

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and General Purposes Committee** held on Monday 14th June 2017.

M. Jeffers (Chairman)
S. Ellis (Vice Chairman)
C. Cheney
R. Clarke
J. Dwight**
J. Knight
A. McPherson
H. Mundin

Apologies ** Absent *

Also present: Cllr S Wickremaratchi, Mr Crump and Mr King

1. **Apologies**
Cllr J Dwight due to a conflicting meeting.
2. **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd April 2017 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed.
3. **Substitutes**
Cllr S Wickremaratchi for Cllr J Dwight
4. **Declarations of Interest**
Item 10, Cllr Ellis declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee.
5. **Matters Arising**
None

Due to the attendance of America Lane Allotment Site Plot Holders the Chairman suggested, which was agreed that by the Committee, that Item 9 be heard first so those present had the opportunity to leave the Chamber once the item was finished

6. **Allotment Holders Minutes 25th April 2017**
Discussion commenced with the Chairman offering the members of the public present the chance to speak. Mr Crump made reference to two matters contained within the minutes. Firstly, around the turn over of plot holders and subsequent available plots, Mr Crump echoed his wish for the statistics, for the turn round of Allotment holders, to be placed on the Allotment Forum. This was agreed by the Town Clerk and would be published after the completion of the administration of each of the allotment inspections. It was questioned by Members why there was a high turnaround in plot holders. It was explained that the new arrangements for inspections had led to more evictions and that, in the eye of allotments holder, the tending of an Allotment was much harder than it is portrayed on television and people only found this out when they take actually take plots on. It was felt that the recognition of how hard the work was is pointed out in the welcome letter along with the view that ten hours a week was a benchmark for the amount of time needed to look after an allotment plot adequately. It was also felt that it would be useful to get a willing volunteer, new to running an allotment, to undertake a blog to enable their experiences to be shared. Mr Crump thought he knew of someone who may fit the position. Secondly, during the consideration of the minutes, Mr Crump conveyed his disappointment at the contents of the annual rent letter, which included the changes of

cost for plot holders because of the remeasuring by Town Council staff. The statement in the letter alluded that America Lane Plotholders (ALP) had requested the measurement of Plots and it seemed in his eyes that the Town Council were laying the cost changes squarely with (ALP). Mr Crump continued by saying that this was not correct as the re-sizing of allotment was deemed to be a good idea by the ALP then fed into the review of the Allotment Policy, which agreed through consultation, The Clerk stated that the wording of the letter was a one off and the paragraph will be removed in future letters and then Chairman apologised to Mr Crump for any upset it may have caused. *Mr Crump also announced and extended an invite to the Committee to attend the America Lane Allotment Site Summer BBQ, which was to be held on 25th June 2017.* With there being no fundamental challenges of changes required;

Members **NOTED and ADOPTED** the Allotment Holders Minutes 25th April 2017

7. Activities of the Community Liaison function of the Council

The Community Liaison Officer (CLO) presented her report and asked for comment as she went through each point, with the following being raised.

- 1) Members welcomed the new Town Guide and wondered if it would be possible to add the locations of defibrillators onto the guide map.
- 2) The success of the Dementia Day at Clair Hall was noted and Members were pleased to hear that around 200 people in total attended. Members also welcomed the pending opening of the memory café at the Town Hall.
- 3) All were reminded about the offer of how to deal with hate crime training being offered to Members and staff.
- 4) The Bentswood Fun day and Play Day was promoted to the Committee.

Members then **NOTED** the report of the Community Liaison Officer.

8. Allocation of S106 Monies – Lewes Road Street Lighting

Members were comfortable with the recommendation, for the use of section 106 monies and welcomed the project, which would enhance community safety along what is a dark footpath next to a very busy main road. With this unanimously,

Members **RESOLVED** to

Agree in principle to an application being submitted to Mid Sussex District Council to release Section 106 monies to cover the cost of footway lighting along the Lewes Road. It is estimated that the application for funding will be in the region of £9,410.

9. Masterplan for the Proposed Country Park

Members were presented with the draft plans for the Country Park and were reminded of the process undertaken with the Leader and Ward Members to arrive at the Masterplan working closely with Allen Scott consultant. Members felt that the masterplan was an excellent point from where to start the project. It was though the large projected project cost could be supported by Lottery funding and contribution from development across the County border. The Town Clerk was happy to look into such funding opportunities as the project progressed. There was also enthusiasm to work with the proposed school adjacent to the Country Park to enable the children to use specific areas of the County Park to support their education. With this

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Recommend the Masterplan and its costing to Full Council for approval and seek authorisation to implement the development of a Cemetery,

Country Park, at the appropriate time, along with authority for the Town Clerk to seek s106 contributions to fund the project.

10. Activities of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee

Cllr Ellis updated Members on the plans for improvements to Muster Green in line with the VC Winner Author George Knight on the 2nd September 2017 and;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

- a) **Endorse the proposal for a project, the details of which will be reported back to the Committee for approval, to be undertaken on Muster Green to support the centenary anniversary of the end of the World War 1.**
- b) **Allow Cllr Ellis in liaison with the Town Clerk to make funding applications towards the project if required.**
- c) **Agree to the Clerk requesting the use of £16,075.00 of s106 monies, available from the development at the former Haywards Heath Magistrates Court, which is allocated to the enhancement of the public realm at Muster Green at the appropriate time.**

12. Urgent Items

None.

Meeting Closed at 9.06pm