

**HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 31st January 2022

Councillors: Christopher Ash-Edwards

Richard Bates

Clare Cheney

Rachel Cromie

Sandy Ellis

Christopher Evans

Howard MUNDIN

Stephanie Inglesfield

Matthew Jeffers

James Knight **

Clive Laband

Jack Langley

Alastair McPherson **

Richard Nicholson

Mike Pulfer

Sujan Wickremaratchi

Apologies Absent***

Also present, None

In the absence of the Deputy Mayor Cllr Jeffers was nominated and seconded to take the Vice Chairman role for the duration of the meeting.

52. Council Prayer

Members stood for the Town Council prayer, which was read by Town Mayor, Cllr Howard MUNDIN.

53. Apologies

Cllr Knight – Personal Matter.

Cllr McPherson – Family Commitment.

54. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2021, without comment, were taken as read, confirmed as true record and were duly signed by the Town Mayor.

55. Declarations of Interest

None

56. Public Forum

None

57. To Dispose of any Business Outstanding from the Last Meeting.

None.

58. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.

The Town Mayor, presented his list of engagements making special note of his attendance at the National Holocaust Remembrance Service held at the War Memorial on January 27th 2022, which he stated was a moving and poignant event. At this point

the matter of the Muster Green South being closed to traffic due to noise and disappointment regarding the PA system used for the event was raised. The Town Clerk reminded Members that the event was not directly organised by the Town Council and it was supporting Amnesty International Haywards Heath. Furthermore, both of the issues raised would require substantial funding. This was not for the Town Council to pursue but it could consider a grant if one was submitted. The Town Clerk also conveyed his disappointment that the Town Council had not been thanked for its infrastructure support and use of the Town Hall on the day. It was also noted that the event was growing in attendance and therefore thought should be given to live streaming the event. The Town Clerk stated that this along with the other two matters would put more pressure on staffing if the Town Council was asked to do so, and the Environment and General Purposes Committee resolved the Town Council's input the event when setting its event programme for 2022/2023. Moving on the Mayor made note of his busy Christmas period, which included the Mewes Vets Christmas Party, a visit to the Santa's Grotto at the Bentswood Hub and the 20th Anniversary Christmas celebration at the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity in Cuckfield.

59. To receive and consider adoption of the Notes or Resolutions of the following Committees:

- (i) **Planning Committee - MINS. 83 - 107**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committee, dated 13th December 2021 **83 – 90**, 4th January 2022 **91 – 99** and 24th January 2022 **100 – 107** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (ii) **Environment and General Purposes Committee MINS 20 – 29**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment and General Purposes Committee, dated 20th December 2021 **20 – 29** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (iii) **Policy & Finance Committee - MINS. 40 - 49**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committees dated 17th January 2022 **Mins 40 – 49** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council. Cllr Bates raised objection to the rise in Members allowances under minute 45.

60. Town Council Budget 2022/2023.

Members were presented with the budget, which was duly endorsed by Members as recommended and no further comments were made during the item's consideration. It was noted that there had been concerns raised regarding aspects of the budget during its development and consideration by the Policy and Finance Committee on the 17th January 2022 so Members were asked to vote on the budget as proposed. With one abstention and thirteen in support the 2022/2023 budget was approved under (a), however there was unanimous support for recommendation (b) so with this;

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the recommendations of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 17th January 2022 and,

(a) approve the 2022 - 2023 budget as presented in Appendix 1, with a 4% increase in Council Tax and a 5.3% increase in the precept (which includes a tax base rise of 1.24%). This equates to a precept of £717,463. This will represent an average Band D Council Tax of £58.09 p.a.

(b) approve the earmarking of a proportion of the projected 2021/2022 underspend to

- a. Capital Budget at £10,000.
- b. Western Road Cemetery at £5,000.
- c. Muster Green at £5,000.

61. Delegated Authority to the Town Clerk

Members noted the revised scheme of delegation to the Town Clerk as recommended by the Policy and Finance Committee. The Town Clerk re-stated that this was not a power grab, but an updated version to make delegation rules clearer for Members and residents. Members unanimously agreed that the delegation was in order and indeed sensible after lessons learned during the pandemic and then;

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised scheme of delegation to the Town Clerk.

62. Operation London Bridge

Members received the updated policy and noted the input of Reverend Pritchett at St Wilfrids Church, which was most welcomed. Apart from a couple of administrative errors regarding incorrect phone numbers being contained in the document and missing page numbering in the appendix Members were supportive of the Operation London Bridge Policy and;

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the Operation London Bridge policy.

63. Urgent Items

None

Meeting Closed at 8.13pm