

Minutes of the **TOWN OF HAYWARDS HEATH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2018** held at the Town Hall, 40 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1BA on Monday, 30th April 2018.

Minutes

Present;

Cllr James Knight (Town Mayor)	Cllr Anne Boutrup
Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi	Cllr Matthew Jeffers
Cllr Alastair McPherson	Cllr Mike Pulfer (Leader)
Cllr Stephen Hillier	Cllr Clive Laband
Cllr Sandy Ellis	Cllr Rod Clarke
Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards	Cllr Chris Ash-Edwards
Cllr Howard Mundin	Cllr Clare Cheney
Cllr Emma Clayton	Cllr Ruth de-Mierre
Steve Trice (Town Clerk)	Andrew Sturgeon (RFO)
Nigel Dale	Eileen McDougall
Eric Bassett	Mike Bright
Lesley Bright	Roxanne Goddard
Tony Pearson	Richard Goddard
David Waite	Valerie Upton
Sue Edgson	Barbara Baldwin
Hillier Simmons	Andrea Houchen
Keith Haines	Barbara Woods
Keith Jones	Cllr Garry Wall
David Hill	Leila Wilson
Tim French	Irene Balls
Peter Chapman	Sue Netherway
PCSO C. Boyce	PCSO L. Backus
Irma Lew	

1. Welcome from the Town Mayor

Cllr James Knight (Town Mayor) opened the meeting by thanking those present for taking time to attend the meeting. The Town Mayor then referred residents to the Town Council's Annual Report 2018 - 2019, which was available at the meeting. The Town Clerk ran through housekeeping matters. It was then requested that questions be held back until the public questions item of the agenda.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24th April 2017 were noted and approved.

3. Presentation by Sue Edgson – Mid Sussex Voluntary Action

Please follow the following link to find out about services - www.msva.org.uk

4. Cllr James Knight, Town Mayor Addressed to the Town Meeting.

At this point all Haywards Heath Town Councillor introduced themselves to those present. Cllr Knight then addressed the meeting. Please refer to page 4 of the Town Council's Annual Report 2017-2018 to see the contents of his address.

5. Cllr Michael Pulfer, Leader of Haywards Heath Town Council Annual Review.

Cllr Michael Pulfer presented an update on the strategic activities of the Town Council. Please refer to page 6 of the Town Council's Annual Report 2017-2018. During the Leader's speech he made mention and praised Mr Brian High, a regular attendee at the Town Meeting and active Member of the Fox Hill residents Association, who had sadly recently passed away. The Chairman of each standing committee under introduction from Cllr Pulfer updated the meeting on the work of their committee as outlined in the Town Council's Annual Report 2017-2018

6. Public Question Time To receive questions from members of the public.

Mr Hillier Simmons – Fox Hill Residents Association first thanked Cllr Pulfer on his kind words for Mr High. He then asked about the lack of information and/or incorrect information relating to the Hurst Farm Planning application made by Enplan on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council and partners and whether it had changed the Town Council's position on the matter.

Cllr Michael Pulfer responded by saying that Hurst Farm was in the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan as an accepted housing site subject to the planning policies laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan. It would be wrong to make a statement before hearing the application resulting in a pre-determination of the application, which was to be heard by the Town Council in the coming weeks.

Mrs Andrea Houchen – Haywards Heath Dementia Alliance stated that she could not understand the amount of the development in the South of the Town being approved with no thought to the road network and speed levels being given,

Cllr Michael Pulfer responded by saying that the Town Council was well aware of the issues faced relating to traffic and was push for a review of the road network. Unfortunately, as the Town Council is not the highways authority it can only lobby West Sussex County Council and Mid Sussex District Council.

Mr Michael Bright – resident asked about the future of Clair Hall whether the Town Council and whether the Town Council would support and agree to expenditure being made on the existing building.

Cllr Pulfer reminded resident that the future of Clair Hall was in the gift of Mid Sussex District Council, but the Town Council would support a redevelopment of the Hall. It was noted a group of Councillors were to look at the future of Clair Hall to feed into Mid Sussex District Council.

Mr David Waite – U3A brought up the matter of commercial and retail property in the Town and the issue of commercial landlords not putting money back into the upkeep of building making them less desirable to companies. Mr Waite offered to help and look closer relationships with landowner and the local Councils.

Cllr McPherson responded by stating that Town Council was looking at South Road and how to make it a more appealing place for businesses to locate and people to shop. To this end, the Town Council was looking to green South Road with tree being place along the road and it was also looking how to market the Town.

Ms Barbara Woods – resident thanked the Town Hall Staff for all their hard work. She was not reassured by the comments relating to Clair Hall in the Neighbourhood Plan as it is in the right place for Arts and Culture. She felt that the Town was losing its character and was turning into a mini Croydon through development.

These comments were noted.

Mr Keith Haynes – resident raised the issue of the crossing adjacent to the station car exit. The crossing point at the entrance to the railway bridge as you come out of the station forecourt car park turning left very close to the traffic lights/pedestrian crossing and cars do not notice the colour of the lights as they are way above the car sight line as they are so close. Could a warning sign could be placed so drivers are aware of the lights.

The Town Clerk stated he would investigate with West Sussex County Council as the Highways Authority.

Mr Keith Jones – resident enquired about count down times for traffic light along Perrymount Road for the benefit of road users and pedestrians.

It was noted that this was a Highways matter and would be looked into.

During the open Forum Cllr Ruth de-Mierre was thanked for all her hard work with the 175 Anniversary of the Railway and the Greater Haywards Heath Bike Ride. Mrs Lola Smith raised concerns about the loss of trees in Haywards Heath.

**Meeting closed 8.46pm
Town Mayor**