<p><b>Present:</b></p> <p>Micheal Whitty                      Chair, Older People's Council</p> <p>Colin Vincent                      Vice-Chair, Older People's Council</p> <p>Mike Bojczuk                      Treasurer, Older People's Council</p> <p>John Cook                      Secretary, Older People's Council</p> <p>Val Cane                      Older People's Council</p> <p>John Eyles                      Older People's Council</p> <p>Francis Tonks                      Older People's Council</p> <p>Jack Hazelgrove                      Older People's Council</p> <p>Lilly Kennard                      Possability People</p>	<p><b>MW</b></p> <p><b>CV</b></p> <p><b>MB</b></p> <p><b>JC</b></p> <p><b>VC</b></p> <p><b>JE</b></p> <p><b>FT</b></p> <p><b>JH</b></p> <p><b>LK</b></p>
439	<p><b>Procedural Business</b></p> <p>CV is leaving early due to a family hospital appointment</p> <p>JE will be arriving late.</p>	
440	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes from 13 August were presented at the meeting. However, as the July minutes were not brought to the meeting this could not be discussed.</p> <p>The AGM minutes from September are still as a draft and have not been finalised as yet</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> July, August and September meeting minutes to be circulated with members and reviewed at the next meeting in November.</p>	<p><b>MW</b></p>
441	<p><b>Resolution</b></p> <p>The dismissal of John Cook.</p> <p>MW – Dismissal of John Cook</p> <p>JC – Can I see the resolution?</p>	

JA – Where is the wording of the resolution? It isn't good enough that the full details of the 'resolution' was not circulated before the meeting, we need to have it in writing before the meeting. Strictly speaking we should not take this item.

MB – 'The Dismissal of JC' is the resolution.

JC – I believe the procedure for this meeting is wrong and I propose that the agenda is cancelled. Can I have a vote for this?

JA – This agenda is riddled with errors. If my name was under the dismissal of XX, I would say it is out of order, and I would seek it to be dissolved. I would think that's an absolute outrage and an insult to the individual.

MW – It is stated on page 6, section 8(d) of the constitution:

*"If for good and sufficient reason a majority of the other members of the OPC pass a resolution that an OPC member shall cease to hold office that resolution shall prevail provided that an OPC member faced with possible removal from the OPC shall have the right to be heard by the other OPC members before a vote is taken;"*

VC – I'm upset that there is so much heat so early on. I've been to lots of conferences and meetings, and I have never seen a resolution like that. That is not a resolution. I would want to know the reason for the resolution way in advance and not just to be told by you, MW.

JC – I would also like to know in advance. I have put a complaint in against MW, which is still outstanding on hate mail he sent me months ago. We have a procedure about complaints that needs to be followed. MW is perfectly at liberty to make a complaint but he needs to follow the conduct of members.

MW – I'm following the constitution of 8(d) (see above)

JC – We have a resolution on the table, I propose we dismiss the agenda because it is unfit for the purpose of the meeting. Let's have a vote.

In favour: VC/FT/JA/JC

Not in favour – CV and MB.

MW abstention (chair)

**It was voted by the majority of the group that the agenda would not be discussed today.**

MB – Since we've left the council, this has seemed acrimonious as Brexit. I think it's a disgrace that we, older people, can't just get together and do something positive. I'm not pro or anti anything, I just want this thing to work or it will close down.

VC – I think we should have informal meeting where people put aside their issues and have a discussion about ideas, including how to raise money, which I have sent to MB

MW – We have also had information from Possability People (PP) as well as in your emails.

FT – Documents from PP were suppressed from the chair. It is a disgrace that they were hidden from the members. That was 4 months ago, why were they not shared earlier?

MW – PP have been very comprehensive in what they have produced. They were very good documents and will be used.

MB – We had a meeting with Keith from PP where he gave us the service level agreement (SLA), which we proposed. At the meeting, CV and myself went through all the points on the SLA. There were a couple of things we agreed around the amount of funding we get in a year, and the amount of engagement we would have in a year. I don't think anything was particularly hidden.

JC – Why were the documents not shared with the members?

MW – I can't answer that. Mistakes were made, we need to move on. You (JC) say derogatory marks every time you send an email. Many of the activities you have done in the community are odious, and I have witnesses and documents that will prove what I am saying. I was going to share that at this meeting, but you've now put a block on that so we will have to discuss it at another meeting.

FT – JC, you should talk to your solicitor.

FT – We need someone who is neutral to take notes at the next meeting with the full resolution.

MW – PP are only working for one month more, they've given their one month notice and this will be their last meeting that they assist us with.

VC – CW can provide a lot of support and help for older people's groups in the city

CV – When I contacted CW months ago, I didn't get any response at all, which is stated in the minutes.

VC – I'm shocked at that, please come to me again if that happens again. It can be difficult to get hold of the best person, so it usually goes straight to Jess, who is very busy. I'll look into this.

FT – I want everything out in the open, with decisions made by the whole council, not by 3 or 4 or on a chairman's vote. Everyone.

VC – We need to address the most urgent issue you're raised, which is the dismissal of JC. The rest can be discussed thereafter. Conduct at meetings needs to be discussed too, otherwise this is going to happen again and again.

FT – We can also decide to go against the chair if we do not agree with what they are doing.

MW – I'm more than happy with that. I will resign if no one wants me to be here. It was on the agenda to discuss, but we can't have a vote as it's not an official meeting today.

JC – I need to have the information to review the allegations and consult with my solicitor.

	<p><b>ACTION</b> – MW to book a room for the special meeting.</p> <p>JC – Who will be at the next meeting? The constitution says that a sub-panel committee needs to investigate conduct when issues arise. CV may not need to attend, or shouldn't attend.</p> <p>FT – CV can attend, as he is entitled to. It's a full council meeting for the special meeting. We will all attend.</p> <p>VC – You need to send in writing to the full council in good time before the meeting for members to view the resolution. Can someone please circulate the declaration of conduct that needs to be signed by all members. I have not been given a copy of this.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – circulate the declaration of conduct, and find the previous signed copies from members.</p> <p>The current agenda was dismissed and was agreed to not be further discussed at this meeting.</p>	
433	<p><b>Open discussion</b></p> <p>Following the cancellation of the agenda until a special meeting is organised, it was agreed by the group that they would have a general open discussion about the position and work of the OPC.</p> <p>VC – I want to know whether the council said whether we have to have a DBS check, and has Penny been approached for past minutes? Also, are we still members of Community Works (CW)</p> <p>CV – We are on the CW list of members.</p> <p>MW – PP will hand over all minutes to MW by the end of their contract. The rest of the minutes are on the website.</p> <p>JC – where are all the prior minutes for the old meetings? Where are the signed copies? The normal procedure is that the minutes are signed by the chair, and given to the secretariat.</p> <p>MB – They're not signed copies on the website, but all the minutes are on the website that are all the latest versions.</p> <p>VC – Signed or not, they're approved by all of us</p> <p>JC – Can we have all signed copies on the website and circulated, or kept on record?</p> <p>MW – Have you kept a signed copy at home or on record, CV?</p> <p>CV – No, but the minutes that are circulated and put on the website are the most up to date.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Chair to write to Giles at the Council to see if there are signed copies of past minutes on record.</p>	MW

MW – We need to look into whether we need DBS checks within the OPC. We have older people here who work with other older and vulnerable people, including potentially driving a minibus or visiting people in their home.

JC – I was checked by the company and we were checked by the police, and they were satisfied. When you work closely with older people, that organisation has the responsibility to do DBS checks when necessary. Why do we need them at the OPC?

MB – There have been times when you, Francis, have campaigned, spoken to older people, and been out in the community, as have I such as at the Hove station block of flats. Sometimes we have to see people in their homes. It would be good to have something to say I am ok to do this,

FT – I have been checked, I believe we all have been checked, I don't see why we need to do checks again for the OPC.

MW – I was looking at the bigger picture and to see if we were protected, or if we had to have DBS checks when working with older and vulnerable people. I have been told by representative of CW that we need to consider this to ensure each of us is protected in the event of accusations being made. A recent case concerned a voluntary organisation who were found liable.

VC – Nowadays it is essential that we know we are covered and society as a whole seems to be looking to issues like this.

MB – Before we split from the council, the council had insurance indemnity on each of us so anything we said or did was covered by insurance. They may well have withdrawn this now we're not connected to the council, so we need to have this insurance or cover again in case we are accused of doing anything untoward. I have done debates and talks at schools about what we do, and the insurance they used to have would cover us then. The insurance is saying you need to have something to cover yourself. However we are not anything to do with the council any more.

MW – All orgs are responsible for protecting the vulnerable people we are working with whilst representing the OPC.

**ACTION:** Research whether the OPC members need to have up to date DBS checks

**MW**

VC – I'm in a good position to find a BME female to come along to the meeting, I'm still looking and asking around to suggest people to join the OPC. I'm doing my best to find other people, but I am not sure it is the right time when the group is in turmoil.

FT – It would be inappropriate to being someone new to a meeting like this in the way we are at the moment.

VC – We need to find someone who can do the secretariat role now that PP won't be coming along.

<p>MW – We did ask at the public meeting, but nobody came along and no one put their name forward.</p> <p>JC – It isn't a difficult job, we need someone to take actions, minimal minutes, an action note of the meeting.</p> <p>MW – Action notes are essential but you do need to record what was said at the meeting to be able to go back and confirm what was actually said by individuals.</p> <p>VC – And then argue about it?</p> <p>MW – There is too much upset amongst the group.</p> <p>JC – I have a problem with MW and MW has a problem with me. We don't want to go into the next meeting whilst we're still acting like this.</p> <p>JA – We cannot replace PP when we're still in turmoil as we are. Until we have a cohesive body, and sort out who does what, we should all be allocated a role in what we can work on as a member. Currently it's not well structured or directional.</p> <p>VC – I think MB should be given the responsibility to get some money in for the OPC.</p> <p>JC - £5K, £20, £40K is difficult to find in a short amount of time, it's a difficult task.</p> <p>VC – We don't need that much money! We only need to find another replacement.</p> <p>MW – PP have done a good job, but they're not going to be continuing their working relationship with us. We need to find someone else to come in for the administration. We need to find some money before we spend anything else. The Brighthelm meetings are around £100 each.</p> <p>VC – Was that the same cost of the Library? The Brighthelm was offering 6 months at half price, so if we're not getting that deal then we may be getting a bad deal!</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> MB to look into the cost of the Brighthelm Centre and a deal on 6 months of meetings</p> <p>MW – JC you're not helping, you just blame others and name call, including towards the previous chair.</p> <p>JC – I've called CV professionally incompetent. No one here disagrees with me. I then became angry at myself as I was not objecting to the lack of progress, I realised it wasn't me, it was the chair that wasn't progressing, Then I asked questions and when I wasn't answered, or when I was ignored, I got frustrated.</p> <p>VC – There are too many accusations, and blaming going on. We need to set goals for the OPC, we talked once about having a project group to work on issues. We need to look at gaining more members, which is going to be difficult. We had support from the Independent paper in the past, so if we played on that a bit more, we could have more publicity</p>	<p><b>MB</b></p>
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	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Re-establish relationship with the journalist from the Independent newspaper.</p> <p>FT – We need to publicise more about the public meetings so people can see what we are doing.</p> <p>MW – We need to have a role within the membership where a volunteer addresses the publicity and marketing of the group’s work. We need to set roles for each members to focus on the goals of the OPC and move forward. Everything could be a shared role, but if we don’t all make that effort and participate then we’re not going achieve anything.</p>	?
	<p><b>Next meeting date:</b></p> <p>Special meeting to discuss resolution to be held on:</p> <p><b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2pm</b>  Brook Meade</p>	
	<p><b>Meeting ended at 11.30am</b></p> <p><b>Signed (Chair) .....</b> <b>Date .....</b></p>	