

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

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Councillors:** Christopher Ash-Edwards  
Richard Bates  
Clare Cheney  
Rachel Cromie  
Sandy Ellis  
Christopher Evans  
Stephanie Inglesfield  
Matthew Jeffers  
James Knight  
Clive Laband  
Jack Langley  
Alastair McPherson  
Howard Muddin  
Richard Nicholson  
Mike Pulfer  
Sujan Wickremaratchi

**Apologies\*\* Absent\***

**Also, present: Town Clerk, Inspector Pete Dommett (part of meeting)**

Before the meeting commenced Inspector Dommett updated Members on future arrangements for local policing in Haywards Heath, presented local crime statistics and gave some background information on the Safer Place scheme, which was to be considered under item 11 of the agenda. The Town Mayor thanked Inspector Dommett for his presentation and general dedication to policing in Haywards Heath and indeed the District then wished him well for his pending retirement. All Members echoed the sentiments of the Town Mayor and looked forward to working with the new Inspector once appointed.

**62. Council Prayer**

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

At this point Cllr Bates and Cllr Nicholson left the room and returned at the end of the Prayer.

**63. Public Forum**

None

**64. Apologies**

None

**64. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**66. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

**67. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.**

As a start to his address to the Town Council the Town Mayor made mention of Jackie Cooper, from Haywards Heath, who was recognised on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 at the Palace of Westminster with a British Citizen Award in recognition of her efforts with volunteering over

the last 25 years. It was noted that The British Citizen Award, recognises exceptional individuals who positively impact their communities throughout the country. As an addition to the notification of the award Members were informed that Ms Cooper was formally a Town Councillor. The Town Mayor then made mention of two highlights since the meeting of the Council in November, including his recent trip to Bondues, where he and the Deputy Mayor had discussions regarding environmental matters with the Mayor of Bondues and the Holocaust commemoration held at the War Memorial earlier that day. He also thanked the Deputy Mayor for supporting him by attending events that he could not attend.

#### **68. To receive and consider the adoption of the Minutes of Council standing committees.**

- (i) **Planning Committee - MINS. 89 - 11**  
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 **Mins 89 - 96**, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 - **Mins 97 – 104** and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – **Mins 105 - 111** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (ii) **Environment & General Purposes Committee - MINS. 38 - 48**  
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 **Mins 38 - 48** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (iii) **Policy & Finance Committee - MINS. 36 - 46**  
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 **Mins 36 - 46** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council. During the adoption of the resolution Cllr Bates re-iterated his opposition to the 3% increase in Members allowances. This was noted and the resolution was not called in. It was contested that any challenge was out of order. The Town Clerk said it would have been in order if it had been made as the Town Council as the collective body.

#### **69. Town Council Budget 2020/2021**

The Town Clerk introduced the budget as presented and gave a high-level oversight of the budget. As part of his presentation on the budget, in relation to income, it was noted that West Sussex County Council had been non-committal on the future of the removal of illegal yellow developer signs that formed part of the income forecasted under roundabouts and flower beds that would affect income. The Town Clerk thanked Cllr Wickremaratchi who was looking into the matter as a matter of urgency with West Sussex County Council. The Town Clerk then asked Members if they wished to go through the budget line by line but on the grounds that the budget had been considered by both the Environment and General Purposes Committee and the Policy and Finance Committee it was agreed not to go line by line and there were no further questions. The Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee then made a statement and moved formally the budget, which was seconded then,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

**Ratify the recommendations of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and,**

- (a) approve the 2020 - 2021 budget as presented in Appendix 1, with a 8% increase in Council Tax and a 10.1% increase in the precept (which includes a tax base rise of 1.97%). This equates to a precept of £669,569. This will represent an average Band D Council Tax of £54.99 p.a.**
- (b) approve the earmarking of the projected 2019/2020 underspend to the following reserve headings;**
  - a. Western Road Cemetery - £5,000**
  - b. Muster Green (Trees) - £3,500**

- c. **Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds - £1,000**
- d. **General Reserve - circa £9,800**

**70. Use of Muster Green for Haywards Heath Town CIC 2020 Event**

Members were happy to allow usage of Muster Green on the same terms as required for Batcheller Monkhouse to use the green at Christmas,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) **Allowing Haywards Heath Town Team CIC to use Muster Green for a 'Civil War' camp demonstration on Muster Green.**
- b) **Instructed the Town Clerk to draw up and execute a hirer's agreement, subject to suitable Public Liability Insurance, of at least five million pounds, being produced by Haywards Heath Town Team CIC supported by appropriate health and safety documentation and site risk assessments.**

**71. Parish Online Licence Renewal**

Without comment,

Members **RESOLVED**;

**Authority to the Town Clerk to enter into a three-year agreement to continue to use the services offered by Parish Online at the cost of £450 per annum through the Sussex Association of Local Councils.**

**72. Safe Places Scheme**

On reading the documentation circulated with the agenda and on hearing Inspector Dommett's update on the scheme Members without comment,

**RESOLVED** to;

**Adopt the Safer Places Scheme and register the Town Hall as a place of safety.**

**73. To consider any urgent items, the Mayor has received under S.O 11.**

The Town Mayor allowed for two urgent items, which were raised with prior notice, which included an update from the Town Clerk.

Firstly, it was noted that the Town Mayor had allowed for the meeting of Full Council programmed for the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to be brought forward a week to the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Secondly, the Town Clerk advised that he was to write to Mid Sussex District Council to see if their neighbourhood consultation letter could make it clearer that Town/Parish Council hear planning applications. This was on the basis of residents not being aware of such and missing the opportunity to make representation to the Town Council.

**74. Members RESOLVED to exclude the public and the press.**

**75. Appraisal of the Town Clerk 2019/2020**

The Town Mayor presented the Town Clerk's appraisal, who offered to withdraw from the meeting if required, appraisal for noting and comment. Without comment;

Members **NOTED** the appraisal of the Town Clerk.

Meeting Closed at 8.39pm