

# HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 17 JULY 2014

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Boulter, Chave, Chappell, Kenyon, Preece, Nicholls, Tawn, Toon and Wilcox.

Will Lindesay, Chief Executive from HVOSS was present in relation to the two items on the agenda.

### **G&P2014/2015.10 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Preece proposed Cllr Chappell to continue as Chairman of the Governance and Procedures Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Nicholls and agreed. There were 3 abstentions.

Cllr Preece was proposed to continue as Vice Chairman of Governance and Procedures Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Kenyon and unanimously agreed.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**Cllr Chappell continues as Chairman of the Governance and Procedures Committee.**

**Cllr Preece continues as Vice Chairman of the Governance and Procedures Committee.**

### **G&P2014/2015.11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr Michael.

### **G&P2014/2015.12 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES**

Members noted Cllr Boulter was appointed as substitute for Cllr Michael.

### **G&P2014/2015.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received under the Herefordshire Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of items on the agenda.

### **G&P2014/2015.14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Governance and Procedures Committee held on the 17 JUNE 2014.

Cllr Wilcox asked under minute number G&P2014/2015.6 the wording of the resolution be amended from referred to Council 'to consider and agree on the adoption of' to 'to consider its adoption.'

Members happy with the amendment proposed and unanimously agreed the minutes as a true and accurate account of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**Members approve the minutes as a true and accurate account of the meeting including the amendment as referred to above for the meeting held on the 17 June 2014. The Chairman duly initialled, signed and dated the minutes following the amendment being made to the minutes.**

Cllr Toon asked for clarity as to why this extra ordinary meeting of the committee had been called as the two items on the agenda were not of urgency. The Town Clerk explained it was because the items could then go to Full Council for consideration on the 29 July 2014.

**G&P2014/2015.15 MAYOR'S YOUTH COMMENDATION AND AWARDS**

Members received and considered the report and recommendations from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk gave a brief over view of his report and explained to Members that HVOSS have an awards night recognising young people in various categories such as Young Fundraiser, Young Carer, Young Volunteer known as 'Volunteer of the Year.

Mr Lindesay was invited to speak to Members on the awards.

Mr Lindesay gave a brief over view of the project and requested Officers from both the City Council and HVOSS enter in to conversations on taking the Mayor's Youth Commendations forward and to consider how they could work alongside what HVOSS already deliver.

Members discussed/commented on the following:

- Suggested that maybe the Mayor's Youth Commendation forms part of the HVOSS' Volunteer of the Year Awards.
- Don't need to have an extra award when we already have Mayor's Commendations which can be given at any time throughout the year.
- Pride of Herefordshire awards - what is happening in relation to the Journal no longer being involved, will these awards still continue.
- Great to recognise young people but the City Council need to map what is already being delivered to recognise young people and consider this before doing any more when there is so much already out there.
- Other awards are not well publicised.
- Hereford Times has always been very negative.
- The Mayor's Youth Commendation is a good idea.
- Others are doing awards like this already.
- Would enhance the profile of the City Council to have an award of this kind.

- Need to have some conversations with other bodies already delivering similar awards before the City Council take this forward.
- Need for young people to have someone to look up to.
- Young people don't always have the skills to volunteer but want to.
- Noted the work of the volunteers at the skate park.
- Need to help young people get a positive message out there.

Cllr Wilcox commended HVOSS on the work they do recognising young people and asked Mr Lindesay for his views in relation to young volunteers.

Mr Lindesay explained that young people are the second highest percentage of volunteers Herefordshire. In his opinion there was a need to discuss the practicalities of the matter with other parties before the City Council takes this item to Council.

More discussion took place reiterating much of what had already been discussed as laid out above.

It was then proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the idea in principle. That the Town Clerk and Civic and Community Development Officer to have discussions with HVOSS and bring a full detailed report to the next meeting of the Governance & Procedures Committee in October.

**RESOLVED:**

**To approve the idea of a Mayor's Youth Commendation in principle.  
The Town Clerk and Civic and Community Development Officer to have discussions with HVOSS and bring a full detailed report to the next meeting of the Governance & Procedures Committee in October.**

**G&P2014/2015.16 YOUTH COUNCIL**

Members received and considered the report and recommendations from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk gave a brief over view of his report and the paper provided by HVOSS and circulated to Members at meeting.

Cllr Tawn explained to Members about a meeting he had had previously in relation to setting up a youth council and as a result the idea has been brought to this meeting for Members to consider enabling the youth of the city a voice and the opportunity to observe the democratic process.

Cllr Kenyon aired his concerns in relation to staff capacity and putting even more pressure and a greater workload on the City Council's Officers is unfair. He informed Members that he has been to speak to several schools about the Council, what it does and how the process works and encouraging them to take an interest. During those talks he has also invited them to attend meetings of the Council. Creating a Youth Council is creating another cost to the Council's budget and more work load for the City Council's Officers to deal with.

Cllr Nicholls informed Members of his experience last summer when he went to the academy in Hereford to speak to the children and to answer questions. At the event he was interviewed by the children. During his time with the children he encouraged them to aspire to becoming one of the youngest elected Councillors.

Discussions continued covering the following:

- Youth Council is great idea - they have them in most schools unfortunately you can't engage with them unless you have CBR checks.
- Messages were read out from Ross Youth Councils website.
- The youth and negativeness when they do not get what they want as it is maybe just not possible.
- Officers are working to max capacity The City Council really does not have Officer capacity to deliver this.
- The EPIC's
- Young people volunteering with community groups.
- Past conversations with Close House and engaging the Epic's and young people already volunteering with community groups to engage with their ward Councillors, be encouraged to think about projects they would like to see delivered in the areas they live etc.
- Delivering projects in their areas would give young people pride, be engaged with the democratic process, increase their skill sets and these skills can be added to their CV's

The Chairman asked the Civic and Community Development Officer to explain about Ringwood Council.

Members were informed that at a 'Communities are Us' conference delivered by NALC last summer Ringwood Council delivered a seminar about how they engage with young people. It was explained that Ringwood have student advisors. These are students from one high school who have been selected to sit on the different committees they are assigned to and give the views from the young people from the school on items on the agendas. Ringwood explained this was a much cheaper and a more cost effective way of engaging with young people than through a youth Council. There is no real additional work as those Student Advisors are simply emailed the agendas, they consult with their peers on the items, and then attend the meetings and enter in to the discussions the same as with any Councillor on the Council.

Cllr Wilcox gave Members an insight in to the failed Youth Council at Herefordshire Council. He explained that there was one professional officer who was solely employed to oversee the Youth Council. Once that person left the Council the Youth Council dwindled and it didn't really work. He also informed Members that in his view the City Council should be working with HVOSS to come up with a scheme to take this forward in the most cost efficient and productive way..

The Chairman asked Mr Lindesay if he would be happy to do this and Mr Lindesay agreed he would happily take this forward with the City Council.

It was then proposed by Cllr Toon that the Town Clerk and the Civic and Community Development Officer present work with HVOSS and other identified groups to consider the best options for engaging with the youth of the City and the Committee awaits a further report on setting up a youth council, which, if approved, will be referred to full Council for final decision. This was seconded by Cllr Wilcox and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Town Clerk and the Civic and Community Development Officer present work with HVOSS and other identified groups to consider the best options for engaging with the youth of the City and the Committee awaits a further report on setting up a youth council, which, if approved, will be referred to full Council for final decision.**

**G&P2014/2015.17 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- a) Velum scrolls
- b) Staffing issue – Report on any outstanding grievances.
- c) Pride of Herefordshire – report on the current situation.

**G&P2014/2015.18 DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – 7 OCTOBER 2014**

There being no further business the Chairman called the meeting to a close at 19.03

Signed.....

Dated.....