

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Extra-Ordinary Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd September 2019

M Jeffers (*Chairman*)
S Ellis (*Vice Chairman*)
C Cheney
R Cromie*
S Inglesfield
J Langley
A McPherson**

* Absent ** Apologies

Also, present: Cllr R. Nicholson, Cllr R. Bates and Town Clerk

23. Apologies

Cllr McPherson – Holiday.

24. Minutes

Before the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on, Monday 12th August 2019 were approved Cllr Inglesfield made the following statement on minute/resolution 17 in relation to the defeated motion regarding Meat Free Mondays. Cllr Inglesfield read out two observations relating to the reasons for refusal, which were made in her absence. For the avoidance of doubt these were handed in writing to the Town Clerk.

- 1) *I object to the first reason given: "It could be detrimental to local business such as butchers" on 2 Accounts. First, I cannot see in these minutes the impact study to back this statement up. Does it rely purely on logic? Following this logic then surely a weekly meat free day would be beneficial to local business such as greengrocers. So, are we dealing here with a bias or with a flawed argument?*
- 2) *I object to the fact that my motion was qualified as "politically motivated". The link between meat Consumption and climate change is well established and has nothing to do with party politics. Furthermore, my motion was actually motivated by government published, policy informing documents from the GOV.UK website, which I have been using often over the last few years and which I invite you to visit.*

The Chairman stated that he stood by the decision made by the Committee because as a Town Council, where it has an Environment agenda to signpost and encourage, it should not affect/direct people's freedom of choice and subsequently local businesses. It was also felt that there were professional Wellbeing agencies that should be picking up on directing on these kind of lifestyle issues, as stated during the debate on the motion, which should have been stated in the minutes.

However, Members did agree that there needed to be positive changes to people's dietary habits and a reduction in dairy and meet consumption, but again it was for the Town Council to signpost to the information and option available. The planetarium diet being one of those opportunities.

The Clerk interjected at this point, as it was not in order to discuss the reasons for turning the motion down, and asked if any Members of the Committee were challenging the minutes through their comments. It was made clear by the Town Clerk that the minutes were a reflection of what was said at the meeting to demonstrate how the Committee came to decision and resolution. The Town Clerk confirmed that reference, which had been questioned, to the ability of Health and Wellbeing teams to signpost residents to such initiatives was included in the minutes and read out the line included for confirmation.

It was confirmed that no Councillor was challenging the content of the Minutes so it was respectfully asked by the Town Clerk that debate stopped to allow the Chairman to sign the minutes. **With this the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on, Monday 12th August 2019 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.**

25. Substitutes

None

26. Members' Declarations of Interest

None

27. Recommendations of the Environment Working Group held on the 2nd September 2019 Town Council Environmental Priorities.

Members welcomed the priorities as presented and were happy that all were recommended to Full Council for adoption. The original priorities were then either carried into the new priorities or struck off. On specific matters it was suggested that reference was made to Carbon Footprint Ltd under the planting priorities to assist with tree planting. In addition, Members asked that the Town Clerk progress changes to the planting schedules for the Town by looking to trial beds with perennial flowers and that wildflower beds be developed in each Ward. These would act as a starting point for a move towards freeing up the time of groundstaff and the reduction of water usage. Reference was made to the need to formally recognise the Environment Framework document, which had been presented for adoption on the 29th July 2019 by the Environment Working Group and then ratified by the Environment the General Purposes Committee 12th August 2019. It was also suggested that the Framework document reference numbers, leading each of the Town Council priorities, be cross referenced for ease of administration and so to present the background to the priority. The Town Clerk felt that this was a good idea and would look to progress the cross reference with the support of Cllr Langley. It was then agreed unanimously that the Environment Framework document would be adopted, with an additional resolution under d), and that it remained a fluid background document, which would be reviewed and updated regularly enabling it to feed into the Environment Policies agreed under resolution a). With this.

Members **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council,

- a) **the Town Council's Environment priorities, as presented in Appendix 1, with the addition under Town Environment (Planting) of reference to Carbon Footprint Limited.**
- b) **to note the status of the pre-existing priorities as presented in Appendix 2 of the report.**
- c) **To resolve that all of the priorities agreed be delivered through delegated authority given to the Town Clerk with the Environment Working Group overseeing the delivery of the priorities and**

reporting progress of each to the Environment and General Purposes Committee.

d) To acknowledge and adopt the Environment Framework as a supporting document to the priorities recommended under a).

28. Items Agreed as Urgent by the Chairman

None

The meeting closed at 8:16pm