

Minutes of the meeting of the Chelmsford Garden Community Assembly held on 18th April 2024 at the Beaulieu Community Centre, 17 Centenary Way, Chelmsford, Essex

Present: **Councillors** Andrew Wright (Chair)
Melanie Williamson
Chloe Tron
Daniel Jeffreys
Kuldeep Golla
Romilly Wakeling
Brian Jeapes
Cynthia Driver
Derek Drew-Smith
Neil Shah
Joel Alderman
 Executive Officer Suzanne Walker
Engagement Manager: Julie Birkumshaw
City Councillors: Rose Moore, Dan Clark and Ian Fuller
County Councillor: Mike Mackrory

25 members of the public were present.

The meeting followed a Community Market place where representatives from the following organisations were present:

The Land Trust, Falcon Bowls Club, Channels CIC, Dance Exclusive, Brogan's Dance, Russian School, Neighbourhood Watch, Chelmsford Garden Community Trust, Dancercise, Ever so Arty, Chelmsford CVS and the Foodbank.

The meeting commenced at 8.30pm

1. Apologies

None received.

2. To approve the minutes from the Annual Assembly that took place on 18th May 2023

The minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 18th May 2023 were **agreed** by all Councillors and signed by the Chair.

3. Report from the Chair

The Chair of Chelmsford Garden Community Council provided a summary of events over the last 12 months since the Council came into being on 1st April 2023, emphasising how the Council has engaged with the community by way of events, meetings and drop ins and that it has created a 4 year strategy statement and is working on strategies for youth and Stewardship. He considered that the approach has been modern and innovative and thanked Councillors and residents for a successful first year. The full report will be published on the Council's website.

4. City Councillor Updates

Councillor Moore congratulated the Council on its first year and reminded the Council that there is an opportunity for grant funding to be obtained from Chelmsford City Council and highlighted the work of the Chelmsford CVS.

5. County Councillor Updates

Councillor Mackrory stated that he has enjoyed attending meetings of the Council and highlighted some particular important issues being the building of the new health centre, the new pedestrian crossing over White Hart Lane which will improve safety for children attending Beaulieu Park School and the fact that there are plans to downgrade White Hart Lane in due course, once the Chelmsford North East Bypass has progressed.

6. Update from organisations that have received grant funding from this Council during financial year 2023 – 2024.

The Acting Chair of the Trust provided an update on the work carried out by the Trust over the last 12 months including employing a new management team and an overhaul of policies and procedures and management of the building. She reminded everyone that the Centre has no core funding nor do they receive anything from residents' service charge but are reliant on income derived from hire at the centre. She set out plans for the future including information events in relation to women's health, dementia and cyber bullying plus Remembrance and Christmas activities. Financial pressures were mentioned and there will be an open day at the centre on 12th May. It was confirmed that two grants had been received from Chelmsford Garden Community Council. One grant had funded security improvements and the second to subsidise events and improvements, aligning to the vision of creating a Community Hub.

7. Open session for residents to ask questions and raise issues.

A hall user asked how the issue of additional parking will be catered for as a result of the new health centre and there was a concern that there will not be dedicated parking for the surgery. A representative from the Land Trust highlighted the display in the room in relation to plans for the new Community Gardens.

Meeting concluded at 9.07pm