

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday 22nd June 2020, which was held virtually by Zoom under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020.

M Jeffers (*Chairman*)
S Ellis (*Vice Chairman*)
C Cheney
R Cromie
S Inglesfield
J Langley *
A McPherson
S. Wickremaratchi (7.37pm)

* Absent ** Apologies
Also present: R Bates

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on, Monday 24th February 2020 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Substitutes

None

4. Members' Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Actions from the Environment Working Group dated 9th June 2020

The Town Clerk updated on the actions of the Environment Working Group as presented in appendix A of the report. It was noted that, because of staffing resources being re-allocated to Covid 19 work, that there had not be any movement on most of the action points. This was coupled with the fact that there was also an action from the working group presented separately on the agenda as a substantive policy decision. It was also noted that some of the actions would be handed over to the Events and Community Officer over the summer in place of the loss of Community Events work with the current year. Members were asked to comment upon and ratify a new recommendation from the Working Group regarding the placement of Solar Panels on the Town Hall roof. Member were content with this recommendation and noted the actions of the Working Group and without comment unanimously,

RESOLVED to,

- a) **adopt the actions of the Environment Working Group dated 9th June 2020.**
- b) **resolve to place Solar Panels on the Town Hall roof and delegate authority to the Town Clerk to investigate the legal requirements and obtain quotes for presentation to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration.**

6. Town Council's Commitment to Carbon Offsetting

The Town Clerk updated on the work he and Cllr Nicholson had undertaken just before lock down, which had resulted in the recommendation that the Town Council works with Carbon Footprint Ltd to develop a carbon offsetting programme for the Town Council, which could then be rolled out to local businesses and residents in the Town. It was noted that there had been some due diligence work and Carbon Footprint Ltd was being used already by Councillors, as individuals, and had been deemed to be easy for the consumer to understand and sign up to. Where Members were happy with recommendations a) b) and they wished to understand more about c) and d) before agreeing to any bespoke project. The Town Clerk clarified that the Town Council would get its own house in order first then look at rolling anything out to third parties and agreeing the remit for a bespoke 'white label' project.

Members **RESOLVED** to

- a) **the Town Council being partners with Carbon Footprint Ltd to develop a Carbon Offsetting Programme for Haywards Heath Town Council.**
- b) **the Town Council undertakes its own Carbon Offset review and not to take up the offer of an audit made by Carbon Footprint Ltd.**
- c) **a second stage of the project with Carbon Footprint Ltd will be to agree a 'white label' part of the project for funding to be allocated to potential land purchases.**
- d) **confirm the delegation to the Town Clerk to undertake and execute both strands of the initiative a) and b) without the need for further resolution, with the Town Clerk updating on c) to the Environment Working Group and subsequently the Environment and General Purposes Committee on its progress.**

7. Town Council's Events Programme and Budget in light of the Covid 19 Pandemic

It was agreed by Members, that due to the current situation with the Covid 19 pandemic, that it would be remiss and irresponsible to hold Town Day. Furthermore, it would not be prudent to actively and efficiently plan for, and to promote an event that promotes mass gathering. This was in line with the Orchards Shopping Centre view on the Christmas festival planning, so it was agreed that the Fireworks that Town Council provides to support the festival should also be cancelled. It was noted that on the ground of both events being cancelled alongside those cancelled earlier in the year that the financial impact on the events budget should be minimal. Remembrance Sunday then was mentioned in terms of its planning and possible holding of. It was stated by the Town Clerk that the officers were to review this event because of its importance and see what the restrictions with regards to Covid 19 were towards the end of September and take the matter to Full Council. Worst case scenario would be some sort of broadcast on the Town Council YouTube channel. With this,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) **cancel Town Day 2020.**
- b) **cancel the Christmas Fireworks in liaison with the Orchards Shopping Centre Manager.**
- c) **note the financial position of the events budget in light of the Covid 19 Pandemic for 2020/2021.**

8. Matters Relating to the Environment of Muster Green

Without comment.

Members **RESOLVED** to

- a) **raise the Merchant Navy flag in September on Muster Green.**
- b) **look at water reduction with regards to HHTC planting.**
- c) **dedicate of one of our flower beds on Muster Green to the NHS.**

9. Items Agreed as Urgent by the Chairman

Members noted an update report on the work of the Events and Community Officer, which had not made the formal agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm