

Minutes of the **TOWN OF HAYWARDS HEATH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2022** held at the Town Hall, 40 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1BA on Monday, 25th April 2022.

Minutes

Present;

Cllr Howard Mundin (Town Mayor)	Cllr Alastair McPherson
Cllr James Knight	Cllr Michael Pulfer
Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi	Cllr Matthew Jeffers
Cllr Richard Bates	Cllr Clive Laband
Cllr Sandy Ellis	Cllr Christopher Evans
Cllr Chris Ash-Edwards	Cllr Clare Cheney
Cllr Jack Langley	Cllr Stephanie Inglesfield
Steve Trice (Town Clerk)	Andrew Sturgeon (Deputy Clerk)
Helen Hewett (Assis to Town Clerk)	Maria Horne (Mayors PA)
Mike Bright	Lesley Bright
Richard Goddard	Irene Balls
Anne Jones	Cllr Stephen Hillier
Margaret Baker	Barbara Baldwin
PCSO Tony Oliver	Jack Celikoz (Town Warden)
David Taylor	Sue Netherway
Josh Powling (Mid Sussex Times)	J Pearce
Lawrence Taylor (Mid Sussex Times)	

Others were present but their names did not appear on the attendance log. Please make it known to the Town Clerk if your name has been omitted.

1. Welcome from the Town Mayor

Cllr Howard Mundin (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 2021 - 2022, which was available at the meeting. The Town Clerk ran through housekeeping matters. It was then requested that all questions be held back until the public questions item of the agenda.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held by Zoom on 19th April 2021 were noted and approved.

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

Sussex Police And Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne addressed Haywards Heath Annual Town Meeting focusing on crime prevention strategies and police service levels generally. She spoke of the focus on stopping domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour, sex offences and hate crime whilst increasing road safety and engaging young people in crime prevention. It was noted that Sussex was second safest place to live and that there was a drive to recruit more PCSO's and Police Officers. Question to Katy Bourne is presented under minute 6 under public questions.

4. Cllr Howard Mundin, Town Mayor Addressed to the Town Meeting.

At this point all Haywards Heath Town Councillor introduced themselves to those present. Cllr Mundin then addressed the meeting. Please refer to page 4 of the Town Council's Annual Report 2021-2022 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 2021-2022.

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

A question was asked about Human and Sex Trafficking and what was being done to tackle the very serious issue. *It was noted that an agency called Streetlighting service were tackling this issue nationally and worked with sex workers etc to stop such exploitation. This work tied in with County Line monitoring as these issues were the basis for the criminals to undertake their activities.*

There was concern raised about the pool of PSCO's having to be shared over such as a wide area that is Mid Sussex and Crawley. *It was noted that the drive to employ more PCSO's and Officers would help with this. It was stated that the arrangement allowed flexibility and the ability to send increased coverage into problematic areas. Those present were asked to use the district wide email address that any officer can access or use 101 or 999 in emergencies.*

Leading from it was felt 101 took too long to answer and a 999 call at the Co-op on Franklyn Road was never attended. *It was requested that if a 999 was not responded that the PCC office be informed.*

Issues around anti-social behaviour in the Cowell Road and St Francis estate were raised as a major issue. *PC Tony Oliver stated that the police were aware and doing regular patrol and Jack Celikoz said that he would cover the area as part of his Warden rounds.*

In addition to this concerns were also raised about street drinking in the aforementioned area and in the Town Centre. *This was noted in line with commitment to patrolling by the PSCO's and Town Warden.*

This issue of domestic violence was discussed and those present were informed that 44 orders had been issued in the last year. It was noted that these issues could be confidentially report and Cllrs could help with residents in reporting such. *In addition, it was noted that most cases were with people who the victim knows and reporting will lead to support from a specialist team.*

Generally, praise was given to the Community Warden regarding his actions and hard work in the short period he had been with the Town Council

The matter of Papa John's frontage was raised and it was asked if they could be asked to clean up and restore the stained glass and supporting pillars which had been covered by the incorrectly sited signage. *It was stated that this matter would be looked into.*

Regarding Bus service a question was asked about long term funding and concern was raised about loss of services to the Town. *It was noted that the Town Council leads on a Transport Partnership, which included the bus companies, and would lobby for the retention of services and make representation on the introduction of new services and any service changes.*

The Town Council was commended for making a contribution towards the Ukrainian appeal. *The Town Council thanked the resident for their kind words.*⁷

Meeting closed 8.26pm

Town Mayor