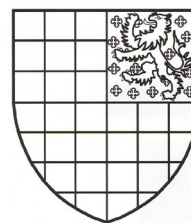


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Open Council Working Party**, held on **Tuesday 14th July 2020**, online via Zoom Meetings at 7:00pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Bird; Catlin; Henman; Herbert; Dr Maples; O’Keeffe; Sains; Vernon; Waring and Wood. Also (*not appointed to the Working party*) Cllr Burrows;

In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*); Mrs F Garth (*Asst TC and Civic Officer*); Ms L Zeyfert (*Manager; All Saints Centre*)

OCWP2020/01 **ELECTION of CHAIRMAN:** Cllr Dr Maples was elected to chair the committee for the 2020/21 year.

OCWP2020/02 **QUESTIONS:** TC answered a number of questions related to the current position with regard to ‘lockdown’ measures and prospective easing of restrictions.

OCWP2020/03 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Makepeace, who had a family commitment.

OCWP2020/04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.

OCWP2020/05 **MINUTES: it was resolved that**

OCWP2020/05.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2019 are received and signed as an accurate record.

OCWP2020/06 **REMIT of the WORKING PARTY**

Members noted the remit of the Working Party, which is:

To identify methods for improved public engagement and greater provision of information to residents of Lewes, to include:-

- > A review of information sharing and the methods used to share key events and policy developments
- > Consideration of good practice on methods of online deliberation and social media, such as on key town-wide issues
- > Identifying ways to provide more joined-up support for community engagement in and around Council-owned buildings

OCWP2020/07 **BUSINESS of the MEETING**

1. The matter of noticeboards in the town was raised, and TC advised that the Council owned only the three small cases on the face of the Town Hall, and the case at the All Saints Centre. It was stated that there was currently conflicting information displayed at the Town Hall, and TC would investigate and have this corrected. The ‘heritage-style’ street-map case in the pedestrian precinct was cited as potentially useful as a further location for Council information. TC advised that it was part of a suite of street furniture provided by the Town Council when the area was pedestrianized and dedicated to display of a town street plan for visitors, produced in partnership with the Friends of Lewes. There were potential implications to a change of use which would need to be clarified and TC undertook to investigate this possibility. It was suggested that most visitors would, these days, use digital maps on a smartphone, but other Members noted that this by no means described everyone. Cllr Herbert offered to look at other noticeboards and bring forward proposals.

2. There was a general discussion on the role of Facebook, and acknowledged that whilst it now appealed mainly to an older demographic, with other services more popular with younger people, it could compliment the Council’s website by also carrying meeting agenda *etc.* TC noted that the planned post-Covid deployment of

staff would offer more time than hitherto for an account to be administered.

3. The principles of Participatory Budgeting were briefly discussed, and it was noted that all Councillors had been invited to an imminent workshop which would include this topic.

4. *Cllrs Catlin and Vernon left the meeting at this point*

5. The Mayor was to host an informal travel-related symposium “Reinventing Lewes Streets & Shops” the following evening, in response to the County Council’s Active Travel proposals, and there was much discussion as to the format of this. The Mayor had stressed the priority for elected Members to listen to the views of the various special-interest groups and individuals who were to attend. It was noted that these invitees would include representatives from outlying villages and important that their opinions were to be heard. Some Members expressed firm preferences for the form and conduct of the meeting, but it was acknowledged that the Mayor would be the Chair.

6. There followed a general discussion and it was agreed that the Working Party would meet quarterly in future.

OCWP2020/08

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed, and thanked everyone for their attendance. *The meeting closed at 8:15pm.*

Signed date.....

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