

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and General Purposes Committee** held on Monday 21st March 2016.

M. Jeffers (Chairman)
S. Ellis (Vice Chairman)
R. Clarke
J. Hayden**
J. Hollister*
J. Knight
H. Muddin

Apologies ** Absent *

Also present: Mr J. King (part of meeting)

58. Apologies

Cllr Hayden – Ill Health

59. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 8th February 2016 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

60. Substitutes

None.

61. Declarations of Interest

Item 10, Cllr Ellis declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee.

62. Matters Arising

None

63. Haywards Heath Sports Strategy

Members welcomed the Strategy and commended its contents, which were felt to be detailed and set a good basis to support the formal creation of a Haywards Heath Sports Forum to underpin Leisure and Open Space policies in the emerging Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan. Members also felt it would put the Town's Sporting community in an excellent position to access funding for projects in the future. It was noted that the document would be a live document that would change and evolve as the Haywards Heath Sports Forum moved forward and noted that the document took rather longer than the consultant would have liked due to having to rely on sports/clubs organisations to respond to requests for information. Members then endorsed the document, felt the time taken was reflected in what was a very good document, agreed that it be put out to consultation via the Sports Forum and looked forward to the document being presented to Full Council for ratification in July.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- (a) Recommend the draft Haywards Heath Sports Strategy 2016 to Full Council on the 18th July 2016 for adoption, with amendments if required.**

- (b) Agree constitutional set up for the Sports Forum as presented in the draft Haywards Heath Sports Strategy 2016.**
- (c) Incorporate the Haywards Heath Sports Strategy 2016 into Town Council policy.**

64. Community Liaison Officer Report.

The Community Liaison Officer (CLO) presented her report and took Members through the report welcoming questions from Councillors. The CLO updated on her work as outlined in the accompanying report with special focus on the Dementia Friendly Work, Event co-ordination, police liaison and other work with third party partners.

Members noted the report of the Community Liaison Officer.

65. Allotment Matters

Members welcomed Mr John King to the meeting who updated Members on the matters presented in the covering report that he had asked be brought to the attention of the Council. Furthermore, he asked Members to consider the removal of the policy of 2.5 rods per allotment holder in light of there being no waiting lists for either of the Town Council managed sites. Members in noting Mr King's comments and his representation made prior to the meeting, agreed that there should be a full review of the Council's allotment policy and acknowledged that the monitoring of the site needed to be improved. It was also agreed that plot holders should be consulted before the Council made any decision on whether to increase allotment rents to cover extra services and/or to remove any concessions already in place on the two sites. The Chairman also informed Mr King that a skip will be delivered to the site for use within the next financial year.

Members RESOLVED to;

Undertake a full review of the Town Council's Allotment Holders Policy to enable a review of the points raised under the representation made by the Allotment holder.

66. Blue Plaque – Burrell Road

Members noted the two requests made for the placement of a plaque to commemorate the Norris Brothers and the link to Donald Campbell and the Bluebird. Members in considering the request had concerns that none of the people involved would, at the present time, meet the criteria for such recognition due to the criteria that had been set down by English Heritage. To this end, it was agreed that further research be undertaken and that if the initiative could be progressed, in the first instance, funding from the Business community in Burrell Road should be sought to meet the cost of the plaque. The Clerk felt that this was a sensible course of action and explained that the only reason the request for the plaque had been brought to the Committee's attention was down to funding issues on the basis that a policy was agreed for plaque placement by the Committee last year. It was then agreed, so to make such matters more simple and in line with the bigger picture relating to Blue Plaque placement, that the Council could not be solely responsible for the placement of plaques. As a result it was agreed to be prudent that the Town Council prioritised the list that it had formulated along with input from the Haywards Heath Society so groups/residents could approach the Council, obtain written permission and then implement the placement using the English Heritage criteria along with securing funding and permission to place the plaque.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- (a) Agree in principle the placement of a Blue Plaque in Burrell Road to honour Donald Campbell, and or, the Norris Brothers pending further research.**
- (b) That funding for the purchase of the Blue Plaque should be secured from the Business community in Burrell Road.**
- (c) On resolving the matters (a) and (b) delegate authority to the Clerk to liaise with English Heritage to agree the wording of the Blue Plaque and its exact location for placement.**

67. South and South East in Bloom

Members noted the update on the activities of the South and South in Bloom Committee. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Ellis, informed Members that the Jubilee Garden's project was progressing nicely and that Sir Nicholas Soames was being asked to open the rejuvenated gardens as he had helped with the wording on the commemorative stone. Praise was also given to a younger Member of Groundstaff who had led on the project and the Head Groundsman who had overseen his work. It was also noted that the Head Groundsman and a Member of the committee had attended a South East in Bloom training seminar in Crawley. In closing, Members were urged to support the Button Art Project, which would culminate with a display and judging at the Spring Festival. Members then thanked Cllr Ellis as Chairman for all her effort and enthusiasm in organising the project

68. Proposed Community Facilities – East of Hurstwood Lane

Members noted that the Clerk had progressed the instructions of the Committee (as resolved at last meeting dated 08/02/16 under min. 55), and was in the process of meeting with a number of consultants who wished to be considered for undertaking the master planning of the site and an ecologist to look at the condition of the Ancient Woodland. This work was being undertaken with the Leader of the Council in liaison with the Chairman of the Committee

69. Urgent Items

None.

Meeting Closed at 8.47pm