

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 19 MAY 2015

JUBILEE LIBRARY JUBILEE STREET BRIGHTON BN1 1GE. TEL: 01273 - 290800

MINUTES

Present: Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Colin Vincent, Jack Hazelgrove, John Eyles and Harry Steer

Co-opted Members: Penny Morley and Sue Howley

PART ONE

90 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

Apologies were received from Val Brown, Francis Tonks, Janet Wakeling and Marion Couldery.

91 MINUTES

The minutes were approved.

Matters arising – in relation to the presentation on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) at the last meeting. Penny Morley, John Eyles and Colin Vincent are to attend two meetings re: campaign to encourage the council and local railways to provide a concessionary fare from local stations such as Portslade; which would meet the Age Friendly City (AFC) criteria.

The OPC had not been able to attend the TDC meeting for the Eastern side, but understood that the meetings were now held in Hove Town Hall.

In response to a public suggestion, it was noted that the new OPC members could consider a process for ensuring that members of the public were able to see and comment on the public and private OPC minutes in a timely manner.

92 OPC ELECTIONS - UPDATE AND INFORMATION

Copy of presentation by the OPC Chair attached.

Elections for the OPC are held every four years. There are 9 electoral zones for the elections which are aligned with the wards in the city. The election is done by postal ballot and the deadline to register to vote is 17th June 2015. You can only vote in the OPC elections, if you are registered to vote. This process is automatic if you over 70 years old, but if you are aged between 60-70 then you need to check if you are registered. You can only vote for the

candidate which is standing in the zone you reside in. The best way of checking your eligibility is to contact the Electoral Services team by emailing them at electors@brighton-hove.gov.uk or ringing on 01273 291999.

To stand as a candidate one needs to be over 60 years old and live in Brighton & Hove, on the electoral register. You need to apply to stand and the registration pack can be obtained from the Electoral Services team. This pack includes a nomination paper, as one needs to be nominated by two people aged over 60 who are resident in that zone (it previously had been 10 nominees). You also need to complete a personal statement of up to 150 words to say who you are, why you are standing, at what you hope to achieve if you became a member of the OPC. You also need to sign a code of conduct. It is important to note that you do not have to be resident in the zone that you stand for election in.

The OPC was the first elected older people body in the UK and there is the opportunity to choose 9 members of the Council. The key dates for the election process are:

For potential candidates

21st May 2015: Notice of Election published

5th June: Need to have submitted one's nomination paper to be a candidate by 4pm on that date

8th June: Publication of statements of persons nominated. So one can see who is standing in the area

For voters in the OPC election

17th June: need to be registered to vote by this date

18th June: despatch of postal votes

24th June: Publication of notice of poll which helps people to check whether they have got the voting slips

Then up until 2nd July to vote

3rd July: count of the votes.

Claire Wardle confirmed that the voting slips would be sent out with a pre-paid first class envelope in which to return their completed ballot paper. It was important to note that if only one candidate was standing in each of the 9 zones then no election would be needed. The OPC needed to make this clear, so that people were not left concerned about whether they had not been able to vote.

It was suggested that if people were planning to stand in one zone, that they contact the OPC's secretary to ask which zones there were known to be candidates standing in case this meant they chose to stand in the area with no known candidate. The OPC also agreed to put up information on their website about who the known candidates were and where they were intending to stand.

In response to the suggestion that unsuccessful candidates could be kept on file and offered the chance to join the OPC if a member had to stand down. The potential to co-opt members to replace any future vacancies was agreed to currently be the best method of replacing any member if they have to stand down, as any other means would involve changing the constitution.

The Chair suggested that the new members of the OPC could discuss issues such as co-option and other means of filling vacancies and see whether this would need a change of constitution. He clarified that all the current members of the OPC stand down before the election and all of them who chose to stand would have to be re-elected back onto the OPC, including those who were previously co-optees.

Up to four co-optees could be invited to sit on the OPC and all OPC members would be expected to serve a term of four years.

The count for the election would take place in Brighton Town Hall on the 3rd July.

The OPC website would put up all the information on known candidates as soon as possible.

93 SECRETARY'S UPDATE

SECRETARIAL REPORT – MAY 2015

- **Study about hip fractures & replacements.** Still seeking people to participate. Meeting to be held on May 21st 5.30 to 7pm Audrey Emerton Building (next to Eye hospital Eastern Road)
- **Changing how GP services in the City are provided** - attended a CCG consultation event with Colin on April 30th at Jury's hotel.
- Invite for Over 55s to participate in a **Valley Gardens Digital workshop** in the week commencing 25th May - 10.30 to 3.30.
- **Election OPC** - 1,000 flyers produced for meeting and circulated by OPC members. Newsletter produced for further information and packs put together in liaison with Electoral Services. Thanks to Julia for her work on this and best wishes for her future.
- **Age Friendly City forum** - minutes circulated. May meeting considered two reports circulated by Annie Alexander re Vol sector ageing commission and IPPR report on silver cities.
- **Age Friendly City Steering Group** - next meeting has become a workshop on Older People & Food .
- Notified of "**Know My Neighbour Week Meeting**" - One Church May 12th.
- **Hollingdean News** contacted OPC about information for newsletter.
- **Active Ageing Newsletter** - forward via International Team re health programme projects
- **LAT News** - Portslade meeting notification for May meeting
- **Brighton Chamber of Commerce** - debate "There is no place for politics in business" invite on 19th May at 6.00 in Brighthelm.

- **Brighton National Pensioners Convention AGM** on Tuesday 26th May in Stanmer Room at Brighthelm Centre 2.30 to 4.30
- **Care in the City Newsletter** - want volunteers week commencing 25th May to comment on web site
- **Older Peoples Day** - 1st October theme “ Full of Life”, bid invited for £15,000 with AFC referenced. OPC have been involved in bid evaluation in the past.
- **Silver Surfing** sessions at the Jubilee Library. After last meeting we were notified that these had covered dealing with the new payment system for parking by phone.
- **Deaf Awareness week** - as part of this week the East Sussex Fire Brigade offered home visits. Info on this at www.esfrs.org as visits can be arranged throughout the year.
- **Sustainable Food City** - Brighton has won a silver award and a celebration is being held at the Open Market on 19th May 5 to 6.30.

94 MEMBERS' UPDATE

Sue Howley – attended a Pensioners’ Association meeting (a positive and growing body) and the AFC Forum. OPC thought that they should obtain an update on the AFC from Annie Alexander and the new council administration.

John Eyles – has been involved in election business and will be attending St Ann’s Well Gardens Festival next week.

Colin Vincent – attended a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) meeting, a Grey Matters meeting, and a Senior Housing Action Committee to promote the elections.

Mike Bojczuk – has been distributing OPC election material at a range of libraries and community centres.

Jack Hazelgrove – has been canvassing in the local elections and narrowly missed being elected. He may have been the oldest candidate in the election.

95 OPC WORK PROGRAMME

The final meeting of the current members of the OPC will take place on 23 June with Barbara Deacon Hedges on social isolation.

21 July the new OPC (post-election) will meet to agree their work programme.

96 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The link councillor for the OPC has been Cllr Geoffrey Bowden who was not re-elected in the recent local election. The OPC would like to thank him for his work in supporting the OPC, his representation and attendance at meetings.

Some members of the OPC indicated whether they intended to stand in the new OPC elections (although this could be subject to change):

- Jack Hazelgrove would not be standing.
- Colin Vincent would be standing although he was not sure which zone to stand in.
- Mike Bojczuk would be standing in zone 9
- John Eyles would be standing in zone 6
- Sue Howley would be standing down as a co-optee and not standing for election. However she may offer to be a co-optee again if needed.
- Francis Tonks was thought to be likely to stand for Rottingdean

While this represented the current position of the OPC members present at this meeting, it was recognised that it would be useful to put information up on the OPC website about which zones it was known that one or more candidate would be standing and the zones where there did not appear to be a candidate. This would help people who wished to stand to choose a zone where they were more likely to be selected. However the OPC may not be aware of all the potential candidates.

It was suggested that the new OPC members could ask for representation on the Health & Wellbeing Board.

The meeting concluded at 13.30

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of