

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
HOUSING MANAGEMENT PANEL: EAST AREA

7.00pm 25 MAY 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING - ZOOM

MINUTES

Present: Chris El-Shabba (Chair), Councillors Gill Williams and Dee Simson.

Representatives: Janet Gearing, Rosemary Johnson, Alan Cooke,

Officers: Bethan Hudson, Janet Dowdell, Keely McDonald, Glyn Huelin, Sam Warren, Rachel Chasseaud.

Guests: Sarah Brooker-Lewis

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES, & INTRODUCTIONS

There were no apologies.

2 ACTIONS & MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Rosemary Johnson was informed that the action on Page 15 would be addressed by Glyn Huelin during item 6.

RESOLVED – The Minutes from the meeting on 4 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

4 RESIDENTS QUESTION TIME

Communications Between Officers and Residents

4.1 Rosemary Johnson raised that the delays in responses from officers was addressed, but not the issue that officers request smaller timescales for information from residents. Sam Warren confirmed that the Council commits to 10 day timescales to request information.

4.2 Janet Gearing had requested a run through of the communal gardens at Langley Crescent but hadn't heard anything and was receiving complaints from residents. She also requested to find out who the Woodingdean Housing Officer in charge of this issue was and how to get hold of them. Janet Dowdell confirmed that the East Area Team would be contacted, and an officer would be allocated to look around Langley Crescent by the end of the week, and that housing officers don't work to specific areas but take on cases.

4.3 Janet Gearing was informed that the time of the EDB bid meeting clashed with other meetings and the best time to hold them was during the daytime.

4.4 Keely McDonald confirmed that in previous years, the EDB bid voting was held in March/April, however it was pushed forward this year due to the underspend.

4.5 Alan Cooke raised that Council Officers need to give swift responses, and that it's not just the Housing Department that communities are involved with the community, having waited 30 days for a response from Parking.

RESOLVED - Janet Dowdell to organise a Housing Officer to look around Langley Crescent with Janet Gearing.

Funding for Parks in Woodingdean

4.6 Janet Gearing was informed that the funding needed to refurbish Bexhill Road Park would be addressed by Glyn Huelin and followed up. Councillor Simson confirmed that the refurbishment of Bexhill Road Park is being funded solely by HRA money.

RESOLVED - Glyn Huelin to follow up on Bexhill Road Park and report back to Janet Gearing and Dee Simson.

Chair of East Area Panel

4.7 Sam Warren confirmed that the review of the Chair will be going to Housing Committee in the early Autumn.

4.8 Councillor Williams raised that it would be a popular solution to have a resident Chair and would be happy to take that to housing meetings. She also raised that other Area Panels are happy with their Chairs so there could be a way to decide a Chair independently.

4.9 Alan Cooke was informed that there was no ruling on whether a Chair needs to be currently sitting on Housing Committee, or is assumed to have stepped down after not attending a number of meetings.

4.10 Glyn Huelin confirmed that this issue would be raised with Martin Reid and Abraham Ghebre-Giorgis and a review process undertaken.

4.11 Rosemary Johnson suggested that a resolution of no confidence be taken against Councillor Brennan. Glyn Huelin confirmed that the review process would be undertaken regarding the Chair.

RESOLVED - Glyn Huelin to contact Martin Reid to contact Abraham Ghebre-Giorgis to initiate a review process into the terms of reference for Housing Area Panel Chairs.

5 CITYCLEAN

5.1 Rachel Chasseaud gave a verbal update mentioning the following points:

- An IT system is being implemented to manage bin collections.

- A 10 year plan is being started to replace the current fleet of refuse vehicles with electric ones.
- COVID-19 has given more challenges to waste collection safety, which have caused delays to services, and postponed project work.
- The recycling rate has remained stable throughout COVID-19 in Brighton & Hove.
- Thousands of fines are issued each year to combat offences like littering, spitting, and defecating, as well as a strategy and action plan going to Committee in June.
- Seafront traders will be contacted to reduce excess waste and plastic.
- Contact centres for CityClean are on target to re-open as normal by September.

5.2 Chris El-Shabba was informed that CCTV cameras have led to a reduction in fly tipping.

6 ANNUAL REPORT & ITEMS FOR HOUSING COMMITTEE

6.1 Glyn Huelin summarised the report starting on page 67 of the Agenda.

6.2 Chris El-Shabba was informed that someone would be sent to have a look at the main entrance door of Robert Lodge.

6.3 Janet Gearing was informed that she would receive an answer about the status of Netherfield Green, and that there must only be 10% of HMO student houses within a 50-metre radius in Category 4 areas.

6.4 Rosemary Johnson raised that the draft watermark should be removed in ASB documents.

RESOLVED - Glyn Huelin to follow up and report back to Janet Gearing about the status of Netherfield Green.

7 POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS

7.1 Alan Cooke raised that the community Apiary is up and running, and the community centre is on target to open in July.

7.2 Councillor Williams raised that Middle Park should be finished and open by the end of May, as well as Kingfishers.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Councillor Williams raised that a new charity called Pelican Parcels can provide school uniforms, baby clothes, cots, toys etc who can help out new parents.

The meeting concluded at 21:01pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of