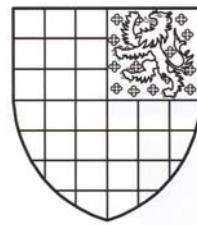


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LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the meeting of **Lewes Town Council** held on
Thursday 8th November 2012, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall**, Lewes at **7:30pm**.
NB if a record of voting was requested, this is shown in a table appended to these Minutes.

PRESENT:

Councillors S Catlin; M Chartier (*Mayor*); A Dean; I Eiloart; M Kent; P Kingham; D Lamport; L F Li; M. Milner; R Murray; S Murray; R O'Keeffe (*Deputy Mayor*); A Price; R Rudkin; J Stockdale and Dr M Turner.

In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*); Mrs F Garth (*Civic Officer and Asst. Town Clerk*) L Symons (*Mace Bearer*); Ms E Martin (*C'ttee Administration*)

Observing: Ms J Dean (*Reception/Administration*) and Ms V McLachlan (*Finance Administration Officer*)

FC2012/85 **QUESTION TIME:** There were no members of the press of public present.

FC2012/86 **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr M Chartier declared an interest *in* agenda item 6 e) (Christmas events – liaison with Chamber of Commerce) in that he was a Trustee of the Sussex Archaeological Society. Cllr M Kent declared an interest in *in* agenda item 7 (Malling Community Centre) as he is a Member of the Community Association.

FC2012/87 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Daly who had a family commitment and Cllr. J. MacCleary, who was reported to be assisting with Presidential elections in the USA.

FC2012/88 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a) On Remembrance Sunday, 11th November, there would be an informal two-minute silence at 11.00am at the War Memorial for anyone who wished to participate (civic robes would not be worn), then the traditional civic participation in the Royal British Legion's Remembrance Parade at 2.30 pm (for which full civic regalia *would* be worn) accompanied by various dignitaries; followed by a service at the church of St John sub-Castro. Members were asked to arrive at the Town Hall no later than 2:10pm
- b) Late Night Shopping on 6th December: the Council staff would be dressed for the theme of "the Snow Queen" and would welcome everyone for mulled wine and hot chocolate in the Town Hall Foyer, as in previous years; with proceeds going to the Mayor's charities.
- c) The Mayor would be hosting a Councillor and Staff Christmas Dinner in the Council Chamber on 17th December.
- d) The Civic Carol Service would be held on 18th December at St Anne's Church, Lewes.
- e) A letter had been sent to Lewes, Delaware (USA), following Hurricane Sandy and expressing support and sympathy for the difficulties created. The Mayor summarized the reply received; which thanked the Council for the sentiments expressed and reported that their town had escaped the devastation experienced elsewhere, as the epicenter of the storm had passed at a distance of about 50 miles.

Continues...

FC2012/89

MINUTES:

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th October 2012 were received and signed as an accurate record with one amendment in respect of a disputed voting record (all Members had been provided with an amended copy).

FC2012/90

WORKING PARTIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES:

Members are reminded that anyone who may have attended a meeting of any recognized outside body which had covered issues that deserved attention by the Council, should ensure that TC is aware of this before the meeting, and preferably before the agenda deadline. Reports on all activities of the organization are not expected.

a] *Meeting with South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and Lewes District Council (LDC) re Neighbourhood Planning 2nd October 2012:* Members considered the notes of this meeting (*copy in the minute book*) and Cllr S Murray elaborated upon a subsequent meeting between the SDNPA Planning Director and the Council's Planning Committee on the same subject. It was recognized that the Council was proceeding in a considered and measured way towards the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan, and offers of support by SDNPA and LDC (*in both time and financial contributions*) had been welcomed. All advice received so far suggested that when the recently-announced local plan core strategy had settled in the public domain, a forum representing the widest-possible spectrum across the community would be the best vehicle to take forward the drafting of a Neighbourhood Plan.

After a brief discussion **it was resolved that:**

FC2012/90.1 The report be noted and this item would be discussed further at a future Council meeting.

b] *Meeting with Btne&Hove Bus Company 22nd October 2012:* Cllr D Lampert gave an oral report of a meeting between himself; TC; and the operations director of the bus company, regarding the need for bus shelters in the Town. Five locations had been identified and would be investigated further: East Sussex County Council would be asked to assess the licensing of use of the footway, and then a schedule could be prioritized and proposed for future installations.

It was resolved that:

FC2012/90.2 Cllr Lampert's report be noted.

c] *All Saints Steering Group 24th October 2012:* Council considered the minutes of this meeting (*copy in the minute book*). There was some discussion regarding the new seating that had been installed at the Centre and reports of some "teething troubles". TC explained that this had been thoroughly investigated by the Centre Manager with engineers from the manufacturer/installer, and had proved to be a straightforward matter of the newness of hinges and locking bars, which were tight due to the thickness of new paint and lack of use. This had been immediately eased and would not recur in normal use; there was no design or installation fault. Operating instructions for Centre staff had been amended to require a signature to confirm that seats were locked in place and had been checked.

After some questions **it was resolved that:**

FC/2012/90.3 The Minutes of the All Saints Steering Group held on 24th October 2012 be received and noted.

d] *Meeting with South Downs National Park Authority 29th October 2012:* Members considered the notes of this meeting (*copy in the minute book*), which had discussed areas of mutual interest.

It was resolved that:

FC/2012/90.4 The report be noted.

e] *Christmas Events – Liaison with Chamber of Commerce:* Cllr Dean gave an oral report explaining that of two sites identified for an ice rink (Gun Garden and Maltings Car Park) the Gun Garden was considered preferable by rink operators. She also touched upon the

suggestion of a children's lantern parade through the town, which had been discussed with PATINA, who might be prepared to organize. The research on these projects would be reported to the Chamber of Commerce. Cllr Price advised on the initial reaction by the Chamber, and confirmed that these projects would be discussed further with a view to inclusion in 2013 events.

Following several questions **it was resolved that:**

FC/2012/90.5 The report(s) be noted and the ideas be developed with the Chamber of Commerce.

f] *Report from Uckfield Line Parishes Group 7th November 2012:* Cllrs Kent and Catlin reported that Network Rail were keen to acquire a parcel of land on the site of the old Uckfield railway station that would provide more parking for the new station. The continuation of this land in railway use could be fundamental to any future re-instatement of a Lewes to Uckfield rail link, as it stood on the line of the original track. It was reported that a new initiative: the Lewes-Seaford Community Rail Partnership, would be meeting on the 14th November 2012 at the AmEx Stadium and representation from Lewes Town Council would be welcomed.

Following a discussion **it was resolved that:**

FC/2012.90.6 The report be noted, and;

FC/2012.90.7 Lewes Town Council welcomes the efforts of Network Rail to acquire the site of the old Uckfield Rail Station, which could allow potential relocation of the present station and facilitate eventual reinstatement of a Lewes-Uckfield rail link, and;

FC/2012.90.8 Cllr Catlin be nominated to attend the Lewes-Seaford Community Rail Partnership inaugural meeting on the 14th November 2012 and report to Council.

g] *Items of interest from Planning Committee 6th November 2012:* Cllr S Murray gave members an update on development of a list of assets of community value, being prepared under provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

Following extensive discussion **it was resolved that:**

FC/2012.90.9 The report be noted; and the list of assets of community value be referred back to Council when appropriate.

FC2012/91

UPDATE ON MATTERS IN PROGRESS:

Malling Community Centre: TC reported that a tender for building work to create the proposed Children's Centre had been received by East Sussex County Council, and that the cost was considerably more than originally estimated. East Sussex County Council had suggested a rent free period of 15 years in recognition of their investment of the sum originally estimated, and TC sought confirmation that Council would be happy with a proportionate increase in term, to over 20 years, subject to advice pending from the District Valuer Service. In answer to questions, TC reminded Members that the tenancy would be under a formal lease (being drafted by an experienced solicitor) that would confer responsibility on the tenants for all internal and external repairs during their tenure.

FC2012/92

NOTICE of ITEMS IN PROSPECT:

- a) Meetings of the Traffic Working/Parking/Bus Station Stakeholders and Commemorations Working Party were to be arranged.
- b) A Pells Pool Community Association liaison meeting would be held on Thursday 15th November at 11:00am in the Corn Exchange.
- c) A Friends of Lewes liaison meeting would be held on 19th November at 1.30pm in the Yarrow Room.
- d) Audit Panel would meet on Thursday 22nd November at 6.30pm in the Yarrow Room.
- e) The Finance Working Party – budget 2013/14 – would be on Monday 26th November

at 6.30pm in the Yarrow Room.

- f) The next Planning Committee meeting, at 7:00pm on 27th November, would be an extended meeting to discuss the issue of conversion of retail premises and Local Plan Policy, which was expected to be announced shortly beforehand. Officers from Lewes District Council's Planning department would attend this meeting. It was noted that Members who were not nominated to the planning Committee might find these discussions interesting and informative.
- g) The Personnel Panel would meet in TC's office on Wednesday 28th November at 11.30am, to review the matter of policy(ies) required to be established for areas of discretion available within the local government pension scheme.
- h) The Grants Panel would meet at 5.30pm on Wednesday 28th November in TC's Office.
- i) Lead Members would meet with Lewes District Council representatives to further discuss devolution, on 29th November.
- j) The next Council Meeting was scheduled for Thursday 13th December at 7.30pm with the deadline for submissions to the Town Clerk of proposed items for the agenda being 12 noon on Monday 3rd December.

FC2012/93 There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed, and invited those present to join him in the Parlour for refreshments.

The meeting ended at 8:40pm

Signed:

Date: