

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th July 2016

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

Apologies Absent***

Also present: Mr Roger Payne from Tenshin Dojo UK (The Mid Sussex Martial Arts School).

Before the meeting commenced Mr Payne presented The Town Mayor with a medal and commemorative booklet from the organisers of the Fifth World Butoku Sai staged in Japan in April to thank him and the Council for the letter of support sent by the Town Council before the event.

22. Council Prayer

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

23. Public Forum

None

24. Apologies

Cllr J. Hayden – Holiday.

Cllr A. McPherson – Work Commitments

24. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wickremaratchi and Cllr Hillier declared personal interests in item 10 as West Sussex County Councillors.

Cllr J. Ash-Edwards declared a personal interest in item 13 as the Chair of Governors at Warden Park School, which was included in the Sports Strategy.

Cllrs J. Ash-Edwards, Dorking, Ellis, Clarke, Munda and Boutrup all declared a personal interest generally in item 13 as Mid Sussex District Council Councillors.

25. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 16th May 2016 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

26. Matters Arising

None

27. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.

Town Mayor Cllr Wickremaratchi addressed Council stating that in light of the many challenges he had faced over that last few months it had been a very rewarding and busy period for him and his consort. Reference was made to his attendance at the presentation by the Transport Police of fund towards the Twinning Associations Mosaic Project, It's A Knockout at K2 Crawley, the Bolnore Fete, an event he had attended at the Nuffield Hospital, the Princess Royal Hospital and The Orchards in relation Alzheimer's Day. The Mayor also announced that the Council had been approached in regard to nominations for the Chairman's Community Awards to be handed out at the Mid Sussex District Council's Garden Party on the 25th September 2016. Members were asked to inform the Clerk if they wished to nominate a resident of the Town.

28. To receive and consider the adoption of the Minutes of Council standing committees.

- (i) Planning Committee - **MINS. 1 - 26**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 31st May 2016 - **Mins 1 – 8**, 20th June 2016 – **Mins 9 – 19** and 11th July 2016 - **Mins 20 – 26** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (ii) Environment & General Purposes Committee - **MINS. 1 - 12**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 13th June 2016 **Mins 1 - 12** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (iii) Policy & Finance Committee - **MINS. 1 - 16**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 27th June 2016 **Mins 1 - 16** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

29. Update on Outside Bodies

Cllr Jeffers thanked the Mayor and Councillors who supported the Bolnore Fete. Even with issue relating to the cutting of the grass at Bolnore Leisure Site the event was a great success and the fete was opened by Jane Leeves (Daphne) star of American comedy Frasier. It was noted that the fete had been the priority of the Woodside Pavilion Management Committee on which he sat on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Ellis updated on the success of the South and South East in Bloom judging day, which Ellis had been attended by a representative Gatwick Airport who are this year's sponsors. Cllr stated the tour brought communities together and thanked those involved.

Members **NOTED** the updates;

30. West Sussex County Council Consultation – County Local Committees

Members noted the consultation being undertaken by West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) and were minded to object to the proposed re-organisation of the CLC's in the Mid Sussex area on the grounds that that the effect on all of the Towns and Villages in the Central and South of the District outweighed the minimal amount of savings that WSSCC stands to make, based on the following concerns. In considering the proposals Members specifically had regard to the effect on the Mid Sussex area as proposed. As a result, Members,

- felt that the move from three areas to two would not work and would present an unbalance between the two CLC areas with three large Town's having to be accommodated into two areas.
- when focusing on the South area as proposed, felt it cannot be prudent for Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill and the three larger villages of Cuckfield, Hurstpierpoint and Hassocks to be in the same area along with the Parishes at the South of the District and be competing for funding and only two priorities per year.

- felt that where CLC's are held all other over the designated areas it would reduce resident's participation at the meetings and ultimately reduce the number of attendees.
- Finally, it is most worrying that Haywards Heath is being split from Lindfield considering the coalesced nature of the Town and Village. Notwithstanding, the fact that the Town and the Village like to ensure their distinct differences, there will be many occasions where matters such as TRO's, school travel plans and other highways matters will have a direct effect on both settlements. It could even be the case that a project may need joint funding and planning. The two Councils also work together in a Highways Cluster. It is noted that this is something that West Sussex County Council wishes to promote, which will be hampered by the need to take any matters through two different CLC's.

On the grounds stated it was agreed that the response be delegated to the Clerk in liaison with the Mayor and Leader, and that Cllr Hillier be informed as a West Sussex County Councillor.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) **Instruct the Town Clerk to make a response to West Sussex County Council, in liaison with the Town Mayor and Leader, based on the comments of the above minute (30).**

31. Haywards Heath Sport Strategy

Members noted the finalised Sports Strategy, which had been tabled for adoption as per a recommendation made under minute 63 of the Environment and General Purposes Committee dated 21st March 2016. It was felt that the Strategy was an excellent piece of work and the Consultants were congratulated. The document also showcased the wide range and depth of sport in the Town, which should have been shown off during the Queen's picnic in June. Unfortunately, the weather stopped this from happening, but incorporating the event into Town Day was well underway. Members also noted that the results of a consultation that had been undertaken during the period between the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee and the date of the Full Council meeting, were to be presented to the Haywards Heath Sports Forum the following Wednesday evening, and then welcomed the Strategy, with this;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Adopt the Haywards Heath Sports Strategy.

32. Community Warden

Members debated the proposal at length and asked for clarification, from the Clerk, on a number matters relating to the proposal to introduce a Community Warden to Haywards Heath. There was a concern in relation to the proposed activities of the Warden in terms of crime reporting and that the work could cross over into the remit of the Police and subsequently lead to a reduction of Police activity. The Clerk responded by saying that it was not the intention of the Warden's role to duplicate the work of the Police nor replace it, but one of the Warden's roles would be to work in the community and increase confidence in reporting by being on hand to assist the reporting of such and developing ways of deterring crime/anti-social behaviour, working with the Police and other agencies. Furthermore, as Members were aware, reporting was key to making issues a priority. It was agreed that handcuffs were not a good idea as the Police can deal with this kind of detention and that the showing of cuffs could be detrimental to the reaction of the community to the new Warden. It was felt that the recent changes to policing in the District, which will see a substantial reduction in policing levels, means that any scheme to help reduce crime in the Town should be supported by the Town Council. It was also questioned if anyone present could name the

PSCO's at the moment and that the reduction will only cause more pressure on local policing. It was felt that a success criteria was needed to be established very quickly to ensure that the Town Council could justify and prove the worth of the Warden, so that the project could carry on into year two. This was a poignant consideration as it was acknowledged that the financing will be complex as it would be required mid year in terms of budget setting. At the conclusion of debate, Members agreed unanimously to support the initiative, but directed the Clerk, under delegated authority, to review the scope of the Warden's work, reduce it and then produce some suggested success criteria for the role of the Warden.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) **The scope of duties, personal specification and monitoring arrangements for a Community Warden and gave the Clerk delegated authority to amend the documents when necessary.**
- b) **Ratify the Policy and Finance Committee's recommendation to introduce a Community Warden for Haywards and allocated £10,000 of unrestricted funds towards the Pilot project.**
- c) **Delegate authority to the Clerk to enter into legal agreements and funding arrangements with the Co-operative, Sussex Police and SWL security, if and when appropriate, on behalf of the Town Council.**
- d) **To delegate the ability to amend the scope of work of the Warden to the Town Clerk.**

33. Motion – Cllr J. Knight – Extension to Muster Green Conservation Area

Cllr Knight proposed a motion, as presented in the covering report, seeking Council support for a request to be made to Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) to review the Muster Green Conservation Area. The review would seek to ascertain whether part of Bolnore Road, as presented in the map accompanying the motion be added to the existing area. The motion, before debate commenced, was amended and seconded under standing orders to read;

'I would request that the Council considers and then supports my request for an extension to the Muster Green conservation area to include the part (as per the map attached) of Bolnore Road. To demonstrate support for this motion I would subsequently request that the Council resolves to make a request to Mid Sussex District Council to review the existing Conservation Area with a view to extending the area.'

Members questioned the reason behind the resolution and why the extended area had come forward at this particular time. The mover of the motion said that there was no ulterior motive other than to control the splitting of the larger houses in the defined area. Some Members questioned the need to the review and were ambivalent to it being taken forward. However, the general consensus was what had been presented would not affect the Council's Neighbourhood Plan aspirations and MSDC would have to undertake the review and make recommendations at which time the Council could object, so the request would not affect the Council at the present time. Members mainly seemed content with the motion, but with a number of Members still not sure why the motion was being brought forward. As a result, **at the conclusion of debate the Town Mayor put the motion to a vote. The motion was carried with 10 Members voting in favour 0 against, but 3 abstentions being made, therefore;**

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Instruct the Clerk to write of Mid Sussex District Council and formally request that a review of the Muster Green Conservation Area be

undertaken with a view to including part of Bolnore Road as presented in Appendix 1 of the report.

34. To consider any urgent items, the Mayor has received under S.O 11.

None

35. The Town Mayor requested that Council entered **Exempt Business**. It was then **RESOLVED** that the public and press should leave the Chamber so that Members could consider the exempt minutes and resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 27th June 2016 minutes 17 and 18.

Meeting Closed at 9.10pm