

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024

Councillors: Abdul Bashar
Nick Chapman
Anne-Marie Cooke
Rachel Cromie *
Sandy Ellis
Stephanie Inglesfield
Barbara King
Anne-Marie Lucraft
Paul Lucraft
Allan Murray
Deanna Nicholson **
Alison Rees
Duncan Pascoe
Anthony Platts
Sinead Walsh
Leila Wilson

Apologies Absent***

Also present: Town Clerk, Committee Clerk, Project Officer

43. Moment of Reflection

The Town Mayor lead Members in a moment of reflection before the meeting commenced.

44. Apologies

Members	Reason
Cllr D Nicholson	Illness

45. Public Forum

None

46. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd September 2024, without comment, were taken as read, confirmed as true and duly signed by the Town Mayor.

47. Declarations of Interest.

None.

48. To Dispose of any Business Outstanding from the Last Meeting.

None

49. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.

The Mayor presented her schedule of recent events, first highlighting the Quiz and Pizza night held on 20th November, with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society, and thanking Maria Horne and the Town Council team for organising an event that was so well-attended that it was sold out. She also thanked Cllr N Chapman for being an excellent Quizmaster. The Mayor then discussed the Christmas Festival held on 23rd November, which took place

in Centenary Hall and the United Reform Church after being replanned due to the adverse weather, and offered the following thanks; to ECO Imogen Wilson and the Town Hall team for being decisive, proactive and for working hard and fast to come up with a Plan B, and to St Wilfrid's Church and the United Reform Church who both offered up their halls with only 24 hours' notice. The Mayor highlighted the success of the event and brilliant feedback from the public, before reading a letter received by the Mayor and Imogen Wilson from Sharon-Jane Davis who works with the Guides and Brownies, which read:

'Dear Imogen,

Yet again another successful event. It truly was amazing the amount of footfall through the United Reform Church hall today. I truly believe if we had had better weather this would have been an event of the year. Please keep up all the hard work, you are a credit to the Town Council and Haywards Heath.'

The Mayor then thanked Deputy Mayor Cllr D Pascoe for covering for her during her annual leave and invited him to speak about the events he covered. Cllr D Pascoe spoke on; attending the Mid Sussex Older People's Council 20th anniversary party, attending the Rok Skool Networking Event with the Town Clerk where the Young People's Initiative was discussed and business interest was gathered, attending the Hayward's Heath in Bloom garden party and attending the Lindfield Bonfire Society's procession event, which he recommended others to attend each year.

The Mayor then commented on attending; the Town Council's Town Day on 14th September, the Remembrance Day parade on 10th November – where attendance was high once again, the High Sheriff of West Sussex Annual Judge's Service procession, the launch of Mid Sussex STEM Challenge 2025 and the Haywards Heath Mental Health Day at the Town Hall and also on distributing Silver Sunday parcels to local care homes with Cllr A Rees.

50. To receive resolutions of the following Committees:

- (i) Planning Committee - **MINS. 62-88**
The resolutions of the Planning Committee held on the 30th September 2024 - **Minutes 62-70**, Planning Committee held on the 21st October 2024 - **Minutes 71-79**, and Planning Committee held on the 11th November - **Minutes 80-88** were noted without discussion by the Council.
- (ii) Environment & General Purposes Committee – **MINS. 13-25**
The resolutions of the E&GP Committee held on 1st October were noted without discussion by the Council.
- (iii) Policy & Finance Committee **MINS. 32-47**
The resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held 18th November 2024 were noted without discussion by the Council.

51. To consider a request from St Wilfrid's Church for the funding of repairs to the Town Clock.

Cllr Ellis requested if town residents could be informed of the history and significance of the clock and the partnership with the Council, and why the Council supports the Church. The Town Clerk responded stating that this can be included in: the annual report, newsletters and the Town History section on the new Council website.

Cllr S Walsh asked whether St Wilfrid's had first approached the Church of England for funding for the repair. The Town Clerk responded that the Town Council was the

first part of call for funding and always will be given that St Wilfrid's pay for the maintenance of the clock, except for the £200 annual funding they receive from the Council.

Cllr D Pascoe enquired about the nature of the damage to the clock and when it occurred. The Town Clerk responded that the motor of the clock is broken and he was alerted of this at the Remembrance Service on 11th November.

Cllr P Lucraft stated that the clock is a community asset that the Council has agreed to fund jointly with the Church in the past and should continue to do so, which all Members agreed to, with this:

Members **RESOLVED** to expend £2,615 of the Council's Community Fund on the repair of the Town Clock located at St Wilfrid's Church.

52. To consider Haywards Heath Town Council being accredited as a White Ribbon organisation.

The Town Clerk introduced the White Ribbon Campaign and asked that the Town Council seek accreditation. The work of the National Association of Local Councils and Society of Local Council Clerks was outlined and Members were asked to take time out to undertake training and become White Ribbon Champions and Ambassador.

The also Town Clerk presented the report and highlighted that in Councils, 70% of Clerks are female and 65% of Councillors are female. Members were supportive of obtaining accreditations and unanimously;

Members **RESOLVED** to **obtain White Ribbon Accreditation and that a working group be set up comprising of two Councillors and two Officers. b) Delegate the submission of an action plan to the Town Clerk in liaison with the working group.**

53. To receive the minutes of the 5th Haywards Heath Cubs meeting dated 3rd November.

The minutes were noted by the Council. The Mayor noted how enjoyable the event was and how the Cubs and Cub Leader Michael Maine fully engaged with the Council format and that the comments as presented in the report regarding Environment matter and Clair Hall were worthy and well thought through.

54. To celebrate the Town's success in South and South East in Bloom and Britain In Bloom 2024.

Cllr S Ellis thanked the groundstaff, committee and community in supporting the Britain in Bloom entry and its success, with the team achieving the maximum success possible this year. She stated how proud she was of the team and their success and that she had recently spoken on BBC Sussex about the achievement.

Thanks and certificates were then presented to staff involved and Bloom Committee members;

- Brenda Gulliver
- Andy Stempt
- Daniel Beard
- Sam Russell
- Darren Hubert
- Sylvia Harriss

- Murray Crump
- Alan Colgate
- Richard Goddard
- Michael Figg
- Andrew Lawes

55. To consider any urgent items the Mayor has received.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Christmas Lights on the Sussex Road roundabout were turned on on 22nd November, but were vandalised by 23rd November, making them unusable and costings for replacements, if necessary and possible, would be considered in due course. It was noted that CCTV would be sourced but he would have to contact Mid Sussex District Council not the Police as arrangements for monitoring CCTV has recently changed.

Cllr S Ellis requested an appointment to be made for Sussex Police to come to Full Council to discuss how CCTV is managed and reviewed now that it is not managed by Sussex Police. The Town Clerk confirmed that he will contact them.

Meeting Closed at 7.43pm