**MINUTES OF THE CHARTER TRUSTEE MEETING**

**HELD 29TH FEBRUARY 2016**

**AUSTEN ROOM. TDC**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Robin Edwards (Mayor) Cllr Mrs Rosamund Dixon (Deputy Mayor) Cllr Chris Wells, Cllr Mrs Iris Johnston, Cllr Mick Tomlinson, Cllr Jonathan Curran, Cllr Edward Jaye-Jones, Cllr Gary Taylor, Cllr Linda Potts, Cllr Julie Dellar.

Also Present: Ingrid Spencer, Clerk to the Charter Trustees.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Ash Ashbee

**MINUTE 39** **ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Minutes from the meeting held **11th January 2016.** Cllr Wells asked if any further communication had been received from Westgate. None received.

There being no further matters arising from the minutes, Cllr Johnson proposed acceptance, Cllr Dixon seconded.

Minutes of Executive Meeting held **27th January 2016.** Cllr Jaye-Jones queried how the Margate in Bloom initiative would operate – would it be open to community groups or individuals?

Minutes from the meeting held **25th January 2016.** One amendment, Cllr Curran had given his apologies and these had not been recorded. There being no other matters arising from the minutes, Cllr Tomlinson proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Dellar.

**MINUTE 40 MAYOR’S REPORT**

The Mayor reported on the successful fund-raising dinner held at Salmestone Grange on 23rd January which raised over £500 for the Mayor’s Fund.

He reminded the Charter Trustees of the end of term dinner and cabaret with Mandy Winters at the Walpole Bay Hotel on 16th April.

The Lighting of the Beacon to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday will take place on Thursday 21st April at the beacon on Fort Hill. All Charter Trustees to attend if possible. The beacon will be lit at 7.30p.m. so assembly at 7.00/7.15p.m. Cllr Tomlinson is helping to organise this.

Mayor Making and the AGM will take place at the Winter Gardens on Monday 16th May and all Charter Trustees are expected to be there.

The Mayor will be hosting a street party for 200 children at the Piazza in Margate on Sunday 12th June 2016 to coincide with street parties being held across the Country. He has asked for as many volunteers from the Charter Trustees as possible on the day.

The Mayor updated the Trustees on an invitation received from Chenobyl Children’s Lifeline and Margate’s connection with Yalta in the Ukraine. An invitation has been extended by the Charter Trustees to Lt Colonel Igor Pismenski who will be visiting the area and attending a service in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Chenobyl disaster at Canterbury Cathedral on 26th April, to visit Margate on Thursday 28th April. An itinerary will be put forward for the visit and it is hoped that as many Charter Trustees as possible can join the Mayor, if not for the entire visit, at least to hear from the Lt Colonel over tea.

**MINUTE 41 FINANCE REPORT**

Cllr Johnson queried the VAT situation, should we be reclaiming VAT on everything. Is there an Auditor’s letter to support the reclaiming of all input VAT?

Cllr Ashbee has resigned from all committees including the Finance committee. The Mayor asked for a volunteer to replace Cllr Ashbee. Cllr Julie Dellar agreed to go on the committee.

The Time and Date of the next Finance Committee meeting should be minuted.

If the committee sets up a ‘working group’, the meeting does not have to be published on the website or notice board as working groups are not open to the public.

The Finance Committee membership is now:

Cllr Mrs Iris Johnston

Cllr Mrs Rosamund Dixon

Cllr Robin Edwards

Cllr Mrs Julie Dellar.

Next Finance working group meeting: Monday 4th April 11.00a.m. in Mayor’s Parlour

Cllr Johnson proposed acceptance of the Finance Report, seconded by Cllr Potts.

**MINUTE 42 WORKING PARTIES**

Cllr Johnston asked whether anything had been heard from the Chief Executive of TDC following the Mayor’s visit and was disappointed to hear that nothing had been forthcoming from TDC. Cllr Johnston gave information regarding the background to repairs undertaken to the boiler and roof at the OTH during Sue McGonagall’s time at TDC. Cllr Tomlinson commented that part of the boiler problem had been that it had been surrounded by boxes stored by the Café which prevented air circulation around the boiler. There are rumours that TDC has been talking to parties interested in buying the OTH and that these talks have been going on for some time. Cllr Wells asked that Cllrs Johnston and Tomlinson forward him the names of these ‘interested parties’.

Cllr Johnston complained that the Charter Trustees had been continually ‘fobbed off’ by TDC and officers over the years regarding the OTH and no progress whatsoever had been made. Cllr Jaye-Jones enquired as to why the Charter Trustees had not obtained quote for the necessary work.

Cllr Johnston wanted a meeting of the Town Hall Working Group to be called and Chris Rolle to attend, furthermore, that a response from the Chief Executive to the notes of the Mayor’s meeting should be requested. Cllr Julie Dellar to replace Cllr Ashbee on the working group. Date set for the meeting: Friday 18th February 10.00a.m. Mayor’s Parlour. Cllr Johnston queried whether Ian Dickie from the Museum ought to be invited.

**MRIN**

Cllr Tomlinson informed the Charter Trustees how the involvement of the Trustees with MRIN came about and queried whether it should continue to be administered from the Mayor’s office or whether possibly Dr Peetes would be a better vehicle as it operates in the same sector as the MRIN.

**Mayor’s Fund**

Cllr Tomlinson queried the legality of the way the Mayor’s Fund is currently operating compared with how the Fund operated in the past. Cllr Jaye-Jones asked about applications to the fund as he was aware of an organisation that would like to make an application. It was agreed to bring the Mayor’s Fund back to the Charter Trustees.

**MINUTE 43 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Mrs Johnston suggested the Shell Grotto and possibly tea at the Walpole Bay hotel to be part of the itinerary for Lt Colonel Pismenki’s visit.

The Charter Trustees authorised the payment of £400 be made towards the updating and printing of the Cinque port visitor leaflet.

There being no further matters arising, the meeting ended at 8.45p.m.