

MINUTES

Present; Cllr Alastair McPherson (Town Mayor)

Cllr James Knight,
Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi
Cllr Mike Pulfer (Leader)
Cllr Clive Laband
Cllr Sandy Ellis
Cllr Chris Ash-Edwards
Cllr Howard Munding
Cllr Clare Cheney
Cllr Jack Langley
Cllr Stephanie Inglesfield
Cllr Rachel Cromie
Cllr Christopher Evans
Cllr Howard Munding
Rob Rhodes Kubiak
Lauren Lloyd
Cllr Ruth De-Mierre (MSDC)
Steve Trice (Town Clerk)
Tony Pearson
Mrs Bevan
Simon Kingsley
Alan Colgate
Murray Crump
Nigel Currah
Margaret Baker

1. Welcome from the Town Mayor, Cllr Alastair McPherson.
All were welcomed to the meeting by Cllr McPherson.
The Town Clerk added that the meeting was being recorded, that questions to Mr Rhodes Kubiak were welcome, but it was asked if they could be placed in the chat box for ease of administration. It was also noted that the meeting was being held during the period leading up to local elections, so any questions deemed to be of a sensitive or political nature would not be addressed at the meeting and would be followed up after the 6th May 2021
2. Minutes
The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 30th April 2019 were noted and approved. This was on the grounds that there was no 2020 meeting due to the Covid Pandemic.
3. Presentation by Robert Rhodes Kubiak – Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA).
Robert Rhodes Kubiak who was supported by Lauren Lloyd (CEO) updated on the work of MSVA and its future development plans for Haywards Heath as part of its wider remit for Mid Sussex. As part of the presentation Mr Currah asked that MSVA engage with the Bluebell Railway Volunteers. The Town Clerk stated that he would share contact details outside of the meeting so that both could liaise. This presentation can be obtained via Haywards Heath 'you tube' channel or on request to the Town Clerk.

4. Cllr Alastair McPherson, Town Mayor.
Please refer to page 3 of the Haywards Heath Town Council Annual Report 2020/2021.
5. Public Question Time
To receive questions from members of the public.

Question raised by Mrs Bevan regarding Clair Hall as follows;

Voluntary groups throughout Haywards Heath play an important role in supporting all ages and a great number of needs in our community. A number of groups have been displaced by the proposed closure of Clair Hall; there is a shortage of suitable and available premises for community use; and the utility of other premises, (Haywards Heath Baptist Church and the library for example), may be affected by the potential removal of nearby parking. As local need increases for these voluntary services; the town expands; and changing working patterns increase the need for local amenities, please could the Town Council outline how it intends to protect and promote premises used by these vital community groups?

In response;

The Leader of Haywards Heath Town Council Councillor Michael Pulfer, by referring to the minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee dated the 15th December 2020, which were ratified by Full Council on the 25th January 2021, stated that *in line with Haywards Heath Town Council adopted policy in the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan and Destination Haywards Heath (the Town Council aspirational policy document) any successor to Clair Hall should be built on the existing site, providing a modern multipurpose flexible facility. Furthermore, Mid Sussex District Council should be left to come up with a design in consultation with Haywards Heath Town Council to ensure that resident's needs and requirements are catered for by providing a viable multifunctional space'. Cllr Pulfer stated that the Destination Haywards Heath document could be found on the Town Council website. Cllr Pulfer was also delighted to remind all that Mid Sussex District Council as owners of Clair Hall were initiating a consultation on the future of the Hall and as an aside reminded all of the facilities available at Haywards Heath Town Hall available for community hire.*

Please note after the meeting Mrs Bevan asked for further information on the provision of community space in Haywards Heath as she stated that she was not asking the question directly with regards to Clair Hall. The following response was made.

Further to Cllr Pulfer's response; in addition to a consultation on the future needs of Clair Hall there is also a Community Buildings Strategy being developed by Mid Sussex District Council, which will map the provision of space/facilities in the Town and surrounding villages. This will guide what provision is required against the need and I expect some consultation on that document also. Apart from the Town Hall all other facilities are outside the Town Council's jurisdiction so we can try and accommodate needs within our building or sign post people onto other facilities. The Town Council will keep up to date with all developments as they unfold and put pressure on delivery of both consultations in line with adopted Town Council policy and within any consultations if/when it sees fit. Please also note that monies are collected from housing developments for the enhancement of existing community facilities.

**The meeting closed at 8.11pm
Town Mayor**