

## HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

### MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

#### Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**Councillors:** Christopher Ash-Edwards  
Jonathan Ash-Edwards  
Anne Boutrup  
Rod Clarke  
David Dorking  
Sandy Ellis  
Julie Hayden\*\*  
Stephen Hillier  
Jacqui Hollister\*\*  
Matthew Jeffers  
James Knight  
Clive Laband  
Alastair McPherson  
Howard Muddin  
Mike Pulfer  
Sujan Wickremaratchi

**Apologies\*\* Absent\***

**Also present: None**

#### **67. Council Prayer**

Members stood for the Council prayer, which was read by the Town Mayor.

#### **68. Public Forum**

None

#### **69. Apologies**

Cllr J. Hayden – Ill Health.

Cllr J. Hollister – Work Commitments.

#### **70. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Wickremaratchi declared a prejudicial interest in item 9 (2016/2017 budget). If there was a debate on budget heading 40 he would leave the Chamber.

Cllr Wickremaratchi and Cllr Hillier declared personal interests in item 10 as West Sussex County Councillors affected by the proposed changes to Electoral Boundaries.

#### **71. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

#### **72. Matters Arising**

Cllr Hillier asked if the Police Crime Commissioner had been informed of the Council's concerns about the withdrawal of PSCO's. The Clerk confirmed that this concern was part of the response made on the consultation considered by Council in November 2015.

### **73. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.**

Town Mayor Cllr Wickremaratchi hoped that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wished all Councillors a Happy New Year. He then update on his activities since the last meeting of the Council making special reference to;

- The efforts of Haywards Heath Foodbank over the Christmas period.
- Collecting money at Haywards Heath Railway Station for St Peter and St James Hospice, where £800, due to the generosity of commuters, was raised in four hours.
- Along with Cllr Ms Boutrup attending an event at Arundel Cathedral.
- The excellent work of the Mayor of Burgess Hill Cllr Mrs Jones with Kings Church.
- Attendance at a Macular Society event held at the Town Hall.

Cllr Wickremaratchi in closing his speech thanked Councillors for their support and made special reference to Cllr Ms Boutrup and Cllr Mundin, his fellow Ashenground Ward Members for all their hard work in the Ward.

### **74. To receive and consider the adoption of the Minutes of Council standing committees.**

- (i) Planning Committee - **MINS. 80 - 96**  
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 - **Mins 80 - 88** and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 - **Mins 89 - 96**.  
Under this item Cllr Hillier update stated that West Sussex County Council were considering using section 106 monies from Land to the South of Scamps Hill for improvements to the top of New England Road. View from fellow Ward Members would be welcomed as and when plans were progressed.
- (ii) Environment & General Purposes Committee - **MINS. 22 - 35**  
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 **Mins 36 - 46** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (iii) Policy & Finance Committee - **MINS. 39 - 48**  
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 **Mins 39 - 48** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

### **75. Town Council Budget 2016/2017**

Without comment.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

**Ratify the recommendation of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and approve the 2016 - 2017 budget, with a 4.8% increase in the precept but a 2% increase in the amount payable by Council Tax payers, which equates to a precept of £493,968 and an average Band D Council Tax of £43.83 p.a.**

### **76. West Sussex County Council Electoral Review**

Members noted the proposed changes to the electoral arrangements for both the Haywards Heath Town Ward and Haywards Heath East Ward for West Sussex County Councillors commencing during the 2017 Elections and the subsequent knock on effect for the Town/District elections in 2019. It was noted that problems could include split boundaries and Wards being served by just one ward Councillor. Burgess Hill was facing a considerable more complicated re-organise, which Mid Sussex District Council were already working on with them. Members also noted that where the Boundary Commission could make these changes there was also the option of a boundary review to reverse such a decision. The last such review was back in 2011 and was a controversial affair.

Members felt the proposed arrangements would leave Councillors who work well in groups being individually isolated. The effect of which, potentially being, that residents would be under served by the virtue of not having multiple Councillors within their Ward. They could also be none at all if a Councillor's circumstances change or there is an inactive Member. Split boundaries, both Ward and even Parish, was also a concern for continuity and administration purposes. At the conclusion of the debate it was felt that the Town Council's views were in line with that of Mid Sussex District Council, which had been echoed by the comments of Cllr J Ash-Edwards who had been involved in the process with Mid Sussex District Council and then;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

**Make a joint representation with Mid Sussex District Council, if Mid Sussex District Council's views concur with those of the Town Council and delegate the letter's sign off to the Mayor, Town Clerk and Chairman of Policy and Finance**

**77. To consider any urgent items the Mayor has received under S.O 11.**

None

**78.** The Mayor requested that Council entered **Exempt Business**. It was then **RESOLVED** that the public and press should leave the Chamber so that Members could resolve the adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 under minute 49. These were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

Meeting Closed at 7.55pm