

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and General Purposes Committee 6th November 2023.

Nick Chapman (Chair)
Alison Rees (Vice Chair)
Anne- Marie Cooke
Sandy Ellis **
Stephanie Inglesfield
Deanna Nicholson **
Duncan Pascoe
Leila Wilson

Apologies Absent***

Also present: Town Clerk, Events and Community Officer and Ms Harris (part of meeting) and Ms Adams.

27. Apologies

D. Nicholson – Holiday
S. Ellis – Personal Matter

28. Minutes

The minutes of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 4th September 2023 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

29. Substitutes

None.

30. Declarations of Interest

None.

31. Events Programme 2024/2025

The Town Clerk stated that the report was a precursor for the budget setting process, which would include the events budget, to be heard at the next meeting of the Committee. It was added the agreement of events to be held by Members would enable officers to work up a costed plan for events in 2024/2025. The ECO presented the report as tabled in the agenda and updated on each event directly organised by the Town Council and those run-in partnership. In turn the programme for 2024/2025 was for Members to approve. It was noted that a one-off event to add to the normal programme would be the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on the 6th June 2024 was added to the report. It was questioned that this date would be a Thursday and would the event have to happen on that day? It was confirmed that the event would have to happen that day with an evening event. The basis of the event would be led by the Pageant Master Sir Bruno Peake who would issue guidance, but what was known was that fish and chips would be theme and Beacons will be lit. It was also noted that where the Town Council supported a Holocaust Memorial event there was no budgetary implications as was support through use of the Town Hall, War Memorial and the obtaining of a PA and other items. Members, where happy to continue with fireworks at the Christmas Festival Event in 2023 asked that the budget remain in place for 2024 but that other options for lightshows, drones or something similar be looked into. It was questioned if people were getting fed up with fireworks due to noise and the environmental impact? At this point the Town Clerk and Events and Community Officer raised concerns about the number of marshals confirmed for the fireworks and questioned if the Town Council secure the resources year on year, which should be another consideration. It was noted that the Rotary Club were being approached as

they raise funds on the evening for their causes and give some monies to the Mayor's Chairty so they would be on site. It was agreed that the budget included a firework provision but alternatives be looked at with The Orchards Shopping Centre manager with resolution to the matter being delegated to officers by the end of January 2024. Furthermore, an Events Working Group could be called if required. With this, the Committee thanked the Events and Community Officer for a successful events programme within the current year, endorsed the 2024/2025 programme as presented in the report and looked forward to seeing the financial implications of such at the December meeting of the Committee.

Members **NOTED** the report **RESOLVED** to agree the Town Council's events programme subject to budgeting considerations to be held at the meeting of the Committee on the 18th December 2023.

33. Environment Priorities

Members were presented with recommendation of the Environment Working Group for the Town Council's Environment Policies for approval. It was noted that the revised priorities were presented in a new format with measurable outcomes with target dates. It was noted that the relationship with Ford Prison, who provide the Town Councils flowers, had been more complicated under new management so planting costs and regimes were being looked at. In considering the priorities it was thought that the Solar Panel project at the Town Hall was not to be progressed because of the tree cover from side of the Town Hall and neighbouring trees by the previous administration. The Town Clerk advised that it has been paused due to the reasons stated but it had been decided to revisit the feasibility due to the reduction in the trees in size. It was also suggested that panels be placed to charge the car charging point and a battery could be incorporated to scheme to part power the Town Hall. Members noted that this work would be undertaken by the project officer when appointed and then.

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Town Council's Environment priorities.

34. Mid Sussex Marathon 2024

The ECO updated on the current position of the Mid Sussex Marathon as per the report and the associated Sports Taster Event. The ECO stated that she had attended a management board meeting and reported sponsorship was still being considered, with the option of supporting the Mayor's Charity next year. It was also noted that she and the Burgess Hill representative were concerned with the operation cost especially around first aid, which were being looked into and further quotes being obtained.

Members **NOTED** the update.

35. Leave No One Behind Campaign

The ECO updated that gift boxes were being provided this year and that the community had been asked to donate food with collection points open at the Town Hall and the Dolphin Leisure Centre and local supermarkets had been contacted and asked to support. Cards for kindness, as requested by the Committee, were being produced via local schools and the Bentswood Hub. Finally, it was noted that £1,500 in sponsorship had been secured to add to the Town Council's £2,000 allocation of monies, which aimed to provide 250 boxes.

Members **NOTED** the update.

36. Haywards Heath Active – Executive Board

Members noted the actions of the Executive Board and without comment.

Members **RESOLVED** to **ratify the actions of the Active Haywards Heath Executive Board.**

37. Day's Out Programme

Cllr Pascoe presented his motion, which suggested that the feasibility of the Town Council Day's Out Programme. It was noted that the programme would build on free opportunity events run in the Town, such as play days, so to support people who are isolated, struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, or maybe facing accessibility issues in leaving the Town. It was suggested that any trial could be undertaken in partnership with the National Trust who were known to be interested in such initiatives and have a focus on families. There was a feel that the programme should focus on younger people as residential homes and nursing homes should have a programme of events. This was not to say there were no vulnerable and isolated people in the community. It was agreed that the focus of those intended to be supported should be reviewed as part of the feasibility process. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would report into Cllr Pasco and Cllr Chapman at the feasibility work progressed.

Members **RESOLVED** that **the Town Clerk investigates the feasibility of running a day's out programme, assesses the interest from residents, community centres and residential care centres and agree an ideal approach.**

38. Haywards Heath in Bloom

Mr Crump attended the meeting along with Ms Harris. As a result, the Chair of the committee took the matter first on the agenda with the agreement of the committee. Mr Crump enthused about the success of the Town's entry into South and South East in Bloom with the Town entry and that of Muster Green winning gold in their categories. Mr Crump focused on where the Town Council could go from this success, how the success is sustained and focused on the options opening up to the Town Council including the potential for an entry into Britain in Bloom. He promoted the sense of community created, the success of working with the local community. This was coupled with the long-term sustainability of the Town both environmentally and economically, safer public spaces and improvement in areas of deprivation looking specifically at the project at the Bentswood Hub. Mr Crump praised the work of the Haywards Heath in Bloom committee who were voluntary and had put a lot into the bid, the Town Hall team including the Groundstaff and the work of those in the community. It was acknowledged that there were limited resources, but with a structured approach, a longer lead in time for 2024 and increased interaction from Members more could be achieved. This in turn would enable more communication widely of the Haywards Heath in Bloom work and help find more hidden gems in the Community to showcase in 2024. Ms Harris, had provided each Member with a hand out prior to the meeting. Stated that the Best Kept Garden and Allotment competition was expanding into businesses. Ms Harris focused on the expanding of communication that Mr Crump had mentioned by stating that the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee had been at Town Day and that she would be undertaking promotion for Haywards Heath in Bloom via the Haywards Heath Horticultural Society at the Christmas event to be held in the Orchards Shopping Centre. It was felt that Councillors should be promoting the value and activity of gardening, getting outside with an outcome of a reduction of social isolation and loneliness. Councillors were also asked to pick three gardens in each of their Wards next year as local judges struggled to get round this year. Members asked if there were any immediate actions that they needed to undertake. Mr Crump and Ms

Harris said not at that point their attendance was just in preparation for the Town Council moving forward and to provide Members with information.

The Chair of the Committee thanked Mr Crump and Ms Harris for all of their efforts and made special mention of the Best Kept Gardens and Allotments competition that he attended. It was stated by the Chair of the Committee that it was wonderful to hand out awards to worthy winners.

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

39. Urgent Items

Members were reminded that help was still needed with marshalling at the Fireworks. The ECO reminded all that Remembrance Sunday was to be held that weekend on the 12th November and the schools service at St Wifrids Church on Friday 10th November.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm