

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st March 2011

C Ash-Edwards
J Ash-Edwards
M Baker
R Bates
D Bedding
S Bedding
J Belsey*
C Furminger**
R Goddard
S Griffin**
C Jones
J Keel
C Mclean
V Northorpe
G Wall

Apologies** Absent*

83. Apologies

C Furminger – Ill Health
S Griffin – Travel Disruptions

84. Declarations of Interest.

V Northorpe – Item 6 – as she sat on the Haywards Heath Community Partnership in a working role with Sussex Oakleaf.

R Goddard – Item 10 – as he brought the issues to the Council's attention and that his son travelled on the bus service being discussed.

85. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting dated 17th January 2011 were presented with no matters arising and then the minutes were then confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

86. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.

Members noted the list of Mayoral engagements. The Mayor was pleased to add two further engagements that she had attended with her husband.

87. Adoption of Planning Committee Minutes 109 - 130

The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 10th January 2011 - **Mins 99 - 108**, 31st January 2011 - **Mins 109 – 118** and 21st February 2011 - **Mins 119 - 130** were moved, seconded and agreed without discussion by Council.

88. Adoption of Environmental and General Purposes Committee Minutes 41 - 49

The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee 7th February 2011 **Mins 41 - 49** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

89. Adoption of Policy and Finance Committee Minutes 50 - 62

The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee 28th February 2011 **Mins 50 - 62** were moved, seconded and agreed without discussion by Council.

90. Future of the Yews

The Clerk informed Members that the Asset Transfer request made by the Haywards Heath Community Partnership (HHCP) was to be considered by West Sussex County Council's Cabinet the next day. The Clerk envisaged that there would be a short fall in the £80,000 requested by HHCP, but asked that Members consider the philosophy of awarding a financial contribution towards the project once WSCC had made their decision and there was a potential way forward. Concerns were raised in regards to how the Council can protect itself from request of this nature from other charities that will come forward as funding streams reduce through the Government's cuts. The Clerk stressed that any funding for this project would have a number of conditions and be linked as a precedent set against a transfer of property management to the HHCP, which is envisaged to become the umbrella organisation for community assets in the future. The Clerk also stressed that the Town Council would not have any direct responsibility for the financing of The Yews only an observatory place on the HHCP Board. Members agreed that The Yews was an important facility for Town but it had not been run as a business in the past and questioned how this management philosophy will change. The Clerk responded that the Friends of The Yews have managed the building well, but have not had the need to worry about the building because WSCC were the land owner. With the members of the HHCP, which includes all three tiers of local government, Council for Voluntary Service, the Friends of The Yews and Sussex Oakleaf, there is substantial amount of expertise around the table even before representatives of the groups who use the building are engaged. In summary, the Clerk informed Members that the funding issues had to be resolved by the 1st April 2011 and an extra-ordinary Council meeting would be required. Members agreed that there was a will to financially support The Yews but they had to reserve their position until they could make an informed decision knowing what WSCC were offering and the Friends of the Yews.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Reserve the Council's position on whether to assist with funding to enable the asset transfer of The Yews to the Haywards Heath Community Partnership and agreed that an extra-ordinary Council meeting would be held if a decision had to made.

91. Section 106 and Levy Contributions

Members considered the report and agreed that the broad principles for prioritising the allocation of Section 106 and Levy Contributions needed to be based on areas of infrastructure in the first instance, then potential projects could be drawn out of that information. It was also agreed that there were a number of priorities in the Forward Plan that could be drawn out and built upon. It was also agreed that where being reliant on the allocation of contributions the Council must not get itself into a position where funding is lost due to the project not coming to fruition, or not being able to be flexible with funds. It was also noted that it will be hard balancing in relation to not being too prescriptive, against having a robust case to secure the desired funding. The Clerk stressed that this issue will need to be driven forward over the next nine months in line with a Town Plan and the publishing of a District Plan by Mid Sussex District Council and the publication of the Localism Bill. The Mayor then suggested that Members contact the Clerk directly and with that;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Inform the Clerk in writing of any projects, initiatives and general areas of infrastructure they feel would be a priority for Section 106 and Levy funding in the future.

92. Council Grant Form and Supporting Documents

Members felt the revised grant forms as presented were too prescriptive and excluded a large number of residents from applying. Members did not want a long winded bureaucratic document and wished to consider grants one by one on their individual merits. A way forward was suggested and agreed, which was to insert the word 'normally' against the criteria of what will be considered by the Council giving flexibility in what grant application would be considered. It was also felt that the form asked the applicant the same question a number of times and should be made much simpler. The Clerk agreed to go away, and again revise the form to enable the Council to be flexible in terms of to whom they can grant to.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Not adopt the grant application form and accompanying documents and the Clerk to make further amendment to the forms.

93. Annual Town Meeting Arrangements

Members agreed and noted the Clerk's suggestion that the 2011 Town Meeting be held on Monday 18th April, and that the Clerk investigate a theme for the meeting. This could potentially be around Haywards Heath Station.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Hold the 2011 Town Meeting on Monday 18th April.

94. Travel Arrangements for Students Travelling to St Pauls Catholic College

Members discussed the implications of West Sussex County Council's withdrawal of a bus service that transported children from Haywards Heath to St Paul's Catholic College in Burgess Hill. It was noted that the service would be withdrawn as of the 1st September 2011, with no alternative being considered. Members discussed the implications to the families who would be affected by this withdrawal, and the increase in car movements out of and into both Towns and around the St Paul's site. Members attention was drawn to the fact that the service was run on a break even basis and questioned why it had to be withdrawn. This coupled with the fact there was a will from parents to pay more for a service meant there was potential for an alternative service. Members agreed that West Sussex County Council should be written to on the matter to ask why the service was to be withdrawn and lobby them to work with St Paul's and potentially the Town Council to find an alternative solution to the matter;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Instruct the Clerk to prepare a letter to lobby West Sussex County Council on the withdrawal of bus services from Haywards Heath to St Paul's Catholic College with a view to finding an alternative means of transporting the students.

95. To consider any urgent items the Mayor has received under S.O 11.
The Mayor had nothing to report.

96. Exclusion of Public and Press
None

Meeting Closed at 8.50pm