

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30th January 2017

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

Apologies Absent***

Also present: Damon Cooper, Chris Haywood and Peter Fisher from SWL Security.

Before the meeting commenced Members received a presentation on the activities of the Haywards Heath Community Warden

66. Council Prayer

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

67. Public Forum

None.

68. Apologies

David Dorking – Personal Reasons.
Anne Boutrup – Work Commitments.

69. Declarations of Interest

None.

70. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th November 2016 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

71. Matters Arising

Cllr Hillier asked if the Clerk had received a response from Sussex Family Mosaic reference allotment provision for its residents. The Clerk stated that he had no response to date.

72. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.

The Mayor wished all a belated Happy New Year and stated that the road ahead for the Town Council was not going to be easy, but felt that as a strong Town Council all need to support each other, and work together for our residents.

The Mayor went on to state that he had always been open and true to his residents and fellow Councillors then committed to continue to do so. He asked if for honesty and asked that if he did things wrong that he be approached directly, he would not be offended, would listen and appreciate their views and then make an effort to correct himself.

The Mayor updated on an extremely busy, challenging and eventful few months with 32 events in total being attended. The highlights included;

- Redwood Centre Age UK - Christmas Fayre.
- Bentswood Community Partnership Christmas party. Gratitude was conveyed to the community centre organisers and Cllrs Stephen Hillier and Ruth deMierre for their continued commitment to the community.
- International Disabilities Day organised by Haywards Heath Fire Service. The Mayor said that the Town Council should be very proud of the local fire service's contribution to our society.
- The Parkinson's UK Christmas lunch at Wivelsfield community hall. Members were informed that one in every 500 people suffer from Parkinson's, which was about 127,000 people in the UK. with currently no cure being available, but drugs and treatment were available for many of the symptoms.
- A meeting was held with the CEO of 4Sight and Time 4 Children to try and help them fund raise and get grants to continue their valuable help to the community.
- The Mayor was honoured to say that the Haywards Heath Rotary Club had appointed him as an honorary member for services and support given to them. It was felt that the Rotary members did a fantastic job in raising funds for good causes, throughout Haywards Heath.
- The Mayor was pleased to announce that the Lions International Haywards Heath Christmas collection in the Ashenground Ward was a success raising around £660 for good causes.
- The Mayor's Christmas carol service, held for the first time, was a fantastic success. Thanks, was conveyed to all supported the event by being there and to Maria Horne (Mayor's Secretary) for her fantastic organisational skills. Thanks also went to the Haywards Heath Brownies and Girl Guides for their wonderful carol singing.
- It was noted that the Mayor's encounter with Hyde Housing Association over a year ago, in relation to St Wilfrids Court, which houses 30 vulnerable adults had ended in success. Work had been carried out to eradicate damp and other maintenance work to make life better, and safe guarding procedures have been written and displayed in the building.
- The Mayor attended Cllr Raj Sharma, Mayor of Crawley Borough Council's, charity dinner dance "The Days of the Raj" in aid of Crawley Youth Community Service. It was a multicultural event and he was amazed to see MSDC Chairman Cllr Peter Reed in costume.

In concluding his address, the Mayor also took the opportunity to thank Deputy Mayor Cllr Jim Knight for his continued support and all Councillors. He thanked the Town Council staff especially the Clerk and Maria Horne for her valuable support and good work. The Mayor felt that if it were not for the HHTC staff he would not be able to carry out his duties diligently, to serve the Town's residents well. He wished Councillors all the very best in their public duties and was proud, as always, to be able to serve the residents of Haywards Heath.

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

- (i) **Planning Committee - MINS. 78 - 105**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 5th December 2016 - **Mins 78 – 87**, 3rd January 2017 – **Mins 88 – 95** and 23rd January 2017 - **Mins 96 – 105** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (ii) **Environment & General Purposes Committee - MINS. 35 - 47**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 12th December 2016 **Mins 35 - 47** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council
- (iii) **Policy & Finance Committee - MINS. 46 - 56**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 16th January 2017 **Mins 46 - 56** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

74. Update on Outside Bodies

None.

75. Council Budget 2017/2018

Members noted a small amendment to the budget, as recommended by the Policy and Finance Committee dated 16th January 2017, which related to a re-calculation of the Council's pension contributions and without comment.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Ratify the recommendations of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 16th January 2017 and,

(a) approve the 2017 - 2018 budget as presented, with a 6.5% increase in the precept and a 4% increase in the amount payable by Council Tax payers equating to a precept of £526,257 and an average Band D Council Tax of £45.58 p.a.

(b) Move and earmark £7,280 (New Burial Ground) and £7,500 (Maintenance Building and Grounds) from the general reserves.

76. Cemetery Fees Policy

Members considered the Resident and Non-Resident Cemetery Fees policy and decision making process as recommended by the Environment and General Purposes Committee. Where Members supported the policy wording, it was felt that as proposed wording of point (iv) was quite ambiguous and open to question, so it was proposed and seconded then agreed by Council that the beginning of the first sentence '*That discretion can be made by the Town Council*' be removed. However, it was agreed that the panel to make decisions be removed as Councillors make policies and the Clerk and officers implement them. Councillors should only get involved if the Clerk's final decision is challenged. On this basis, due to the need for a swift decision that three Members only form a panel to consider any challenges made to officer's decisions. The Clerk was then asked about the statement contained in the report about the possible financial implications resulting from loss of income. The Clerk responded that the matter needed to be raised because of the Council's decision to set a budget that included and inflated income projected for Cemetery income. The reduction in quadruple fees could see the figure set not being achieved. The Clerk was also asked when the policy would come into effect. It was noted that the policy would come into effect the next day and would only be applied to interments and burials there onwards. With this, Members unanimously agreed to adopt the policy with the removal the words, as agreed under point (iv) and then;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) **Approve the recommendations of Environment and General Purposes Committee and adopt the Resident and Non-Resident Cemetery Fees Policy for Western Road Cemetery with the following revised paragraph to be inserted under point (iv);**
"If the deceased had lived in the Town for a twenty-year period, which could be proven by the applicant's family, they would be buried at single rate fees."
- b) **But not to form of a panel of three Members of the Environment and General Purposes Committee to assist in decisions relating to the new policy wording, but a panel that would consider any challenges to the Clerk's decision on individual cases.**

77. To consider any urgent items, the Mayor has received under S.O 11.
None.

78. Exempt Business.
None

Meeting Closed at 8.43pm