

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th September 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:

37. Council Prayer

Before the Mayor read the Council's prayer, due to press coverage and a challenge of the appropriateness of the prayer, Members were asked to vote on whether the Council should retain the prayer. A vote was then taken with,

12 Members voting in favour of the prayer, 1 against and 1 abstaining from the vote. Therefore, Members RESOLVED to keep the prayer.

At this point Cllr R. Bates left the Council Chamber and then Members stood for the Council prayer, which was duly read by the Town Mayor. Cllr R. Bates then returned to the Chamber.

38. Public Forum

None

39. Apologies

Apologies were received from;
Cllr Mrs C. Mclean - Attending National Conference.
Cllr W. Hill - Work commitments.

40. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Bates declared a personal interest in Item 7 under point 6 as a Member of a local running club.

41. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 18th July 2011 without comment were then taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor with one matter arising. Cllr R Bates stated that he had not been formally approached to be a representative of the Council on the three Town Marathon. The Clerk apologised but thought a request had been made.

42. Mayor Lists of Engagements and Announcements

Members noted the Mayors list of engagements.

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

(i) Planning Committee - MINS. 29 - 59

The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 25th July 2011 - **Mins 29 - 37**, - 15th August 2011 **Mins 38 – 47** and 5th September 2011 **Mins 48 - 59** were moved, seconded and agreed without discussion by Council.

(ii) Environment & General Purposes Committee - MINS. 10 – 19

The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee 23rd August 2011 **Mins 10 - 19** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

(iii) Policy & Finance Committee - MINS. 13 – 25

The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee 12th September 2011 **Mins 13 - 25** were moved, seconded and agreed by the Council.

44. Consultation on the National Planning Framework

The Leader of the Council introduced the item by stressing the importance of the proposed National Planning Framework and the implications it would have on the Council's Neighbourhood Plan. Members agreed that in light of what the Town Council was striving to achieve that it is sensible to simplify the planning process and in line with the Localism Bill move from top down process for agreeing housing targets and to allow greater decision making at the local level. It was noted that the response would need to be technical and that time should be afforded to a response beyond the meeting so,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Delegate the authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make representation to the Department of Communities and Local Government on the National Planning Framework.

45. Mid Sussex District Council, District Plan Policies

Members noted the recommendation to ask Mid Sussex District Council to remove all planning policies that were being intended to be carried over from the existing Local Plan into the District Plan. This was on the grounds that the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan would supersede the existing policies. It was felt that it was right to challenge each policy and not push them through without reviewing each of the policies. It was felt that, in line with pending planning powers, all local policies relating to Haywards Heath specifically should be held within the Neighbourhood Plan not within a District wide document.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Instruct the Clerk to inform Mid Sussex District Council that Haywards Heath Town Council requests that all policies proposed to be saved in the Draft District Plan relating to Haywards Heath are removed in light of the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Haywards Heath in which the Haywards Heath Town Council will write its own planning policies.

46. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct 2011-2015

The Clerk introduced the item by informing Members that the review of the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct was overdue and that the new Council should review its Standing Orders as a matter of course. Members then noted the amended Standing Orders presented by the Clerk. It was explained that the new Standing Orders included minor alterations and included the recognition of the Leader of the Council. The Clerk explained he had challenged the Council's Standing Orders against those of the National Association of Local Councils and felt that Haywards Heath Town Council's Standing Orders carried all the relevant information in a more user friendly format. It was suggested that under point 13 clause (j) that the Leader can have right of reply along with the mover of a resolution. Members were then happy with the document with the further amendment then,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Adopt the Haywards Heath Town Council's Standing Orders for the period 2011-2015 with amendment to clause (j) under point 13 as per the minutes of this item.

47. West Sussex County Council Youth Service Consultation

The Clerk introduced the item by informing Members that the consultation document was not very user friendly for an organisation and applied to an individual. It was suggested that Members comments be drawn together to formulate a written response on the matter. Member's first impression was that there was not much more service to cut, as there was little or no youth service provision in the Town. It was also felt that looking at the consultation document that facilities such as the Albemarle Centre were under threat. The Clerk informed Members that there had been no contact with the youth service since an officer had left on maternity leave. The role of the Town was questioned by Members and the Clerk added that he had been approached by Mid Sussex District Council to see how both the Town and the District Council could fit into the process. The general feeling was that this was a West Sussex County Council remit and again, services were being reduced and pushed down. It was agreed that the role of the Town Centre should centre on signposting and helping organisations/individuals and that, as per projects such as saving The Yews, there should be an exit strategy for the Town Council. With this,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Instruct the Clerk to formulate a response and give him authority to make representation on behalf of the Council as per the minute above.

48. Allotment Land held by a Multiple Plot Holder

The accompanying report requested that the allotment holder of plots 18, 18a, 19 and 19a at America Lane be served notice on part of their allotment holding. Notice had to be served before the 30th September 2011 and was in line with a policy agreed by the Environment and General Purposes Committee dated 6/4/09 that stated that no allotment holder could hold more than 10 rods. Members noted that this action was the time the Council would have to serve notice on a plot holder as all allotment holders now have ten rods and below, without comment,

Members **Resolved** to;

Authorise the Clerk to serve notice on part of the allotment holder of plots 19 at America Lane in line with the Council's policy on the total holding that an individual can have at any one time.

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

None

Meeting Closed at 8.27pm