

Minutes of the **TOWN OF HAYWARDS HEATH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2017** held at the Town Hall, 40 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1BA on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### Minutes

Present;

Cllr James Knight (Town Mayor)	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 Sujan Wickremaratchi
Cllr Anne Boutrup	Cllr Clare Cheney
Cllr Ruth de Mierre	Mrs Katy Bourne
Steve Trice (Town Clerk)	Andrew Sturgeon (RFO)
Helen Hewett (Assistant to Clerk)	Keith Haynes
Jenny Logan	Tim French
Hillier Simmons	Andrea Houchen
Osigi Onah	Bill Cheney
Eric Bassett	Leila Wilson
Sylvia Harris	Barbara Baldwin
Alan Colgate	Mike Bright
Lesley Bright	Tony Pearson
Mrs Waite	David Waite
Richard Bates	Margaret Baker
Marion Wilcock	Keith Jones
Richard Moon	Cllr Garry Wall

#### **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 had been previously circulated and was available at the meeting. The Town Clerk then ran through housekeeping matters and reminded those present that the meeting, which was business as usual for the Town Council who organised the meeting on behalf of the Town,

#### **2. Minutes**

The **minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018** were noted and approved.

#### **3. Presentation by Mrs Katy Bourne – Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner.**

Mrs Bourne updated on local policing matters. It was noted that research had found that burglaries and theft crimes matter the most to the residents of Mid Sussex. To this end, 250 additional officers, 100 PCSO's and 50 specialist investigators were to be recruited across Sussex. These additional officers would be allocated across the County by District Commanders. This would see a rise in the average Council Tax bill of £2 a month, but would enable the recruitment levels that had not been seen for over a decade. This would result in more visible policing along with a drive to investigate more complex crime such as child exploitation, abuse, trafficking, slavery, terrorism and serious sexual offences. There would also be work to raise the issue of knife crime by educating young people.

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

Again, The Town Mayor thanked those present for attending and stated it had been an incredible journey to serve as Town Mayor and he had met such a diverse and wide range of residents, groups and organisations including the Town's friends in the Twin Towns of Bondues and Traunstien. The Town Mayor added that it was a huge honour and a privilege and of course a lot of fun to be Town Mayor. The Town Mayor then presented the key achievements of the Town Council as per the Annual Report. Special thanks were given to Mrs Sylvia Harris for her community project to place a river of 10,000 poppies on Muster Green and Mrs Irene Balls for her efforts with Twinning activities. Please refer to page 3 of the Town Council's Annual Report 2018-2019.

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

Please refer to page 4-5 of the Town Council's Annual Report 2018-2019.

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

The issue again, as a year had passed, was raised regarding the crossing adjacent to the station car exit. This crossing point was deemed to be dangerous at the entrance to the railway bridge as cars 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. It was again stressed that a warning sign could be placed so drivers are aware of the lights. The Town Clerk had stated that he would investigate with West Sussex County Council as the Highways Authority.

*The Town Clerk responded by stating that he had made endeavours to address the matter but as the issue was not on the highway so West Sussex County Council could not deal with the matter and Network Rail was unwilling, at the date of the meeting, to help as the land owner.*

The future of the Orchards Shopping Centre was raised as there were concerns in relation to declining footfall in Town Centres.

*Where the Orchards was not in the control of the Town Council residents were informed that footfall was still good and was work being undertaken, by Mid Sussex District Council, to make sure the Town is well used and thrives in the future.*

Concern was raised in relation to Haywards Heath Station Car Park and it continually having capacity issues. Spaces could not be found early in the morning.

It was noted that the Town Council was aware of the situation and were looking into the matter.

The Chairman of the Haywards Heath Twinning Association thanked, on behalf of Haywards Heath Twinning Association, Cllr Knight for his support for the Twinning Association over the last two years.

**Meeting closed at 8.46pm**