

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on 15th February 2021, which was held virtually by Zoom under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020.

Councillors: Matthew Jeffers (Chairman)
Sandy Ellis (Vice Chairman)
Clare Cheney
Rachel Cromie (7.38pm)
Stephanie Inglesfield
Jack Langley
Alastair McPherson
Sujan Wickremaratchi

Apologies Absent***

Also present: Town Clerk, ECO,

38. Apologies

R. Cromie – family commitments.

39. Minutes

The Minutes of the Environment & General Purposes Committee held on 14th December 2020 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

40. Substitutes

None.

41. Declarations of Interest

None.

42. Events and Community Officer Report (ECO)

Members firstly discussed the issue of the Spring Festival and agreed that it should not be held due to Covid 19 restrictions, as it would be impossible to hold the event legally, safely and there was not enough time to organise and secure the infrastructure required. It was then agreed that the focus of the Town Council's events programme should be heading towards Town Day, which it was hoped to be a celebration. It was also thought if the Covid-19 situation did not improve then the event could go virtual. It was then agreed that a decision on Town Day should be made in May at the latest, maybe even earlier so that the infrastructure, attractions and acts can be booked. It was thought that an update be brought to the next meeting. It was suggested that the Town Council try and put a clause in hiring contracts that says if Town Day was cancelled then the Town Council could roll the booking over to 2022. The Town Clerk urged caution, as in the present climate companies were struggling and needed deposits. It was felt, notwithstanding this the idea could be looked into and the providers asked, as they were looking to be open for business. With regards to the Covid-19 Awards it was noted that the idea had been developed to include community/voluntary groups and individuals, in addition to the original idea of local businesses. It was also agreed that the award for businesses was not extended to include those who benefitted financially from their Covid-19 actions. The ECO also presented a funding package proposal, over and above that in the recently adopted Inward Investment Plan, as a company was already interested, who would offer services/training for business bounce back from Covid-19 to help the winning business(es). It was felt that this company, and indeed any other company, would

need to be vetted (accounts, social media, ethical standards) by the Town Council and the agreement would be on a one-year trial basis and would ultimately be put forward to for ratification by Full Council, as it is was so important and that the Town Council scrutinised any company that it aligns itself with. It was then was agreed to drive the awards forward that a small informal working group be formed to help the ECO, with Cllrs Jeffers, Inglesfield and Cromie volunteering to help. Without any further comment on the report,

Members **RESOLVED** to,

- a) **Cancel Spring Festival 2021.**
- b) **Progress the Covid-19 Awards Sponsorship package with a working group formed of Cllrs Jeffers, Cromie and Inglesfield.**

43. Environment Working Group

Members noted the actions of the Working Group as presented and were supportive of the work and actions that had been progressed, which related to the Town Council's Environment adopted policies. The Town Clerk asked that it be noted that the Carbon Footprint calculators had been tested and that a frequently asked question sheet had been produced, as requested by the Working Group, and they would both be going live in the next few weeks. The project to put solar panels on the Town Hall was not to be progressed, but alternatives such as Ecotricity were going to be looked into. It was also noted that the Environment Awards would be progressed by Cllrs Nicholson and McPherson with the Town Clerk. Thanks were conveyed by Cllr Ellis for the work by the Groundstaff on the grot spot area at Bridge Road. With this;

Members **RESOLVED** to,

Ratify the actions of the Environment Working Group dated 19th January 2021.

44. Town Council Street Light Energy Renewal

The Town Clerk presented the reports of the Assistant to the Town Clerk. It was suggested that, in line with the Council's Environment policies, that the green energy be the preferred option moving forward. If agreeable Members would need to decide how far they wished to go with green energy in terms of a carbon offset or direct provider of green energy, with this Member's views were sought. It was unanimously agreed that more work would be needed to understand the green energy implications, which would be presented to the Committee in April as the contract needs to be let by the 1st May 2021. There seemed to be the view a REGO certificated supply would be preferred instead of blindly offsetting the usage to a third party. It was also felt that all options needed to be fully considered. In closing the Assistant to the Clerk was commended for her report and the work undertaken to bring the renewal work to the Committee's attention

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Ask the Assistant to the Town Clerk to return to the next meeting of the Committee with additional options of green power for the street lighting power contract.

45. South and South East in Bloom

The Town Clerk presented the report and again suggested that the Town Council did not enter during 2021 as it could not make a credible entry in the current climate. This was on the basis of the social interaction/gathering that the entry depends on, and the

fact the committee has been unable to meet, as some do not have electronic means. The recommendation was supported as the development of the portfolio, judging route and application paperwork could not be pulled together in the current climate. In doing so the Committee agreed for only a year out and that the initiative be kept bubbling along with the thought of a virtual Best Kept Gardens and Allotments competition being marketed, with a virtual/walkable route of those entering being developed.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Not enter into South and South East in Bloom in 2021.

46. Muster Green Management Plan

Members agreed to adopt the Management Plan and as a consequence noted the Green Flag Entry would continue in 2021 as this initiative did not need the organisation a South and South East in Bloom tour would require. It was asked if the Town Clerk was aware of the damage to the railings at the War Memorial. It was confirmed that this was a matter that was being dealt and had been a regular occurrence. It was asked if there was a solution to increase the safety and the defence of Muster Green. It was noted that this was a good point, but there needed to be a balance and the Green Flag and South and South East in Bloom judges did not like over cluttering of open spaces. The Town Clerk was asked to make West Sussex Highways Officers aware of accidents and see if traffic calming be looked at as all of the instances have been due to high speed. Cllr Wickremaratchi intervened and stated in his role as a County Councillor he would take the matter up in the first instance. With this,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Adopt the Muster Green Management Plan for 2021.

47. Motion from Cllr R. Cromie – Town Fund Monies for Community Foodhub in America Lane.

Cllr Cromie presented the motion and gave an update of the hub and the background to the project run out Saltworks Cafe. It was noted the signage was needed so people will stop and take the food on offer as it was not well signposted. Without debate the motion was unanimously agreed, with this,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Award £129.60 from the Town Fund to Sussex Clubs for Young People to assist them in advertising the Food Larder located at Saltworks Cafe in America Lane,

48. Urgent Items

None.

Meeting Closed at 8.36pm