

**HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**Councillors:** Abdul Bashar  
Nick Chapman  
Anne-Marie Cooke  
Sandy Ellis  
Stephanie Inglesfield  
Barbara King \*\*  
Anne-Marie Lucraft  
Paul Lucraft  
Allan Murray  
Deanna Nicholson  
Alison Rees  
Duncan Pascoe  
Anthony Platts \*\*  
Sinead Walsh  
Leila Wilson

**Apologies\*\* Absent\***

**Also present: Town Clerk, Committee Clerk**

Before the meeting commenced, a presentation was made to Josefa Figuiera in recognition of 25 years of service at the Town Hall.

**69. Moment of Reflection**

The Town Mayor lead Members in a moment of reflection before the meeting commenced.

**70. Apologies**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Cllr B King	Ill health
Cllr A Platts	Ill health

**71. Public Forum**

None.

**72. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 without comment, were taken as read, confirmed as true and duly signed by the Town Mayor.

**73. Declarations of Interest.**

None.

**74. To Dispose of any Business Outstanding from the Last Meeting.**

The Town Clerk advised that:

- The budget had been sent to MSDC and half of the precept would be received in the following weeks.
- The Council were now a member of the Co-Operative Council's Network, as agreed at the Full Council meeting held on 27/01/2025.
- Applications had been received for the two Town Hall officer vacancies and the closing date for applications was 9<sup>th</sup> April for the Deputy Clerk/RFO role and 20<sup>th</sup> April for the Publicity Officer.
- Discussions with SNG and Landbuild were ongoing regarding compensation due to the works on Muster Green South. The Town Clerk had been in touch with the Green Flag judging team regarding Muster Green. To retain its Green Flag accreditation, the site was due for a visit this year, however the situation had been explained and judges were satisfied that accreditation could still be given, providing information boards/displays were placed on the green to explain to residents what was going on and why.
- Homes England had been in contact with the Town Clerk regarding the Hurst Farm development and legal agreements should be signed shortly.
- The County Council had been working with Trever Leggo at SALC to get information about devolution out to Town and Parish Councils. The Town Clerk and Cllr P Lucraft had recently attended a meeting with the Leader of the County Council, the PCC and the CEO of MSDC, which had been attended by 23 out of the 24 Mid Sussex Town and Parish Councils.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that Declarations of Interest were still outstanding and asked for these to be completed as soon as possible. He said that these would need be completed every 6 months going forwards, due to it being an audit requirement.

## **75. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.**

The Mayor began by extending the Council's well wishes to Cllr A Platts during his time in hospital.

The Deputy Mayor spoke about the Youth Entrepreneurs Academy of Haywards Heath (YEAHH) which had been running in collaboration with The Orchards, Haywards Heath Business Association and local schools. The sessions, aimed at students in years 10-12, had been masterclasses run by local community business owners, to help teach the students about how to set up and run a business. He added that the course was currently halfway through and the end result would be a space for each student in The Orchards for them to pitch their ideas to the public. He thanked Community Engagement Officer Hermione Davidson for her work in organising these sessions. Councillor Pascoe added that this year was a pilot year for the scheme, with feedback being gathered each work, to determine how it may look in future.

The Deputy Mayor spoke about the Brighton Marathon, which he would be running on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, raising money for the Alzheimer's Society. Members asked that the link to his fundraising page be shared with them all, the Town Clerk confirmed this would be done.

The Mayor spoke about the upcoming VE Day event on 8<sup>th</sup> May and re-enforced the ECO's plea to Councillor's to volunteer to help with the parade and evening celebrations, where the Town's beacon would be lit at 9.30pm. More volunteers were needed to ensure the event could be held safely.

The Mayor advised that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm and that attendance was mandatory for Members.

The Mayor spoke about the upcoming visit from the French Twinning Contingent, which would be held over the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> April. She added that a Mayoral reception would be held at the Town Hall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm which members would be invited to. Cllr A Bashar stated that he would be available to provide transport for the visitors that weekend, free of charge.

The Mayor spoke about several events she attended, including: the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony, the groundbreaking ceremony at the new Barn Cottage building, the Town Council's Community Awards and the Mayor's Civic Service at St Wilfrid's church. She thanked the Town Hall staff for organising these.

The Deputy Mayor spoke about joining the revived Friends of Scrase Valley group in February to help prune the fruit orchard at the Scrase Valley Reserve, so fruit will be available later in the year. He added that last year the Bentswood Hub used some fruit from the orchard with their youth group.

**Action:** Town Clerk to email Members with information about the Mayor's reception and sign unveiling during the Twinning Visit on 26/04/2025.

#### **76. To receive resolutions of the following Committees:**

- (i) Planning Committee - **MINS. 108-138**  
The resolutions of the Planning Committee held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 - **Minutes 108-117**, Planning Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – **Minutes 118-127** and Planning Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - **Minutes 128-138** were noted without discussion by the Council.
- (ii) Environment & General Purposes Committee – **MINS. 38-49**  
The resolutions of the E&GP Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were noted without discussion by the Council.
- (iii) Policy & Finance Committee **MINS. 61-74**  
The resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were noted without discussion by the Council.

#### **77. To consider and update to the Town Council's Equality and Diversity strategy.**

Members considered the strategy and requested slight amendments to the wording of point 8 from 'assignment to equality'.

Members **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT the Town Councils Equality and Diversity strategy with the amended wording.**

#### **78. To consider the Town Council's response to the Mayoral Combined Authority consultation.**

Without comment;

Members **RESOLVED** to **DELEGATE TO THE CLERK** to **provide the suggested response to the consultation.**

**79. To consider any urgent items the Mayor has received.**

The Town Clerk stated that Cllr R Cromie had resigned from the Council, effective immediately.

**80. Exempt Business.**

Members **RESOLVED** to enter into Exempt Business to **RESOLVE the Exempt Minutes (Minute 75) of the Policy & Finance Committee dated 24/03/25.**

**Meeting Closed at 7.40pm**