CG **CHELMSFORD GARDEN**
CC **Community Council**

Minutes of the meeting of the Chelmsford Garden Community Assembly held on 18th May 2023 at 7pm at the Beaulieu Community Centre, 17 Centenary Way, Chelmsford, Essex

Present: **Councillors** Andrew Wright (Chairman)
Kuldeep Golla
Daniel Jeffreys
Helen Skinner
Melanie Williamson
Executive Officer Suzanne Walker
City Councillors**:** Rose Moore, Stephen Robinson, Ian Fuller and Mike Steel
County Councillors Mike Mackrory

Thirteen members of the public were present

1. Apologies
Received from Councillor Chloe Tron and County Councillor John Spence.

2. The report from the Chair
The Chair provided his report providing some background on how the Shadow Council had worked to make sure that as from 1st April 2023 the processes were in place for the new Chelmsford Garden Community Council to function. He also set out the vision for the new Council in working with the Community and the full report will be published on the website.

3. Community Group introductions
A representative from the Church provided an update on the setting up of the Beaulieu Community Centre in 2018 and the activities of the centre including the wish to provide for the physical and mental wellbeing of the community. She also provided a summary of the activity of the vicar who is responsible for 7 churches including St Francis church which holds Sunday services and has set up a mobile supermarket for which he is seeking volunteers.

A representative of a local youth group currently based at the Springfield Parish centre provided an update on their work with local young people from 11-17 years which includes youth leader roles, providing hampers at Christmas for the community, helping at St Augustine church especially with the tea dance for the elderly, first aid training and skills for life education. She is aware of anti-social behaviour issues in this community and her aspiration is to have a building or be part of a building that provides services for young people including an outdoor space.

A representative from the Channels CIC spoke about the community garden projects that she has led including the opening of the community vegetable garden this coming weekend and the positive impact the projects has had. She also presented a report from the CIC as to how it manages around 30 acres of open space including parks, the beacon, lakes, play areas and the skate park. For further development of the Channels area it is hoped that the same model of management can be used.

4. City Councillor updates

Councillor Robinson spoke about his involvement in the shadow council and the fact that he sees the new Chelmsford Garden Community as a unified voice for this area. He stated that the issue of stewardship is an important point and would be part of the Local Plan review process. He mentioned that the expectation is that Councillor Ian Fuller will be the cabinet member for master planning and thus will have an interest in this area.

Councillor Mike Steel introduced himself as one of the City and County Councillor for the area.

Councillor Rose Moore introduced herself as one of the City Councillors for this area and highlighted the 'Love Your Chelmsford' scheme which as well as supporting open space issues can provide grants as well.

5. County Councillor Updates

Councillor Mackrory spoke and had hoped to be able to provide an update regarding the Chelmsford North East bypass and the new railway station but the meeting has been deferred. He confirmed he will keep the Council updated. He noted that the new primary school has been granted planning permission in the area near New Hall. He is also pressing the issue of the provision of a health centre for the area

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

A resident raised the issue of the provision of allotments by the Land Trust and it is expected that there will be an engagement event in the summer. Residents were invited to inform the Council how they would like to engage with them by way of the times and manner of more informal community meetings.

Meeting concluded at 8.06pm