

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th August 2019

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

* Absent ** Apologies

Also, present: Cllr S. Wickremaratchi, and Cllr R. Bates. Town Clerk and Events and Community Officer (part of meeting).

12. Apologies

S. Inglesfield – Holiday.

13. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on, Tuesday 25th June 2019 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

14. Substitutes

R. Bates for S Inglesfield

15. Members' Declarations of Interest

Cllr Bates declared an interest in item 10 (Mid Sussex Marathon). The Town Clerk felt that the interest relating to his running activities in the Town was not required, however it was noted.

16. Events and Community Officer (ECO)

The activities, as per the report, were considered point by point by introduction of the Events and Community Officer. On the basis that no resolutions were required as a result of the report,

Members **NOTED** the **update**.

17. Motion (19/02) by Cllr S. Inglesfield in relation to Meat Free Monday's.

Members considered the motion tabled by Cllr Inglesfield (who was not present), but were not supportive of the suggestion that the Town Council promotes 'Meat Free Monday's' as an environmental initiative. This was on the grounds that the promotion of such could be deemed to be detrimental to local business such as butchers and restaurants and that it is not for the Town Council to direct peoples eating habits. It was felt that there were many agencies in the community such as Wellbeing teams who ought to advise on dietary requirements. It was also suggested that the motion was led by political motivation. This was countered by return stating that the claim was wrong and furthermore it was wrong to base any objection on such and not right to bring politics into such a debate. It was agreed that the intention was good but the scheme would be too marginalised and there should be a more balanced message from the Town Council encompassing all food/dietary needs, how to generally reduce

packaging and promote recycling methods. At the close of debate the Town Clerk was not clear on all Members position on the motion so asked for clarification by show of hands. On checking by the Town Clerk and confirmation that there has been no abstentions from the vote, it was confirmed that the motion was defeated unanimously,

Members **RESOLVED** to **reject the motion and not support the motion presented by Cllr S. Inglesfield.**

18. Winter Management Plan 2019/2020

In presenting the report the Town Clerk thanked Members who had brought issues relating to salt bins in their Ward to his attention prior to the meeting, which would be dealt with during the Grounstaff's audit of salt bins in the Town. Members noted the report and Winter Management Plan for 2019/2020 and noted the Town Clerk's advice that nothing fundamental had changed because the Town had not seen heavy snow fall for a couple of years. It was noted that there still needed to be clarification on the County Council's revised road network salting route as it was to be reduced for the forthcoming winter, which the Town Clerk would investigate. Clarification was sought by Members in relation to messages being sent out in the Town Council Winter newsletter so as to inform residents of the arrangements for winter weather events along with a call for volunteers to help with the Town councils' response. It was confirmed that annually the newsletter would include an article on winter weather management and that the website already includes information and on receipt of weather advice that it would be regularly updated.

Members **RESOLVED** to **adopt Haywards Heath Winter Weather Management Plan for the 2019/2020.**

19. National Holocaust Day

Members considered the request to mark the day in January 2020, which was noted to be outside of the Council's current agreed events programme. Members were quickly supportive of the suggestion and agreed to holding a service/reception of the day on the anniversary of the day as it is relevant to all in the community at some level. At the end of the discussion relating support for such an event the Town Clerk asked that Members considered the financial implications and human resourcing to hold the event. The discussion was not forthcoming so will need to be revisited on an operational basis then,

Members **RESOLVED** to **support holding an event to commemorate National Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2020.**

20. Actions of the Environment Working Group

The actions of the working group were noted and,

Members **NOTED** the **Update.**

21. Mid Sussex Marathon

Members endorsed the sentiments of the report and were comfortable in agreeing to the allocation of funding on the basis it was agreed that the Marathon needed to move forward if it was going to survive. In addition, it was agreed the benefits of health and wellbeing would be enhanced, through more runners as would the economic benefits to the Town with more people coming into the Town to run and support those running. It was agreed that the uplift in benefits needed to be monitored and reported back to the Town Council before further year on year monies were agreed and most importantly that the other Town Council partners brought into the Marathon to the same financial level as the Committee was approving. With this the recommendation was

amended by the Chairman with a seconded supporting the change to read '*up to £2,000 in equal proportion to the other Town Council partners*'. This amendment was unanimously agreed and then,

Members RESOLVED to allocate up to £2,000, in equal proportion to the other Town Council partners, from the Town Initiatives Fund to support the Mid Sussex Marathon in 2020.

22. Items Agreed as Urgent by the Chairman

One item was raised, which was an update to inform Members that a request had been as result of minute 7 of the meeting of the Committee dated the 12th August 2019 in relation to the placement of a Christmas Tree(s) in Victoria Park. It was noted that officers at Mid Sussex District Council were looking into the implication of the placement(s) and Rob Anderton was to respond on his return from holiday. It was also noted that the mover of the motion had undertaken some background work, had contacted potential sponsors and was to discuss the matter with the Town Clerk in the next few days.

The meeting closed at 8:43pm