

Minutes of the TOWN OF HAYWARDS HEATH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2014 held at the Town Hall, 40 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1BA on Monday, 28th April 2014.

Minutes

Present – Please see attached document.

1. Welcome from the Town Mayor.

The Town Mayor Cllr Sandy Ellis opened the meeting by thanking those present for taking time to attend the meeting. The Mayor then referred those present to the Town Council's Annual Report 2013-2014, which was available for inspection, invited comment on the document and directed residents to officers and Councillors who would be happy to help if there were any questions arising. Cllr Ellis asked those present to note apologies from Cllrs Packham, Cahill and Hollister. In addition, apologies were tendered by Chief Inspector Simon Beardwell and the Rt Hon Nicholas Soames MP who wished the Council well for the meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 29th April 2013 were noted and approved.

3. Presentation by Mrs Katy Bourne – Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

Cllr Ellis welcomed Mrs Katy Bourne (KB) to the meeting. (KB) informed the meeting that her position represented the biggest ever reform in policing. This was demonstrated by, for the first time ever, the public being able to comment upon and direct the police's priorities and the ability to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner responsible for the performance of the police. This power was held by the community by not voting for he or she during the four yearly round of elections. (KB) then informed the meeting of the Police's three main priorities; tackling anti social behaviour, domestic abuse and road safety. In the past, priorities were governed by the Home Secretary and then were delivered locally under the watchful eye of the Police Authority Regulator. (KB) had a budget of two hundred and sixty million pounds, which is spent in line with (KB) strategy and operational plans written by the Chief Inspectors. Furthermore, (KB) would be administering the funding for victim support services. (KB) also stated that she dealt with restorative justice in relation to low level crime. It was also noted that crime year on year is decreasing, but as per all public services money was becoming tighter. To this end, collaborative working was the way forward and Sussex Police were working very closely with Surrey Police on joint procurement and policing. Examples of which included Sussex Police undertaking the work related to the floods in Surrey and Surrey Police were investigating the unfortunate murder in Bosham through their major crimes unit.

(Mr High) stated that through the Mid Sussex Older People's Council he was aware of the rise in spam emails that lead to fraud and identity theft and asked how this kind of crime was being handled. (KB) informed the meeting that Operation Signature was in place. This operation tested 1500 residencies that been subject to what is known as cyber crime. These houses were visited, with 900 still being occupied by the victims of cyber crime, of which 400 had been subject to direct fraud totalling two million pounds. (KB) then stated that 70% of cyber crimes do not get reported. (KB) also stated that all crimes (which included receiving any email) can be reported on a designated phone line.

(Cllr Pete Bradbury) asked (KB) to give a flavour of how the police were engaging with young people. (KB) stated that where there is no Youth Commissioner for West Sussex there was a Youth Crime Commission of 29 young people aged between 19 and 25. These people were handpicked to take on the role from 70 applications. The group included a wide range of young people ranging from the travelling community, middle

class and those who may have been on the wrong side of the law in the past. The group was undertaking the 'The Big Conversation' and were going back into the community to speak to their peers on a range of issues.

(Mr Laband) asked in the light of anti social behaviour being a problem in The Broadway area of the Town why more police were not available to help disperse people in the early hours of the morning. (KB) stressed that more officers were being trained that would hit the street in July 2014. (KB) also stressed to report to 101 so that the issue can be recognised and the resources deployed.

(Mrs Wilcox) vented her frustration at the lack of cooperation from the police when asking for CCTV footage of the Sussex Roundabout. This was in relation to vandalism to a piece of artwork for the Haywards Heath Art Trail. (KB) was surprised by the position of the police and asked that Mrs Wilcox write to her.

(Ms Woods) asked what resources were available for going into the community to bring it together and learn about reporting crime. (KB) responded by outlining the Safer in Sussex Community Fund, which offered grants of up to £5,000 if the applicant could meet the objectives of the Crime and Disorder Plan.

(Cllr Richard Goddard) asked how the police had handled the biggest problem they had in the last twelve months, namely Balcombe fracking protests, and if Sussex Police had received any help at a national level. (KB) stated that total policing costs were four million pounds of which she had successfully recouped on million pounds of from the Minister for Policing who also committed to cover the costs in full of all future policing of the site. It was also asked if Quadrillor had paid towards the costs the policing. (KB) said this was not a matter she was not party to.

(Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi) asked if PSCO's could issue parking tickets. (KB) stated that this was an issue for the District Council unless the parking was a danger to others.

(Cllr Sandy Ellis) asked what direct help, maybe in the form of grants, the police could offer young people of the Town. (KB) directed the Cllr Ellis to the grants she had mentioned earlier in her response to Cllr Bradbury's question and stated that the Safer in Sussex Community Fund was the only funding source available at the present time.

(Cllr J Ash-Edwards) asked how the senior members of the police had reacted to her appointment seeing as they had had no senior manager in the past. (KB) said that they had been very professional and very open to new ways of working which meant being closer to the community. (KB) was also looking forward to appointing a new Chief Constable in the very near future and informed all about the webcasted accountability interviews she attended.

(Cllr Stephen Hillier) asked about the support for victims of abuse and that normally the offender was under the influence of alcohol then when sobered up were allowed on their way, which could put the victim in further danger. (KB) outlined the powers that the police have, which included the Domestic Violence Protection Notice, which gave 48 hours protection and the Domestic Violence Protection Order, which was for 28 days.

At the conclusion of questions Cllr Ellis thanked Mrs Bourne for attending the meeting, and for providing an interesting insight into her work.

4. Cllr Sandy Ellis, Town Mayor

Cllr Ellis addressed the meeting and stated that it had been a great honour to be made Town Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May 2013. Furthermore, it had

been a wonderful year which could not have been possible without the support of her consort, fellow Councillors and the Town Hall staff. Cllr Ellis made special reference to the Town Council's Spring Festival, which was held the day before the meeting, which had been a great success. Cllr Ellis then went back to the 2013 Spring Festival where her journey as Mayor began and then updated the meeting on her activities during her Mayoral year.

*****Please note the full version of the Mayor's report is available on request from the Town Hall and is contained in the Annual Report*****

5. Cllr Michael Pulfer Leader of Haywards Heath Town Council

Cllr Pulfer outlined three points in his speech, which related to Housing, the Council's Neighbourhood Plan and the redevelopment of Haywards Heath Train Station. Furthermore, Cllr Pulfer also mentioned the removal of the railings in the Town Centre acknowledging that it did not have everyone's endorsement, but felt the appropriate research had been undertaken on safety grounds (by WSCC) and with a view to the change in nature of South Road when it is relieved of eight million traffic movements per year when the relief road is complete.

*****Please note the full version of the Leader's report is available on request from the Town Hall and is contained in the Annual Report*****

6. Haywards Heath Cluster Partnership.

The Town Clerk addressed the meeting to update on the Highways Partnership between Haywards Heath Town Council and its neighbouring Parish Councils Lindfield, Lindfield Rural and Ardingly. It was noted that at the last Town meeting the Cluster was just about to be launched. Since that date the Clerk informed the meeting that it had become fully operational and had become a great success. The Clerk highlighted how West Sussex County Council had assisted the initiative and that the Partnership had become a best practice model across West Sussex and also had been noted in East Sussex. It was reported that over five hundred jobs had been undertaken during the year, which included 359 Direct Reports from residents/partner Parish Councils and 208 West Sussex County Council Trace forms. These jobs related to potsholes 185, vegetation 181, Drain Clearance 48, Weed Spraying 17 + 1 full spray, sign cleaning 81 + 2 routine cleans and 52 other ad hoc jobs. The Clerk then outlined customer feedback praising the actions of the operatives that work for the partnership and then in closing the presentation it was noted that residents and organisations could report highway issues directly to the Haywards Heath Town Community Interest Company c/o of the Town Hall, email hhtowncic@gmail.com or alternatively also report to <http://love.westsussex.gov.uk/Help>.

7. Public Questions

(Mr Laband) Questioned the 8 million car movements that it was suggested that the opening of the Relief Road would relieve South Road of. Mr Laband felt that the number was inflated. (MP) responded that the number was outlined in the planning permission and also that the number was included in literature that Crest Nicholson had produced. The Clerk confirmed that he held a copy that Mr Laband could view.

(Ms Woods) Thanked the Council for another wonderful Spring Festival and commended the recent Arts Trail in the Town organised by Community Arts CIC. Ms Woods then asked for views of the Council with regards to a Town Museum/Heritage Centre. In asking the question she made reference to available Heritage Lottery Funding and a similar project in Crawley that had been delivered recently. (SE) stated that the Town Team were looking at the possibility of some sort of heritage area/museum and that Ms Woods would of course be kept up to date on the matter as she had been in the past.

(Cllr Richard Goddard) asked two questions. One related to the Councillor's attendance figures presented. It was noted that the percentage attendance of one Councillor was mistakenly registered and he questioned the attendance at Full Council of another Councillor. Cllr Goddard asked if the latter of the two Councillors should be resigning. The Clerk responded that the first matter was a typo and would be rectified and with regards to the latter that the Councillor had Chaired a number of Environment and General Purposes Committees and was attending meetings. At the time of the meeting the six month attendance rule had not been broken. Secondly, Cllr Goddard asked if the Council had found it soul destroying trying to put together a Neighbourhood Plan, whilst a number of applications came forward, which were unwanted in the Town. (MP) stated that public fatigue was a worry and questioned Localism. (MP) stated that some Council's were about to/had thrown the towel in, but Haywards Heath Town Council continues to work to progress its plan for the Town.

(Mr Bright) stated that he had concerns about the proposed part closure of South Road for 18 weeks and asked if the Council had any update on the matter. (MP) was pleased to announce that the Town Council were involved in negotiations with WSCC and South East Water. A diversional plan had been put forward, which would see the East Bound lane of South Road being closed and diversions being set up to divert traffic. It was noted that the diversional plan had been questioned because the Council was not happy with what had been suggested. A follow up meeting was to be held on May 15th. Mr Bright also mentioned the strain on Haywards Road where cars are already speeding. Cllr Wickremaratchi interjected that he was looking at a speed watch campaign in the area. Cllr Davies also made reference to Mrs Bourne's reference to operation crack down. At the end of the discussion on the matter Mr Ellis brought up the issue of speeding in Queens Road and suggested that Cllr Wickremaratchi looked into speed watch in that area of the Town.

Without and further questions from the floor, the Mayor formally closed the meeting at 9.02pm.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE

Haywards Heath Town Councillors

Ashenground Ward

Cllr Richard Bates

Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi

Bentswood Ward

Cllr David Dorking

Cllr Julie Hayden

Cllr Stephen Hillier

Franklands Ward

Cllr Rod Clarke

Cllr Michael Pulfer

Heath Ward

Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards

Cllr Sandy Ellis

Cllr Natalie March

Lucastes & Bolnore Ward

Cllr Chris Ash-Edwards

Cllr Mims Davies

Cllr Tim Farmer

Public and Guests

Mrs Katy Bourne

Clive Laband

Chris Goodry

Ray Beaford

Margaret Reddon

Oli Gross

Cllr Pete Bradbury

Eric Bassett

Anne Bautrup

Cllr Chris Thomas-Atkin

David Hill

Tim Barkley

Margaret Baker

Paul Ellis

E Harrison

Claire Todd

Audrey High

Brian High

Cllr Richard Goddard

Lesley Bright

Mike Bright

Tom Bushby

David Cochrane

Howard Munda

Jim Knight

Marion Wilcox

Barbara Woods

Ruth De Mierre
Andrew Sturgeon
Helen Hewett

Apologies for anyone omitted and any miss-spellings – if you attended the meeting and are not on the list please inform the Council.

DRAFT