

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th July 2011

Councillors: Christopher Ash-Edwards
Jonathan Ash-Edwards**
Richard Bates
Rod Clarke
Mims Davies
David Dorking
Sandy Ellis**
Tim Farmer
Julie Hayden**
Stephen Hillier
Warren Hill**
Jacqueline Hollister
Natalie March
Christine McLean
Michael Pulfer
John Sabin

Apologies Absent***

Also present: Cllr J De-Mierre

Before the meeting commenced Members received a presentation from representatives of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The presentation outlined the work of the CAB, how the organisation had re-organised itself since its amalgamation into one body within the Mid Sussex area, and introduced the organisation before it made an application for funding to the Town Council.

23. Council Prayer

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

24. Public Forum

None

25. Apologies

Apologies were received from;
Cllr J Ash-Edwards, undertaking aid work in Africa.
Cllr W Hill due to work commitments.
Cllr S Ellis due to a family bereavement.
Cllr J Hayden due to ill health.

26. Declarations of Interest

Cllr T Farmer declared a personal interest in item 12 relating to Bolnore Leisure Site as a committee member of Bolnore Village Residents Association.

27. Minutes

The Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Council held on the 20th June 2011 without comment were then taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

28. Mayor Lists of Engagements and Announcements

Members noted the Mayor's list of engagements. The Mayor addressed Council by saying that he had enjoyed his first couple of months and hoped that he was representing the Council well. The Mayor also welcomed any advice or ideas that the Councillors may have to help him fulfil his role and duties. None were forthcoming and Cllr Davies thanked the Mayor for all his hard work to date.

29. To receive and consider adoption of the Minutes of the following Committees:

- (i) **Planning Committee - MINS. 1 - 28**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 23rd May 2011 - **Mins 1 - 12**, 13th June 2011 - **Mins 13 – 20** and 4th July 2011 - **Mins 21 - 28** were moved, seconded and agreed without discussion by Council.
- (ii) **Environment & General Purposes Committee - MINS. 1 - 9**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee 20th June 2011 **Mins 1 - 9** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (ii) **Policy & Finance Committee - MINS. 1 - 12**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee 27th June 2011 **Mins 1 - 12** were moved, seconded and agreed with the following matter arising. It was noted under minute 5, first paragraph of the representation last line, that it should read June not July 2011. This was noted and the Clerk would amend the resolution for approval by the Policy and Finance Committee on the 12th September 2011.

30. Recognition of the Leader's Role for the Town Council

Members discussed a recommendation to recognise a Leader of the Council who would lead on the political and policy matters relating to the Council. The majority of Members welcomed the proposal and agreed that a Leader would make the work of a very new Council more manageable and improve the relationship and working practises with the Clerk and Town Hall staff. A counter argument was made relating to the political rule not being needed at Town Council level and the Council had never needed this kind of role before. However, Members agreed to introduce a Leader and Cllr Farmer was nominated and duly accepted the role. Turning to the report, Members agreed how the Leader should be recognised in Standing Orders and instructed the clerk to amend Standing Orders as per the recommendations in the accompanying report. This was with exception of the recommendation that the Leader should replace the Deputy Mayor as ex-officio on all standing committees, and that where the majority party was accepting the political rule the role of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be kept separate and where possible be a-political in its work.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- 1) Formally acknowledge the role of a Leader for Haywards Heath Town Council.**
- 2) That Cllr T Farmer be the Council's leader for the remainder of the Council year.**
- 3) Instruct the Clerk to amend Standing Orders to reflect the recognition of a leader of the Council as per the recommendations of the accompanying report.**

- 4) **Not to make the Leader ex-officio on all standing committees and that the present arrangements, as outlined in Standing Orders be retained.**

31. Haywards Heath Town Council Representation of Infrastructure Needs to Mid Sussex District Council

Members considered the representation appended to the report and were mindful that the document was only a starting point to give Mid Sussex District Council an indication of the projects that could benefit from the Community Infrastructure Levy and help inform the District Plan. Members did ask that the following amendments were made.

- The need for a community facility in the Bentswood Ward be added.
- With regards to Clair Hall the Council needed to change retaining the faculty to enhancing it, which gave the opportunity to research other ways of providing the offer of the Building.
- The need to consider higher education facilities.
- Amendment so that reference to another food retail outlet(s) would be considered in the Town, not site specific, but as and when schemes came forward.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Make representation to Mid Sussex District Council as per the document recommended to Council with the amendments outlined in the body of this minute.

32. Three Town's Marathon

Cllr Davies introduced the concept of a marathon that would take place over three days with a third of the distance being run in each of the District's three Towns. The event would be open to serious runners and fun runners and would hopefully form part of the Olympic Legacy. The concept was in the early development stages and informal meetings had been held between Haywards Heath Town Council, Burgess Hill Town Council, East Grinstead Town Council, Mid Sussex District Council and Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath Running Clubs.

The local authorities present felt that the concept was excellent but questioned who the corporate body would be. This organisation would be responsible for insurance, bookings, first aid etc. The three Town Councils were happy to look at routes and offer assistance on the day of the event but did not have the resources to organise the three events individually. It was noted that the concept was to be presented to the Mid Sussex Association of Town Council's the next evening and in turn to both Burgess Hill and East Grinstead Town Councils who agreeable, would formally suggest the concept at their next Council meetings. It was also noted that both running clubs had concerns about the event on the grounds of conflicting events and the length of each run because it may not challenge seasoned runners. To counter this it was suggested that the event should be open to a wider audience and the serious runners could challenge themselves with a collective time for the three days.

To move the idea forward a further meeting would be held once the other two Councils had formally agreed to investigate the concept and when Mid Sussex District Council had agreed its position. Members thanked Cllr Davies, supported the idea and agreed that the viability of the event should be explored, but did stress that the staff resources at the Town Hall were stretched and that there should not be too

much burden on Town Hall Staff. It was also hoped that Mid Sussex District Council would put suitable resources towards the event as the event would be a District event and would be branded as an Olympic Legacy event, which was in their remit albeit hand in hand with West Sussex County Council who held branding rights to such events.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Support the concept of a Three Town's Marathon and instructed the Clerk to work with Mid Sussex District Council and the District's other two Town Councils to explore the viability of the event.

33. Membership on Outside Bodies and Town Council Working Groups

Members noted the recommendations of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 27th June and ratified nominations for representations on outside bodies and the formation of a bus working party made up of three Members of the Council, with this

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Ratify the recommendation that;

- 1) Cllr C Ash-Edwards be the Council's representative on Mid Sussex District Council's Standards Board.**
- 2) Cllr John Sabin be a representative of Mid Sussex Association of Local Council's on Mid Sussex District Council's District Plan Infrastructure Working Party.**
- 3) A Town Council bus working party be formed and be made up of Cllrs T Farmer, M Pulfer and C Mclean.**

34. Bolnore Recreation Ground Representation

Cllr Farmer introduced a consultation being undertaken by Mid Sussex District Council for the development of Leisure Facilities on Bolnore Village Leisure Site. The consultation related to the proposed layout of the site and the facilities that were to be developed within site. These included a community building, youth facilities, informal multi use sports area, grassed formal sports pitch and informal picnic areas. It was explained the facilities were to be funded by Section 106 contributions derived from the development of the Bolnore Village by Crest Nicholson. Mention was made to the lack of a running track, but the Clerk explained that statistical evidence from Sport England (twenty minute travel time by car to formal sports sites) would make impossible to attract funding from the national governing body and that the land would not be suitable to hold the track due soil testing which predicted a substantial movement over the next three to four years. Members welcomed the plans and commented that it had been a long time in coming. It was also questioned who would run the facility and its viability because the pre-school was being located in the village centre. It was noted that business case was something that District Council was working through. Members also questioned if the youth facilities were suitable being tucked away at the back of the site, with this;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Instruct the Clerk to make representation to Mid Sussex District Council in support of the proposal noting the placement of informal youth area.

35. Haywards Heath Town Council - Email Protocol

Members considered the proposed protocol in light of the recent development of Councillor Email addresses and without comment,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Adopt the Email Protocol as presented.

36. To consider any urgent items the Mayor has received under S.O. 11.

The Mayor had two pieces of urgent business

- 1) The Clerk informed Members that a demonstration was being held by the No Boarders Group on Muster Green, Town Council Land, on Saturday afternoon. The protest was against Mid Sussex District Council's decision to give planning permission for a family immigration detention centre in Pease Pottage. The Clerk had been in consultation with the police whose intelligence predicted this would be a peaceful, albeit noisy demonstration, which would leave Muster Green and tour around the Town. The police would have a high profile on the day and would monitor events on Muster Green for the Town Council.
- 2) The Clerk brought Mid Sussex District Council's Statement of Community Engagement to Members attention. It was explained that the document had been presented to the Council for comments that day, so Members had not had the opportunity to review the document before the meeting. Due to the timescales of the consultation there would not be another meeting of the Council. It was suggested that the Planning Committee consider the consultation at its next meeting and that any Members not on the committee would be welcome to attend the meeting or make representation to the Clerk.

MEMBERS noted both items and AGREED that the Planning Committee consider and make representation to Mid Sussex District Council on the Statement of Community Engagement.

Meeting Closed at 9.49pm