

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.15am 19 AUGUST 2014**

**R122 KH**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Colin Vincent, Jack Hazelgrove, Francis Tonks, Val Brown and Harry Steer

**Co-opted Members:** Marion Couldery, Penny Morley and Sue Howley

**Others Present:**

**PART ONE**

**15 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

15.1 Mike Bojczuk the Chair of OPC invited everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Janet Wakeling, John Eyles and Jessica Sumner.

**16 MINUTES**

16.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July were agreed.

**17 DESIGN FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

17.1 Steven Smith, Senior Lecturer at Brighton University gave a presentation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year project for the 'Design for Older People' course. The aim is for students to work closely with users who had different profiles from themselves. Extending people's working life was not a problem to be solved but rather a resource to be tapped. Special tools or products for cooking or managing the garden could help people to remain independent for longer.

17.2 Products included an illuminated door lock, a plate for the visually impaired, a mug for the physically disabled, an egg-cracker, 3-D jigsaw puzzles in progressive degrees of difficulty, wheelie bins, electric drills, a smart device for an older person to receive reminders and a hearing aid disguised as ear rings. He brought examples of designed products and a 'cultural probe' that could be used for recording issues, or 'pinchpoints' that particular groups (such as bicycle users or older people) might find difficult.

17.3 He said the items were not necessarily glamorous but this was a way to bring designers together with user groups to develop new useful products.

17.4 Students would be focussing on an area and looking for people to work with during early October. Members of OPC or their contacts could be involved at the research and design stage if they wished.

17.5 Mike Bojczuk thanked Steven Smith for his interesting presentation.

## **18 OPC WORK PROGRAMME AND UPDATE**

18.1 Regarding the OPC Constitution; after discussion of Clause 7 (c) (iii) , OPC unanimously agreed to reduce the number of nominations for individuals to be elected to the OPC to 2; that is a proposer and a seconder. The clause now reads:

18.2 'Nominations for individuals to be elected to the OPC must be made by 2 older persons resident in the electoral zone in which the individual proposes to stand for election. Nominations must be made in writing and must be provided to the City's Returning Office in accordance with a time-scale to be determined by the City Council's Returning Officer.'

18.3 Members agreed that there was no requirement to live in the zone they are standing for.

18.4 On membership of the Council; after discussion and a vote on Clause (a) (iii) it was agreed that the clause would now read:

'Accepts election to any of the principal offices in any political party such as Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer.

It is permissible for a member of the OPC to hold an honorary position to be an ordinary member of a management group of a political party provided that the member does not use the OPC name or their position with intent to influence public support for a political party.'

18.5 The Monitoring Officer would be contacted about the amendments, in line with clause 15 of the OPC constitution.

18.6 MB, PM and CV had spoken to Electoral Services Manager about the OPC election. This was an entirely postal vote, the timetable ranging from the notice of election on 16 May 2015 to the count at Brighton Town Hall on 3 July 2015. Electoral services would deal with information packs and handle the vote, but additional publicity (eg on signing up as a candidate or to be eligible to vote) would have to be arranged by OPC. Forms for registration for voting would be needed. Various means of publicity were discussed including leaflets in libraries, local newsletters, The Independent, The Pensioner.

18.7 The numbers of residents aged over 70 (approximately 28,000) would be known by 1<sup>st</sup> December, however there was no indication on the register of the numbers of those aged between 60 and 70 years who also were eligible to vote.

## **19 SECRETARY'S UPDATE**

19.1 Penny Morley had been to an Age Friendly City steering group meeting and had circulated the notes. She would be attending a meeting on Alcohol and Drinking on 26 September. There was now a useful on-line mapping tool. OPC would like to be involved in

Older Peoples Day. An OPC member would be going to the Healthy Ageing Conference in Edinburgh.

19.2 The Big Lottery Bid had been unsuccessful and reasons for this would be fed back to the group. The Mayoral Reception had been a good event. A letter had been sent to Martin Randall re provision of sheltered housing at Shoreham Harbour. The emergency services were holding an exhibition in September and it would be useful to have electoral leaflets available on display there.

## **20 MEMBERS' UPDATE**

20.1 MB continued to develop the OPC website eg by adding links to current consultations. The number of visitors to the website was gradually rising. He urged members to fill in the surveys as individuals. Also to attend one of the workshops on the Royal Pavilion and Museums; the information had been circulated. He and CV and PM had met with a housing researcher from Louvain university.

20.2 CV had been to a meeting on the Local Account and would circulate the final document to all. He had been with JH to the advisory group on providing palliative care for older frail people; volunteer subjects were being recruited to start a pilot scheme soon.

20.3 Councillor Bowden had opened an event at the Brighthelm Centre on Arts and Older People. The write-up would be circulated.

20.4 JH said the call for medicinal cannabis had made a lot of headway in only a few weeks. FT had been to the Pensioners' Association 'Have Your Say' where older people's access to computers and difficulties in opening cans, tins and bottles was discussed. He described many activities in the Level.

20.5 The phone rota would be JH – August; FT – September up to 22 September; CV – end of September and October and HS – November.

20.6 MC reminded members of the Daily Living Centre that had aids for people with disabilities on display (not for sale). She said there were many very old people who needed befriending. The Neighbourhood Care Scheme did not operate in all areas and it was difficult to find weekly volunteers to be a friend. VB had attended the premiere and opening of the WW1 exhibition in the Library.

20.7 SH said it was a real blow that the big lottery fund had been unsuccessful but the partners were still positive and enthusiastic and would decide on a way to progress this. Information on the successful bids and detailed feedback on reasons was being provided.

## **21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

21.1 There was none.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of