

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the
Community Governance Review Sub-Committee
held on Monday, 25th February, 2013 at Executive Meeting Room 1,
Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ

PRESENT

Councillor D Marren (Chairman)
Councillor P Groves (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors G Baxendale, S Hogben (for Cllr Jackson), B Murphy and
P Whiteley

Officers

Lindsey Parton, Registration Service and Business Manager
Paul Jones, Democratic Services Team Manager
Paul Mountford, Democratic Services Officer

ChALC

Jackie Weaver

Apologies

Councillor J Jackson

74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S Hogben declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Crewe
Charter Trustee.

75 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

76 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of 19th December 2012 be approved as a
correct record.

77 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during
consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the
Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely
disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part

1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

78 APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM PARISH CLERK

The Sub-Committee interviewed two candidates for the appointment of an Interim Parish Clerk for Crewe Parish Council. Both candidates currently served as town clerks for town councils in Cheshire East.

With regard to working arrangements, Members agreed that the Interim Clerk would be appointed for the period up to the Annual meeting of the new parish council; any continuation of the appointment beyond that would be a matter for the parish council. The Clerk would be expected to work an average of ten hours a week, primarily on Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow for liaison with the Clerk to the Crewe Charter Trustees. The Interim Clerk would be paid by ChALC who would then seek reimbursement from the parish council. The Clerk would be expected to keep a record of the hours worked and to submit an invoice either direct to ChALC or to the Registration Service and Business Manager at Cheshire East. The Clerk's salary grade would be based on his current grade as a parish clerk.

Each candidate was interviewed in turn, using a standard set of questions agreed by Members.

RESOLVED

That Mr Jonathan Williams, currently the Town Clerk to Middlewich Town Council, be offered the position of Interim Clerk to Crewe Parish Council.

79 RE- ADMITTANCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public and press be re-admitted to the meeting.

80 CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS

1. Transfer of assets

Members were informed that the Chief Executive had appointed the Democratic and Registration Services Manager to project manage the transfer of assets (allotments and public conveniences) to the parish council. This would involve the production of a communications plan in the first instance, and the publication of any public notices required.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

2. Arrangements for the annual meeting of Crewe Parish Council

Members considered a draft agenda for the Annual Meeting of Crewe Parish Council. It dealt with such matters as the election of Chairman, appointment of a temporary clerk, the transfer of assets, the adoption of standing orders, the appointment of committees, training of councillors and various administrative and financial arrangements.

RESOLVED

That the draft agenda be approved subject to Item 11 – consideration of the designation of Crewe Parish Council as Crewe Town Council – being moved to Item 2, to follow the election of a Chairman, and it being made clear under Item 1 that if such designation were approved, the title of Chairman would be replaced with the title of Mayor.

3. Historic and ceremonial regalia and property of the Charter Trustees

Members considered a report of the Borough Solicitor on the ongoing negotiations with the Crewe Charter Trustees concerning the historic and ceremonial regalia and property of the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council.

The Asset Management Team had commissioned inventories of the Municipal Buildings, Crewe. Officers from Democratic Services had attempted to reach provisional agreement with the Crewe Charter Trustees as to what property would become the property of the Trustees. At their meeting on 17th January 2013, the Charter Trustees had passed a resolution identifying the property they wished to claim. Arrangements were being made for the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Policy to confirm the property to be transferred. It was hoped that the regalia, once transferred, would remain in the Municipal Buildings. This would be a matter for discussion between Cheshire East Council and the new parish council.

Cheshire East Council would need to determine the responsibility for the insurance and care of historic and ceremonial regalia and property that remained in its possession.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

81 **MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Sub-Committee considered a revised project plan for the Macclesfield community governance review, together with a first draft of the consultation leaflet.

It was intended that the leaflet to stakeholders would be supplemented by a number of public meetings.

Members agreed on the need for the leaflet to be informative and neutral, identifying all options while not giving the impression of favouring any one of them.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) the Registration Service and Business Manager, in consultation with the Communications Team, give further consideration to the consultation leaflet to ensure that it is clear and balanced, and a revised version be submitted to the next meeting for consideration; and
- (2) the timetable for the project plan be reviewed and reconsidered at the next meeting.

82 NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 5.10 pm

Councillor D Marren (Chairman)