

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 15th February 2021, which was held virtually by Zoom under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020.

Councillors: Christopher Ash-Edwards

Richard Bates

Clare Cheney

Rachel Cromie

Sandy Ellis

Christopher Evans *

Howard Munding *

Stephanie Inglesfield

Matthew Jeffers

James Knight

Clive Laband

Jack Langley

Alastair McPherson

Richard Nicholson

Mike Pulfer

Sujan Wickremaratchi

Apologies Absent***

Also, present: Town Clerk and one resident.

The Town Mayor then asked for each Member to confirm that they were present, which is reflected above.

77. Council Prayer

The Town Council prayer, which was read by the Town Mayor Alastair McPherson.

78. Apologies

None.

79. Public Forum

None

80. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th January 2021 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

81. Declarations of Interest

None.

82. Dispose of any Business from the Last Meeting of the Council

None.

83. West Sussex Association of Local Council AGM Arrangements

The Town Clerk introduced the accompanying report and updated Members on the matter commenting, as per the report's content, on the what had become a complicated and drawn-out process, which he had to step away from and let Members decide their preferred way forward as WSALC was a Member led organisation. It was also noted that the Clerk's interest in the matter was removed as the Sussex and Surrey Association was to be closed due to the fall out the Value for Money Review. It was then noted that the Town Clerk was positive that the Council representatives had the authority to act on WSALC matters, but the AGM arrangements gave an opportunity to be belt and braces in light of the continued challenges being made by the WSALC Board. Members noted that they were not being asked to consider any continued service option, but again ratify the role of the appointed representatives and the role of the Town Clerk and steer them on the special and ordinary resolutions that were being tabled at the AGM. It was noted that some of the resolutions were now questionable as they referred to actions that the Board had gone off on its own back and completed, such as agreeing to take services from Hampshire Association of Local Councils, However, it would be hoped that this could be rescinded as it was subject to detail.

At this point Cllr Jeffers, after explaining the unbelievable roundabout that the Town Clerk had been on to protect the Council's best interests, moved that Members needed to consider the revised ordinary motion in the AGM agenda 12th February 2021 after the agenda summons for the meeting of Council was sent out. This was on the grounds that the 4 original motions had been struck off the AGM agenda issued 9th February 2021. For the avoidance of doubt the following one ordinary and 3 special motions were tabled.

Special Resolutions

1. The Parish Councils of West Sussex instruct the Directors of WSALC as a Special Resolution not to purchase governance services from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils.
2. The Parish Councils of West Sussex instruct the Directors of WSALC as a Special Resolution to work with the East Sussex Association of Local Councils to re-establish a Sussex Association and to receive joint governance arrangements through a single service.
3. The Parish Councils of West Sussex instruct the Directors of WSALC as a Special Resolution to appoint a new Chairman and Vice Chairman of WSALC.

Ordinary resolutions

1. That Terry Oliver and Michael Beal be removed from office as Directors of the Company with immediate effect 25th February 2021.

This was seconded by Cllr Pulfer and unanimously agreed by the Council. In considering the ordinary/special motions as tabled, Members were happy to support them all with the additional wording being made under recommendation (c) 'and at any adjourned subsequent meeting so to cover a deferment of the matters from the AGM to a further meeting, which was then seconded and agreed.

Without any further comments

Members unanimously **RESOLVED** that;

- a) **The Town Council resolves to support the revised ordinary and additional special resolutions tabled for the West Sussex Association of Local Councils' Annual General Meeting on the 25th February 2021 as laid out in the main body of this minute and under point 9 of the most recent Annual General Meeting agenda.**

- b) That the Town Council resolves to vote against the appointment of the named West Sussex Association of Local Councils' Board Members to representation of the Association on the National Association of Local Councils under item 8 of the Annual General Meeting on the 25th February 2021.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt that Cllr Pulfer and Cllr Jeffers have full delegated authority to act at the Annual General Meeting and any adjourned subsequent meetings, and on all matters/decisions/actions relating to West Sussex Association of Local Councils (which in turn the Town Clerk is authorised to act upon and relay to the WSALC Board, or the any future service provider), other than which the Town Council has deemed to explicitly resolved to deal with.

84. Urgent Items
None

Meeting Closed at 6.15pm