

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th September 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 Muddin
Mike Pulfer
Sujan Wickremaratchi

Apologies Absent***

Also present: Mr Tim Barkley, Mr Eric Bassett, Mr Mike and Mrs Lesley Bright and Mrs Irene Balls.

Before the meeting commenced Members were informed that due to a personal matter the Community Warden Mr Damon Cooper could not attend the meeting.

The Town Mayor also welcomed Cllr Jed Dwight to his first official meeting of the Council since his election.

38. Council Prayer

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

39. Public Forum

Mrs Irene Balls addressed the meeting on behalf of Haywards Heath Twinning Association to promote the endeavours of the Association over the weekend of the 175th Anniversary of the Railway in Haywards Heath, which included the unveiling of Mosaics at the Railway Station. She thanked the Council for its contributions over the weekend, which included support through attendance at the lunch and concert at Great Walstead and the evening dinner at Borde Hill. She also thanked the Town Mayor for his unwavering support, which included support in hosting the guests from Bondues and Traunstien from their arrival on Friday morning until their departure on Sunday afternoon. In response to Mrs Balls presentation, the Deputy Mayor thanked Mrs Balls and stated that the concert on Saturday was wonderful and the students from Walstead should be congratulated.

40. Apologies

None

41. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hillier declared personal interests in item 8 minutes 34 and 51 and item 12 as a West Sussex County Councillor and Cabinet Member.

Cllr J. Ash-Edwards, declared a personal interest in item 10 as a Member of the Mid Sussex District Council's Cabinet that would consider the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan if agreed by the Town Council.

42. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th July 2016 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor, with one addition being requested and accepted by the Clerk and the Council. Cllr J Knight informed the Council that his motion relating to the Muster Green Conservation area extension, agreed under minute 33, at the meeting was requested to him by residents in Bolnore Road and he wished for that to be made clear.

43. Matters Arising

None

44. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.

Town Mayor Cllr Wickremaratchi addressed Council and gave a warm welcome to those present and hoped that all had had a good summer break along with a well earned rest. Although he had been in Sri Lanka, Cllr Wickremaratchi had kept in communication with the Town Hall and carried out a number of events on his return, which included;

- Attendance at the Oathall Community College presentation evening to the see younger generation of the Town, who had done so well, being recognised. Cllr Wickremaratchi in his role as a select committee member of Children and Young People for WSCC was proud to have been there.
- Cllr Wickremaratchi attended the Haywards Heath Cricket Club Colts section awards evening at Clair Park. The Mayor also thanked Cllr Sandy Ellis for her gift of a Trophy, which was presented to young cricketers.
- It was noted that Haywards Heath Town Day was a fantastic success with a number of Councillors joining in and helping out. Thanks went to all the Town Council Staff, sponsors, and all the Charities that joined in to support our town. As part of the day Ultra Core Fitness in Haywards Heath raised £630 pounds for Cllr Wickremaratchi's chosen charity, Sussex Autism Support, with a cheque being presented to Katrina Wilmore, Chair of the group, shortly after Town Day.
- The Mayor from the Town's twin town Traunstein and Deputy Mayor of Bondues joined the weekend celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the Railway Station, which was a great success. Sincere thanks went to the Town Team, Cllr Ruth De-Mierre and Tim Briggs and to the Haywards Heath Twinning Association including Irene Balls and Mike and Lesley Bright. Congratulations were heaped on Mike and Lesley Bright for being given a community service awards by the MSDC in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the community. The Twinning Lunch held at Great Walstead School was exceptional and the involvement of children playing different types of musical instruments was fantastic. The Twin Town Mayors along with Cllr Wickremaratchi unveiled two mosaics at the Haywards Heath Station.
- Members were informed that the Barn Cottage Fun Day was as usual well organised, well attended and enjoyed by all residents. Credit was given the organisers headed by Cllr Hillier and Cllr Ruth De-Mierre.
- The Town's friendship with Crawley has grown and Cllr Wickremaratchi and his Consort were invited for the Crawley Mayor's Civic service. It was a Hindu service and absolutely fascinating learning about other cultures. The theme was how best to serve your community.
- Cllr Wickremaratchi's dream of helping young people with learning disabilities so to help them gain employment became a reality. Jamie Flynn, who attended Full Council and is autistic started work at the Council two weeks before. This is the first ever placement, and Cllr Wickremaratchi thanked the Clerk for organising it, and the support received by Councillors.

- Finally, formal mention was made to the MSDC awards ceremony held at the Ravenswood, Sharpthorne to reward the District's "unsung heroes". Cllr Wickremaratchi was amazed at how much we rely on volunteers and the marvellous things that they achieve.
****Mr Mike Oliver, Ms Nicola Bird, Mr David Williams, Mr Simon Kingsley-Young were also worthy recipients at Ravenswood in addition to Mr and Mrs Bright nominated by for their work in Haywards Heath by Councillors and staff.*

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

- (i) Planning Committee - **MINS. 27 - 52**
 The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 1st August 2016 - **Mins 27 – 35**, 22nd August 2016 – **Mins 36 – 43** and 12th September 2016 - **Mins 44 – 52** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (ii) Environment & General Purposes Committee - **MINS. 13 - 23**
 The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 8th August 2016 **Mins 13 - 23** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (iii) Policy & Finance Committee - **MINS. 19 - 27**
 The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 19th September 2016 **Mins 19 - 27** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

46. Update on Outside Bodies

Cllr Ellis updated on the South and South East in Bloom Committee. No other representations were made.

Members **NOTED** the updates;

47. Examiners Report – Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan

Members noted the report of the Examiner and made no formal comment on its contents as they were agreeable to the modifications as none fundamentally challenged the structure or philosophy of the Plan. Members reflected on what had been a long road since 2012 and thanks were given to the past Leader of the Council, Councillor Tim Farmer, and the present Leader, Cllr Micheal Pulfer, the Town Clerk and Mr Tim Barkley. The Chairman of the Planning Committee/ Planning Working Group was then thanked. In concluding the debate, it was stated that the Plan grasped the Government's thinking on Localism and shaped the future of the Town. It was also felt that the Plan was a bold and confident Plan that offered a number of wins for the Town.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) **Accept the Examiner's report and all the amendments included within the report.**
- b) **Instruct the Clerk to advise Mid Sussex District Council of the acceptance and ask that they confirm that the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan, with the modifications as stated, is acceptable to proceed to referendum.**

48. Appointment to the Environment and General Purposes Committee

Members without comment agreed to appoint Cllr Dwight to the Environment and General Purposes Committee. On appointment Cllr Jeffers, as Chairman of the Committee, welcomed Cllr Dwight onto the Committee;

Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Jed Dwight to the Environmental and General Purposes Committee.

49. West Sussex Pension Scheme – Formal Valuation 2016

The initial feeling of a number of Members of the Council was that there was not enough information available from West Sussex County Council to make such the decision, as recommended in the report, and professional advice was needed. It was also felt that the financial risk could not be stated as none, but as unknown as that was the nature of pensions. An alternative view given was that there were only two options and going out alone would be a greater risk than staying in the pool of similar sized Councils. It was also felt that it would take too long to get the information needed and there would naturally still be a risk to pensions. At this point the Clerk stated that there needed to be a motion put forward and a vote as there were opposing views. Cllr Knight tabled a motion that the recommendation of the report be accepted which was seconded by Cllr J Ash-Edwards. Before the vote, again the point about needing advice was raised and supported by fellow Councillors. As a compromise it was felt that the staff working party should look at the matter. This was agreed and the motion put forward by Councillor Knight was withdrawn and then;

Members **RESOLVED** to delegate the decision to the Staff Working Party.

50. Local Government Finance Offer 2016

Members considered the consultation papers as presented. In light of the Clerk's advice that at the present time the capping is proposed to be at £5 or 2% per annum (whichever is bigger), per band D property, coupled with the fact it would also only affect Councils with a Band D Council tax of over £71, it would not affect the Town Council at the present time. This was on the basis that referendum would only kick in at a circa 15% rise for the Town Council in line with the 5%, which is way above the normal 2-3% rise and anything higher, in terms of precept rise would have to be for a justifiable reason. However, it was also agreed that the Town Council should support the National Association of Local Councils in their objection to the proposals as such measures could be increased in the future, because the precedent has been set.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Instruct the Clerk to make representation on the Consultation to support the views of the National Association of Local Councils, in the knowledge that it was very unlikely that the current proposals would affect the Town Council.

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

There were two items brought to the Town Council's attention;

- a) Damage to Town Centre Planters – Members noted the vandalism, which occurred over Friday night and hoped that CCTV could be sourced.
- b) Changes to Muster Green – it was noted that due to tree roots encroaching into the flower beds, that cannot be moved any further forward, but were to be made bigger to ease the planting issues. This would result in there being a reduction of beds along Muster Green South and Muster Green North from eight to four, but there would be no reduction in the planting capacity as the beds were to increase in size.

52. 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 of the meeting of Council dated 18th July 2016, which were agreed and signed as a true record and the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 19th September 2016 minutes 28, 29 and 30 which were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

Meeting Closed at 8.43pm