

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CHARLES BURRELL HIGH SCHOOL SUB COMMITTEE,
HELD ON THURSDAY 22nd AUGUST 2013,
STARTING AT 10.00 A.M.

Present
The Mayor Councillor S N H Wright

Councillors

T J Jermy (Chairman)
M P Brindle (Vice Chairman)
D W R Sully

Mrs S J Armes
D M Crawford

Officers in attendance:

Emma Patrick Deputy Town Clerk
Chris Crimmen Committee Secretary

Also in attendance:

David Russell and Graham Wray, Norfolk Property Services to
speak on Agenda number 319/13.

316/13 DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS
None.

317/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None.

318/13 MINUTES
Resolved as a true record the minutes of the Committee's meeting held
on 9th August 2013, to be received by the Council on 24th September
2013, be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the
Committee Chairman.

319/13 BUILDING - CHARLES BURRELL HIGH SCHOOL
The Chairman welcomed David Russell and Graham Wray from Norfolk
Property Services (NPS) and asked them to summarise the current
situation regarding the closure of the Charles Burrell High School
(CBHS) building. David Russell reported that the school building would
close on Friday 30th August 2013. All the fixtures/fittings/furniture was
being stored in the large hall and would be identified, redistributed or
disposed of as necessary. The Mayor asked if fixtures/fittings/furniture
that would be essential for the future running of the building as a
community hub could be set aside. This would be investigated by
Norfolk Property Services. Councillors identified some of the proposed
uses for the school building:

- Church Groups.
- Medical Centre.
- Thetford Toy Library.
- Scout Group.
- Cookery School.
- Various Sports Clubs.
- Various Neighbourhood Groups.
- Emergency Feeding Centre.

David Russell advised the Council to challenge every interested party to let the Council know as soon as possible the space that they need, the day(s) they need and the income generated.

Graham Wray was asked if only the “top part” of the school was used as a community centre could the other part be “mothballed”. He replied that would be easy to do and he could tailor options to suit the needs of the Council. He said the caretaking staff would be made redundant but thought one member of the caretaking staff could be brought back on a short term basis. The CCTV is being left on to monitor the building.

The swimming pool has been emptied for Health and Safety reasons. NPS advised that to run the pool was a large annual cost that had to cover heating/water quality/lifeguards and the Council should look closely at the likely return a swimming pool would generate.

David Russell thought the NPS could offer a fixed term lease for two years (or term to suit) with a six month break. He was asked if the first six months could be at a peppercorn rent.

The Chairman proposed the Council should arrange an Open Day for all interested groups to see the facilities available and record their interest in using the building. The Deputy Town Clerk agreed to organise this event and speak to all interested parties.

The Chairman was interested in the current state of the building and David Russell offered to send a current condition survey electronically so this can be circulated to all Councillors.

NEXT STEPS:

- Arrange for a site visit by interested Councillors.
- Fix a date for the Open Day – times to cover late afternoon/early evening.
- Collate data for the running costs of the building.
- Resolve all Financial issues.
- Design a structure to operate the building.
- Investigate Charity Status.
- Obtain cost of Council Tax/business rates and Building Insurance.

320/13

UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that as both he and Councillor D Crawford were Norfolk County Councillors and that they would ensure that this subject is kept a top priority. The Chairman was keeping the Cabinet member of Finance & Property – Councillor Steve Morpew, aware of developments.

321/13

ACTION POINTS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE INAUGURAL MEETING

The Chairman explained that there was a lot of work to do and little time for it to be completed so suggested that each member of the committee could be responsible for a particular aspect.

- Councillor D Sully as a former CBHS Governor will investigate the cost of running the building.

- The Mayor Councillor S Wright will liaise with Dr N Stott – Chief Executive of the Keystone Development Trust, to look at a possible management structure and arrange for a paper ready for Full Council in September.
- Councillor D Crawford will speak to Flagship Housing regarding their possible involvement with the project.
- Councillor M Brindle will be responsible for updating the public on the Councils progress to save the building for community use.
- Councillor Mrs S Armes will liaise with Breckland Council/MTF/Kevin Ward/William Nunn regarding funding for improvements/alterations to the building.

Chairman: