

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and General Purposes Committee 14th April 2025

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

Apologies** Absent*

Also present: Community Engagement Manager, Committee Clerk

50. Apologies

Member	Reason
Sandy Ellis	Holiday
Leila Wilson	Personal commitment

51. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

52. Minutes

The minutes of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 10th February 2025 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

53. Substitutes

There were none.

54. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

55. To receive a verbal update from the Community Engagement Manager on Town Council events.

Community Engagement Manager (CEM) Imogen Wilson spoke about the 2025 events schedule. She said that headliners were booked for all the 2025 events and she was now seeking additional performers, looking for those who don't usually get the opportunity to perform. Regarding the upcoming VE Day event she said that the road closure had now been confirmed and reminded Members that their help marshalling these would be required. She asked Members to reach out to community groups to get involved in the VE Day Parade and urged Members to attend events to provide support.

Cllr Cooke asked whether Officers had seen the offer of VE Day event grants from Mid Sussex District Council. The CEM confirmed that an application for a grant had been completed.

Cllr Inglesfield asked whether road closures would impact the Bike Ride on 27th April. The CEM confirmed that the Town Clerk was aware and the issue was being managed.

Cllr Chapman asked about the Mid Sussex Marathon and whether volunteers would be needed, as he had enjoyed being involved in previous years. The CEM said that she would find out if volunteers were needed and let Members know.

Members **NOTED** the update.

56. To receive a report on the Muster Green Management Plan.

The CEM stated that the Management Plan had been updated to meet the Green Flag judges' requirements, so that residents would clearly know what was going on and why. She said that 2024 was the 10th consecutive year that Muster Green had been awarded a Green Flag. She added that the works on Muster Green would now take place in September.

Members **RESOVLED** to **APPROVE** the updated Management Plan as presented.

57. To consider a report relating to the potential placement of solar panels on the Town Hall.

Members discussed the report and raised concerns and questions.

Cllr Inglesfield said that the idea of putting solar panels on the roof was explored before and was rejected due to companies being concerned about overhanging trees causing shade and leaf fall on the roof. She said she was unsure why this was not an issue this time. The CEM stated that all the companies included in the report had visited the Town Hall before providing quotes and that the trees and shade on the roof had been taken into account. Cllr Inglesfield said that the Council should look into using a local company to install the panels, to show the Council leading by example.

Cllr Rees voiced concerns about the differing quotes, with some providing more detail than others, and the longevity of the panels so that future Councils would not be tasked with replacing them all at once.

Members said that they would like further details regarding;

- Potential outcomes of the panels (eg: how much energy could be produced/stored based on Town Hall usage)
- The efficiency of the panels
- Longevity
- Maintenance costs
- The location of the installation company and their idea/ethics

Members agreed that they would like to proceed with the installation of solar panels, pending further investigation regarding suitability.

Members **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Policy and Finance Committee to explore a plan to enable the installation of Solar Panels on the roof of the Town Hall, including agreeing procurement terms and setting goals, with longevity being a priority.

58. To receive an update on the Town Council's environmental policies.

The CEM presented the update and said that Town Hall staff were reviewing the Environmental Policy section by section at their monthly meeting.

Members **NOTED** the update.

59. To receive for adoption a policy relating to the keeping of chickens on Town Council owned allotment sites.

Members briefly discussed the policy.

Members **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Town Council's policy on the Keeping of Chickens on Town Council allotments.

60. To receive a verbal update on South and South East in Bloom.

The CEM presented the update she had received from Cllr Ellis. She said that due to the ongoing works on Muster Green, there would be no entry into the In Bloom competition this year, but the In Bloom committee were encouraging residents to enter the Best Kept Garden competition instead. She said that there would be an In Bloom Tea Party in October where they would celebrate the winners of this competition.

Members **NOTED** the update.

61. Urgent Items

There was none.

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm