

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and General Purposes Committee 1 July 2024.

Nick Chapman (Chair)
Alison Rees (Vice Chair)
Anne- Marie Cooke
Sandy Ellis
Stephanie Inglesfield **
Deanna Nicholson
Duncan Pascoe
Leila Wilson

Apologies** Absent*

Also present: Town Clerk, ECO, Committee Clerk

1. Apologies

Member	Reason
Cllr Inglesfield	Family Commitment

2. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 22nd April 2024 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Substitutes

None.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

6. Receive a report on the potential for a VE Day event (8th May 2025)

The ECO referred to her report and advised members that she had received the official guidance from Bruno Peak CVO OBE OPR, Pageant Master earlier that day. This included details such as the schedule for the day's event and beacon lighting times.

The ECO asked members to consider approval for an event on Thursday the 8th of May 2025 to allow her to act in a timely manner.

The ECO hoped to book the Spinettes to perform because they had been very well received at the D Day event. Other ideas suggested by the ECO were a parade, a Fish and Chips theme and a party in the park.

The Clerk advised there had been some negative comments surrounding the D Day event last month. Members were in agreement that the VE Day event should follow a similar theme to the D Day event.

Cllr Ellis suggested that the ECO might liaise with MSDC to ensure the Town Councils event will not clash with any event planned by the District Council, also to find out if any grant funding may be available to groups wishing to hold street parties similar to those held for the Kings Coronation.

The ECO advised that the 3 Towns will be promoting the VE Day events, the Clerk will be discussing VE Day at the next 3 Towns meeting.

Cllr Nicholson suggested that the twinning association could be involved and wanted the focus to be on the celebration of our place in Europe and the relationships we have built in the past 80 years.

The Clerk advised that MSDC may start charging for the use of their parks for events and road closure notices may become more difficult to obtain.

With no further comment:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve a VE Day event for 2025, budget to be agreed during the budget setting process.

7. Update on Active Haywards Heath Executive Board Meeting

The ECO referred to her report.

She advised an executive board meeting had taken place on the 19th of June where Cllr Pascoe introduced himself as the new chair, he explained the previous engagement issues and introduced the idea of a community co-chair. Esther Featherstone was nominated and confirmed as co-chair. Terms of reference for the group had been discussed and agreed.

It was agreed future meetings would be themed and a new dedicated webpage would be added to the website following best practice examples such as 'Active Birmingham'.

Members asked that representatives from Glendale Services be invited to a future meeting.

Members **NOTED** the report

8. In house Environmental Policy and associated action plan.

The Clerk referred to the policy and action plan in the agenda pack. He advised that the action plan would be made into a matrix which would be a fluid document and would track the actions. The Clerk also advised the PO was in discussions with Mis Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA) regarding sourcing environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Cllr Cooke said the council need to be prudent when choosing Eco friendly cleaning products as marketing can be misleading.

Cllr Nicholson said that powdered milk is a good alternative to fresh milk. This will be investigated by the ECO/PO.

Cllr Ellis agreed with minimising paper usage at meetings and asked if the Clerk could consider investigating issuing members with tablets.

Members **RESOLVED to adopt the in house Environmental Policy and Associated Action Plan.**

9. Cllr Motion to consider the creation of a community board for Arts and Culture in Haywards Heath

Cllr Pascoe outlined his proposal for the creation of a new community body focused on Arts, History and Culture.

He noted that there are many passionate members of the community that want to encourage arts and exhibitions in the town but at present they are not well connected. This new body would enable connection between groups, with a Town Council member co-chairing the board. The body would follow a similar format to that of the 'Active Haywards Heath Executive Board'.

Cllr Rees felt that there was already a group doing a similar thing and maybe there should be a space on the Town Councils Website to promote this.

Cllr Ellis said there were artifacts and history around the town which should be brought together in one place.

Cllr Nicholson wanted to add that she thought it was great that the ECO was advertising so many other groups and organisations events through the Town Councils social media, it was a useful to see what was going on in the Town.

The Clerk noted that aspirations for next year was to have a town wide events schedule.

The ECO reminded members to let her know of any other upcoming events for sharing on the Town Councils social media.

With no further comment.

Members **RESOLVED to progress with the creation of a community board for Arts and Culture in Haywards Heath.**

10. To consider funding of a Finger Post at Haywards Heath Town Hall

The Clerk referred to his report. He noted that the Mayor had recently visited the Bondues 25 year and Traunstein 30 Year Twinning Anniversary celebrations. The Major had asked the Clerk to investigate erecting a finger post street sign at Haywards Heath Town Hall, indicating the distance to Boundues and Traunstein, symbolising commitment and friendship.

The Clerk had sought quotes which were shared with the committee.

Cllr Ellis asked that more information regarding Twinning was shared on the Town Councils social media and website, she also wondered if the Twinning members could attend council meetings more often to provide updates.

Without further comment:

Members **RESOLVED the expenditure up to £1500 to purchase a new Black metal finger post sign.**

11. South and South East in Bloom

Cllr Ellis spoke, she reminded members that judging will take place on the 11th of July for Haywards Heath in Bloom and on the 30th July for Britain in Bloom.

There will be 25 scarecrows 3 of which will be sighted at the Orchards Shopping Centre. Artwork and poetry from Schools and community groups will also be displayed.

Cllr Ellis thanked all those involved for their hard work.

Members were asked to encourage more entries into the best kept garden competition.

Cllr Rees advised members that the community vegetable garden near the Orchards Shopping Centre rainbow bench will be opened formally this Saturday at 2pm.

Members **RESOLVED to note the update.**

12. Urgent Items

There were none.

Meeting closed at 07.44pm