

Minutes of the **TOWN OF HAYWARDS HEATH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2017** held at the Town Hall, 40 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1BA on Monday, 24th April 2017.

Minutes

Present;

Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi (Town Mayor)	Cllr Matthew Jeffers
Cllr Alastair McPherson	Cllr Mike Pulfer (Leader)
Cllr Stephen Hillier	Cllr Clive Laband
Cllr Sandy Ellis	Cllr Rod Clarke
Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards	Cllr Chris Ash-Edwards
Cllr Howard Munda	Cllr Jed Dwight
Steve Trice (Town Clerk)	Andrew Sturgeon (RFO)
Helen Hewett (Assistant to Clerk)	Jane Reid
Jenny Logan	Tim French
Eric Bassett	Stuart Campbell
Jessica Auckland	Lorraine Auckland
Eileen McDougall	Christel Power
Anthony Power	John Sabin
Jonathan Cocks	Rob Thomas
Alan Colgate	Robert Howe
Mike Bright	Lesley Bright
Peter Terry	Jane Terry
Simon Kingsley-Young	Karen Walker
Tony Pearson	Francis Wallace
Stephanie Went	Richard Goddard
Brian High	David Waite
Margaret Baker	Claire Cheney
Marion Wilcock	Tim Briggs
Richard Bates	

1. Welcome from the Town Mayor

Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi (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 2016 - 2017, which had been previously circulated and was available at the meeting. The Town Clerk then ran through housekeeping matters and reminded those present that the meeting, which was business as usual for the Town Council who organised the meeting on behalf of the Town, was being held in a period of Purdah. It was requested that questions of a political nature were not asked and indeed, would not be answered.

2. Minutes

The **minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25th April 2016** were noted and approved.

3. Presentation by Trish Harrison - Hub System Leader Mid Sussex Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service.

Please follow the following link to find out about the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service - <http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/ds/cttee/cyps/cyps080916i5.pdf>

4. Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi, Town Mayor Addressed to the Town Meeting.

Please refer to page 4 of the Town Council's Annual Report 2016-2017.

5. Cllr Michael Pulfer, Leader of Haywards Heath Town Council Annual Review.

Please refer to page 6 of the Town Council's Annual Report 2016-2017. During the Leader's address the Town Clerk updated on the Haywards Heath Community Warden project (please see page 13 of the Annual Report) and Cllr Ellis addressed the meeting and thanking the those who had supported Haywards Heath in Bloom events and read out a letter from a representative of the Queen thanking the Town for the commemorative plaque celebrating her 90th Birthday, which had been placed in Jubilee Gardens.

6. Cllr Alastair McPherson - Town Council Priorities 2017 Onwards 'The Art of the Possible'.

Cllr McPherson presented 'The Art of the Possible' an aspirational set of priorities, developed by Town Councilor's under his leadership, which was adopted by the Town Council on the 20th March 2017. The document sets out a vision for the future of the Town to complement the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that the discussions that led to the development of the document fell under a number of headings, Retail, Business, Lifestyle (sports and entertainment), Community Environment/Planning and Transport and Infrastructure. The document sets out a case for further investment into Haywards Heath in light of the Town being in the middle of significant residential development. The document also sets out how imperative it is that the Town Council takes the initiative and works with the MSDC and WSCC as well as Community Organisations to reinvigorate Haywards Heath as a place where it's residents can thrive, businesses can settle and grow.

It was noted that a great number of projects were discussed, but seven were earmarked as priority.

- a) To consider, at the appropriate time, the future of the **Clair Hall site** in line with the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan.
- b) The opportunity for the development of a **Country Park** on land located off Hurstwood Lane, which also affords the opportunity to provide allotments and protect an ancient woodland.
- c) Haywards Heath, as the burial authority for the Town, requires a new **Cemetery**, which will also be provided on land identified off Hurstwood Lane.
- d) **HH Commercial Offer Document** – This document will act as a roadmap developed by the Town Council and stakeholders to 'sell' the Town with an aim to proactively engage new business to the Town.
- e) To protect our **business estates and office space** to provide one high value job per home.
- f) **South Road shared space scheme** - to enhance and attract sustainable retail business to the vicinity of South Road, we require a delivery plan to make the Haywards Heath retail quarter into a destination that people want to return to again and again. South Road must be smartened up and sympathetically enhanced.
- g) Develop an **integrated road network** that will further enhance Haywards Heath and the villages beyond, creating an uplift in economic activity for the area.

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

Mr David Waite asked how the issue of office space outlined in Cllr McPherson's 'The Art of the Possible' would be addressed? Cllr McPherson said the detail of how the priority would be achieved has not been agreed yet. At the conclusion of Cllr McPherson's response Mr Waite offered the Town Council assistance with the project, due to his experience and professional background, at the appropriate time.

Ms Lorraine Ackland asked about the arrangements and working pattern of the Community Warden. The Town Clerk explained work patterns were aligned to regular attendance in the Town Centre area of the Town by Warden's and also to reported instances. Furthermore, SWL Security employed the Warden but the Town Council dictated working patterns.

Mr Anthony Power questioned the state of the Haywards Heath Railway Bridge and environment around the station. It was agreed that the issue had gone on for too many years. The Bridge was under the responsibility Network Rail who were roundly very hard to deal with. It was noted that Network has been lobbied to undertake works and this was ongoing.

Mrs Stephanie Went asked when work would start on the relief road to accommodate the housing growth in the South of the Town. It was noted that no works were planned, but there was a transport study pending to look at options for improvements to the road network across the Town.

Mr Richard Goddard made a statement, building on his comments at the 2016 Town Meeting that the Town Mayor had again done a wonderful job in the last Council year and was a great ambassador for Haywards Heath. Moving onto other matters he raised last year, Mr Goddard identified that the costs of by-elections were such that they could have paid for the Community Warden alone.

Two residents of Wellswood thanked Cllr Wickremaratchi for his service to the Town and the work he undertook within his Ward of Ashenground.

Tim Briggs informed the meeting that he had researched the future maintenance of the Haywards Heath Railway Bridge during the planning for the 175 Anniversary of Haywards Heath Railway Station event. At that time he was informed that nothing was planned until 2021.

Mr Brian High asked about the future of Clair Hall and the wording in the Annual Report. The Town Clerk stated that wording in the annual report was not aligned with that in the HHNP and this information would be updated after the meeting.

Mr Alan Colgate asked about timescales on the development of the Country Park and what were the implications of the Country Park being across the border in East Sussex.

Ms Katrina Wilmore thanked the Mayor for his support for Sussex Autism Support during his Mayoral year.

Mr Mike Bright thanked, on behalf of Haywards Heath Twinning Association, Cllr Wickremaratchi for his support for the Twinning Association over the last two years and flagged up the importance of the Mosaic project at Haywards Heath Railway Station, as part of the 175 year Anniversary of Haywards Heath Railway Station Event.

Ms Lorraine Ackland informed the meeting, after her pleas at last year's Town meeting, that even though the Haywards Heath 6th Form College could not accommodate her daughter that she achieved excellent grades at another college.

Mrs Stephanie Went asked was any there update on the future of the Haywards Heath 6th form College and informed the meeting that students were struggling to find a venue to accommodate their leaver's event. It was noted that there was no update on the current position to the future of College, but the Council would look into see what could be done to help facilitate a leaver's event this year.

Mr Tim French also praised the work of Cllr Wickremaratchi during his two years as Town Mayor and felt that the 'Boy done good'.

Meeting closed at 9pm

For Information, the following question was sent in prior to the meeting by Mr

The issues of inadequate planning accounting for disabled and elderly who NEED to reside within walking distance of high street shops. All in-town accommodation is yuppy-flat trash who are rich & fit enough to live further away from shops and who drive to hypermarkets out of town anyway. Disabs have no choice or maybe scooters but their custom helps local businesses, livens the community and improves quality of life. Yuppy-flats do NONE of that.

Present ideologies are turning the town into a wasteland with dying businesses and resident yuppies who drive out of town anyway. What advantage is there in continuing this blind approach? What will be done?

Response; Haywards Heath Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan and its Priorities document 'The Art of the Possible' promotes, where it has to adhere to local and government policies, the growth of business and retail in the Town on a case by case basis. These documents will be utilised in the coming years as planning applications are lodged with Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) as the Planning Authority through its District Plan. The Town Council along with its Neighbourhood Plan will also secure the correct stock of housing utilising the affordable housing policy in the District Plan and the advice of the housing needs team at MSDC.