

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and General Purposes Committee** held on Monday 8th February 2015.

M. Jeffers (Chairman)
S. Ellis (Vice Chairman)
R. Clarke
J. Hayden
J. Hollister**
J. Knight**
H. Muddin

Apologies ** Absent *

Also present: None

47. Apologies

Cllr Hollister – Works Commitments
Cllr Knight – Ill Health

48. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 14th December 2015 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

49. Substitutes

Cllr Pulfer for Hollister.

50. Declarations of Interest

Item 9, Cllr Ellis declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee.

51. Matters Arising

None

52. Town Fund – Jubilee Gardens

Members welcomed the proposals to re-generate Jubilee Gardens to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and unanimously agreed to allocate £1,500 worth of funding from the Council's Town Fund. Furthermore, it was agreed that the Chairman of the South East in Bloom Committee be allowed to pursue other sources of funding and secure business sponsorship to help meet the overarching project cost. It was noted that works would include a new tree, rockery area, benches and seats and a plaque to mark the event. Members felt that area was not well known to the public and looked like part of the grounds to the nearby flats so the regeneration and publicity that would be derived from the project would be good for the gardens and would increase usage. It was also felt that the project would complement the floral displays on the Sussex Road Roundabout and the recent project to upgrade the Peace Garden located behind Laura Ashley. With this.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Allocate a maximum of £1,500 from the Town Fund towards the cost of upgrading Jubilee Gardens located off Caxton Way.

53. Community Liaison Officer Report.

The Community Liaison Officer (CLO) presented her report and took Members through the report welcoming questions from Councillors. The CLO updated on her work as outlined in the accompanying report with special focus on the Dementia Friendly Work, Event co-ordination, police liaison and other work with third party partners.

Members noted the report of the Community Liaison Officer.

54. South and South East in Bloom

Cllr Ellis as Chairman of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee updated the Committee on the activities of the Committee and Members noted and endorsed the notes of the meeting of the Committee dated 25th January 2016. It was noted that Bolnore Village was back in the competition and it was excellent to Members of the Bolnore Community re-join the committee.

Members noted the update.

55. Proposed Community Facilities – East of Hurstwood Lane

Members were updated on the proposals being considered for the development of land East of Hurstwood Lane, which were associated to the pending development of Hurst Farm. It was noted that there had been positive discussion with Mid Sussex District Council about the future of the land and its future transfer to the Town Council so that facilities including a Country Park, Cemetery, retention of the Ancient Woodland and potentially allotments could be developed. It was agreed that the facilities needed to be properly master planned so that a long term and phased approach could be developed and implemented for the land as soon as practicably possible. Members felt that professional bodies such as the Ramblers Association, Sussex Wildlife and local experts with experience of Ancient Woodland Management and Ecology should be engaged with. Subsequently, it was agreed that a draft masterplan be drawn up, which was based on protection of Ancient Woodland and a design for the lay out for the Country Park (including planting, installation of new trees, a path sympathetic path network and other ancillary facilities), which would sit alongside the proposed Cemetery that had already been designed. As a result, as per the recommendation of the report, Members agreed that the Clerk be tasked with finding a number of consultants to tender for the master planning work and that they be appointed in liaison with the Chairman in close liaison with the Leader of the Council. It was also felt that the plan for the land needed to be progressed without the bureaucratic process of returning to Committee each time a decision was needed, so a working party was formed to drive the project forward and return to the Committee with a finalised masterplan. It was also agreed that a site meeting, so all Member could understand the site, be held that weekend. With this,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) Instruct the Town Clerk in liaison with the Chairman of the Committee to seek and appoint a consultant to assist with the development of a Masterplan for the allocated community land East of Hurstwood Lane, Haywards Heath.**
- b) Form a working party consisting of Cllrs Clarke, Ellis, Hayden and Jeffers, to develop a Masterplan, with the Town Clerk, who will report back to the Committee.**
- c) Formulate and agree a specification for all potential consultants to adhere to during the tender process to appoint the consultants to assist with the Masterplan.**

56. Muster Green – Armed Forces Day

Members noted that a request had been made by the Royal Yeomanry via Mid Sussex District Council to hold an event on Muster Green on Armed Forces Day. Members agreed that the Council could not lead on such an event as the Council had decided upon its schedule of Events for 2016/2017 through the budget setting process. Furthermore, there was no further capacity both financially or in terms of human resources to manage a further event in what was a very busy period for Town Council and third party events in the Town. It was agreed that the Council would offer Muster Green to the Royal Yeomanry so they could hold their own event and the Clerk was happy to liaise with them up until any event.

57. Urgent Items

None.

Meeting Closed at 9.01pm