

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 30 January 2023

Howard Munding (*Town Mayor*)
Alastair McPherson (*Deputy Mayor*)
Christopher Ash-Edwards **
Richard Bates
Clare Cheney
Rachel Cromie
Sandy Ellis
Christopher Evans **
Stephanie Inglesfield
Matthew Jeffers
James Knight **
Clive Laband
Jack Langley
Richard Nicholson **
Mike Pulfer
Sujan Wickremaratchi

* Absent
** Apologies

63. Town Council Prayer

The Town Council prayer was read by the Town Mayor, Councillor Howard Munding.

64. Apologies

The following apologies were received:

Member	Reason for Absence
Cllr Christopher Ash-Edwards	Conflicting Meeting
Cllr Christopher Evans	Family commitments
Cllr Richard Nicholson	Work commitments
Cllr James Knight	Holiday

65. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

66. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 28th November 2022 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

67. Members' Declarations of Interest

Under Item 8 (3) min 92, Cllr Bates, Pulfer and Laband declared personal interest as Members who sit on Planning Committees at Mid Sussex District Council.

68. Business Outstanding from the last Meeting of the Council

There was none.

69. **Mayoral Engagements**

The Mayor presented his list of engagements and made special mention of the following:

- His attendance at the Holocaust Memorial service with the Deputy Mayor which was organised by Amnesty International (Haywards Heath) and hosted at the Town Hall and alongside the Haywards Heath War Memorial. The Town Mayor stated that it was a poignant service and was enthused by the input and attendance of local schools.
- A visit that was made to the Haywards Heath Foodbank for a volunteer and support event. The Town Mayor commended the Foodbank's work in the current economic climate.
- That he and the Town Clerk had met with representative of the Twinning Association and friends in Germany to discuss twinning activities and his pending visit to Traunstein in April.
- Finally, he commended the efforts of the Town Council's Events and Community Officer for the, at short notice, organisation of a wonderful and successful Christmas Carol's event in December.

70. **To Receive and Consider Adoption of the Minutes or Resolutions of the following Committees:**

- (i) **Planning Committee Minutes 85–109**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees dated 5th December 2022 (**Minutes 85–93**), 3rd January 2023 (**Minutes 94–101**) and 23rd January 2023 (**Minutes 102–109**) were moved, seconded and **AGREED** by Council;
- (ii) **Environment and General Purposes Committee Minutes 24–35**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment and General Purposes Committee dated 19th December 2022 (**Minutes 24–35**) was moved, seconded and **AGREED** by Council;
- (iii) **Policy and Finance Committee Minutes 37–46**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 16th January 2023 (**Minutes 37–46**) was moved, seconded and **AGREED** by Council.

71. **Town Council Budget**

The budget was presented and was commended by the Leader of Town Council as it showed prudent accounting in difficult times but still allowed for the Town Council to undertake initiatives such as the cost-of-living support and monies being made available to support the Bentswood Hub. The budget moving forward also allowed for saving to be made for core services and to allow the Town Council to conduct business as usual. A point was raised regarding the 5% rise in Members Allowance with the mover of the question stating that they could not support such when staff were not receiving a pay rise in line with 5% and which are below the rate of inflation. The Town Clerk informed Members that staff did receive £1,925 pay rise during the financial year, which represented a sliding scale of a pay rise with lower earners receiving a higher percentage than top earners. Some staff therefore received circa

8% rises. This response alleviated the concerns of the mover of the question. The budget was the formally moved with the budget being approved with 10 in favour and two abstentions.

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the recommendations of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 16th January 2023 and,

- a) resolve the 2023–2024 budget as presented in Appendix 1, with a 6% rise in Council Tax and 7% increase in the precept (including 1% in the tax base), representing the average Band D cost of £61.57 per annum. (In monetary terms a £3.48 per annum rise from the band D cost for 2023/2024 (£58.09) or 29p per month 6p a week or a 1p a day).
- b) Resolve the recommendations made by the Responsible Financial Officer to top up the following reserves (as per note 5 in Appendix 1);
 - a. Capital Reserve - £10,000
 - b. Western Road Cemetery - £10,000.
 - c. Muster Green - £5,000.
 - d. Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds - £5,000

62. Items Agreed as Urgent by the Mayor

There were none.

The meeting closed at 6:59pm.