

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and General Purposes Committee** held on Monday 10th September 2016.

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

Apologies ** Absent *

Also present: Mr M. Crump and Mr J. King (part of meeting)

Cllr Jed Dwight was welcomed by the Chairman to his first meeting of the Committee.

24. Apologies

J. Hayden – personal emergency.

25. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on 8th August 2016 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

26. Substitutes

None.

27. Declarations of Interest

Item 8, Cllr Ellis declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee.

28. Matters Arising

The Clerk updated on two matters.

- 1) That the Allotment Policy had been signed off by Full Council and this was to be published on the Allotment Forum and Council Website.
- 2) That a report relating to burial rules at Western Road Cemetery would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

29. Minutes of the Allotment Holders Meeting dated 12th September 2016

Members, without comment, noted the minutes of the Allotment Holders Meeting dated 12th September 2016 as presented and the actions arising, as outlined by the Town Clerk. Before formally agreeing the minutes the Chairman thanked Mr King and Mr Crump for their general input on allotment matters and Cllr Ellis thanked Mr King for providing a trophy for the Best Kept Allotment Competition.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) **Adopt the minutes of the Allotment Holders Meeting dated 12th September 2016**

30. Request for an Allotment Plot by Sussex Mosaic Housing Association

Members, even though the philosophy of the idea was good, shared the concerns, which were outlined in the report of the Town Clerk. Before deciding on a course of action the Chairman invited Mr Crump, on the grounds that plot holders would have a better idea on

practical arrangements and issues that would be faced on a day to day basis, to speak on behalf of the America Lane plot holders who had taken time to consider the idea prior to the meeting. It was felt, where the initiative was laudable but security was an issue due to the high turnover of plot holders and the fact that some users may not have an interest or the expertise in allotment management. As a result, the plot holders were not in favour of the request. Members again agreed to the sentiments conveyed, but the Community Liaison Officer suggested that it would be an idea to meet with Sussex Mosaic so they could outline their proposal in detail. Members thought this would be a prudent course of action but still had reservations about the initiative on the grounds discussed and the view of existing Plot Holders who have considerable experience with regards to the commitment needed to tend an allotments and the pride existing plot holders had for their holdings. In conclusion of the debate the Clerk reminded Members that any resident of the Town was able to apply for an allotment so any resident of Sussex Mosaic who lives in the Town could go on the waiting list whether Sussex Mosaic wished for them to or not. In terms of what Sussex Mosaic were proposing the Town Clerk questioned whether all residents would want to be involved, so to his mind Sussex Mosaic should simply refer those interest to the Town Council to go on the waiting list. Members agreed with this course of action and looked forward to hearing the outcome of the meeting with Sussex Mosaic representative, then,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- 1) Not to enter into an unregulated arrangement with Sussex Mosaic for the use of Allotment Land.**
- 2) Ask the Clerk to set up a meeting with a Sussex Mosaic**

31. South and South East in Bloom Committee

It was noted that the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee had become disillusioned with the South and South East in Bloom judges scoring and comments over the last two years and felt that as hard as they tried the goal posts keep shifting. The feeling started last year when the transport for the Tour of the Town was criticised for lack of space when the judges invited another to sit in the car with them. There were concerns about the conflict between the Green Flag judges' comments and those of the in Bloom judges. Furthermore, in reading this year's comments and looking at the scoring it had been noted that the Town was only one point away in one category from attaining a higher award. The Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee felt it worked so hard on business involvement and with the community, but felt that this was not recognised. Comments were made by judges about the planting on Muster Green this year that the groundstaff were rather upset with, which were wrong. It was commented that the plants used had changed from last year when they were exactly the same. Where it was appreciated that Judges see many sites over the year this showed that there had not been any research on the previous entries. In addition, when groundstaff informed judges that they planted to what residents wanted it was argued that the judges wanted to see something else. In conclusion the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee, at its wash up meeting, felt it was better to re-direct funds and spend money on local projects and to retain the Green Flag rather than to enter the In Bloom competition again. Members noted the comment of the Haywards Heath in Bloom and were fully supportive of their concerns and looked forward to seeing the projects planned for next year, which included hanging basket making and more work with care homes. In addition, there was to be planting to support Mental Health week. Cllr Dwight added his personal views and wished to assist Cllr Ellis with any projects or schemes resulting. In line with the decision made not to enter the competition the Clerk suggested the he and Cllr Ellis as Chairman of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee be, with authorisation and the blessing of the Committee, allowed to apply for grants to assist with

the aim, objectives and project of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee. With Members were again agreeable and then.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) **That the Town Council withdraw from entering into the South and South East in Bloom competition indefinitely.**
- b) **That Cllr Ellis in liaison with the Town Clerk be give delegated authority to apply for grants to support Haywards Heath in Bloom project,**

32. Community Liaison Function of the Council

Members noted the update of the CLO with special mention being made of the success of success of Town Day and the 175 Anniversary of the Railway Event. There was a reminded of the upcoming Remembrance Sunday Service and Fireworks to support the Christmas Festival. Members were also update on the work of the Dementia Forum and the proposed virtual dementia tour and the open forum events.

Members Noted the Update.

33. Update on Masterplan for a New Country Park Located off Hurstwood Lane

Members noted that the preferred consultants who were undertaking the master planning work had met with the Leader of the Council and the Town Clerk to ascertain the scope of the design for the proposed new Country Park. On receipt of the information the consultants have now gone away to draw up a number of draft plans, which will be considered informally by Members and then formally to the Committee to recommended to Full Council for adoption and costing.

Members Noted the Update.

34. Urgent Items

Sports Forum – the Chairman and Town Clerk informed the Committee that the meeting of the Sports Forum Executive Board had been held before the meeting of the Committee. It was noted that the meeting was very positive and a way forward to develop a Sports Forum webpage on the Town Council website along with the setting up of social media mediums had been agreed.

Meeting Closed at 8.58pm