

**HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Councillors:** Christopher Ash-Edwards  
Jonathan Ash-Edwards  
Anne Boutrup  
Rod Clarke  
David Dorking  
Sandy Ellis  
Julie Hayden\*\*  
Stephen Hillier  
Matthew Jeffers  
James Knight  
Clive Laband  
Alastair McPherson  
Howard Muddin  
Mike Pulfer  
Sujan Wickremaratchi

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

**Also present:** Mrs Sylvia Harris, Ms Sherly Anderson, Mr Eric Bassett, Mr Richard Goddard, Cllr Ruth de-Meirre and Mrs Nadeeka Wickremaratchi.

**53. Council Prayer**

Members stood for the Council prayer, which was read by the Town Mayor.

**54. Public Forum**

Mrs Sylvia Harris addressed the meeting on behalf of the Haywards Heath Horticultural Society to thank the Council for its grant award and legal assistance, which enabled them to place a floral tribute in the form of a steam train carriage on Commercial Square Roundabout to help celebrate the 175 Anniversary of the Railway. In addition to this, the Society was thanked for their help with the Council's In Bloom entries and received a certificate to recognise their work, which was presented by the Mayor to Ms Sherly Anderson who accompanied Mrs Harris.

**55. Apologies**

Julie Hayden – Ill Health

**56. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**57. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

**58. Matters Arising**

None

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

Town Mayor Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi addressed the Council and gave a warm welcome to those present and then updated them on a few, during a very busy period of the year, of his activities since the last meeting.

Age UK Mid Sussex Annual General Meeting. The organisation outlined how difficult it was to fund raise coupled with the fact that people now live longer, which had resulted in more strain being put on their services. It was noted that West Sussex County Council highest spend budget was Adult Services and Safeguarding and the Redwood Centre, which houses Age UK at Clair Hall now has a new Manager.

Silver Sunday Event held at Clair Hall. The event that supported the national Silver Sunday campaign was instigated locally by Sir Nicholas Soames and organised by Mid Sussex District Council with the support of Cllr Sandy Ellis and the Town Council. The event celebrated the value and knowledge people of the age group and their contribution to the community whilst combating loneliness and isolation. The Mayor thanked Cllr Rod Clarke, a table host, and Cllr Sandy Ellis was invited to comment and duly informed Members that it was a wonderful and well supported event.

The AGM of the National Society for Preventing Cruelty to Children. The event sadly confirmed that the number of children abused keeps going up. The Mayor felt that everyone needed to do more to eradicate child abuse and urged those present to be vigilant and not be afraid to report any incidents that they witness.

The Community Liaison Officer, on the Mayor's behalf, attended the screening of "my beautiful broken brain" by the NHS in support of world stroke day. The Mayor thanked Fatima Mirza for attending and sated that his liaison with Dr Khalid Ali a consultant stroke specialist continues.

A visit to the Haywards Heath Rugby Football Club with Cllr Jonathan Ash Edwards to present trophies to the under 7's was a memorable day. The Mayor felt it was wonderful to see children interacting through sport. The Town Council grant awarded to the Club was also recognised at the event.

Haywards Heath Fire Station visit. The Mayor had a tour of the call centre and the fire control units, and was shown how responses were made to 999 requests for fire services. The Mayor stated that the fire service does a fantastic job and all should all be very grateful to them.

Haywards Heath Food Bank Volunteers Day. The Mayor attend the event with the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) and praised her presentation to the group with Fatima being a credit to the Council. The event highlighted that around 5500 families have been supported by the food bank so far, this year. At this point the Mayor asked fellow Councillors if it was possible to purchase cans of food/biscuits and hand this over to the people who need it the most, through a collection point at the Town Hall, over the coming weeks.

The mayor was extremely humbled to attend the remembrance service at Muster Green. It was well attended and thanks went to Rev Ray Smith, Councillors, and Town Council Staff who were at hand to help, especially Mrs Helen Hewett who organised the event.

The Town's Christmas lights were switched on the Saturday before, with a fantastic crowd enjoying a visit from Father Christmas whose Reindeer did behave themselves. The fireworks to support the event in Victoria park were brilliant, again well organised and well attended. A thank you to the Town Council Staff and Councillors who helped on the day was made. The Mayor's thanks went to the Orchards Management including Nicola Bird and Cllr Ruth DeMierre for their work and dedication.

Finally, the Mayor thanked all the Councillors and Officers for supporting him, Cllr Jim Knight (Deputy Mayor) for attending some events on his behalf at short notice and Maria Horne for organising his diary and events. Furthermore, ward colleagues Cllr Anne Boutrup and Cllr Howard Mundin were thanked you for their continued support, friendship and team work.

The Mayor then wished all a merry Christmas and wonderful New Year. At the end of the address Councillor Dorking thanked the Mayor for all his hard work,

**60. To receive and consider the adoption of the Minutes of Council standing committees.**

- (i) Planning Committee - **MINS. 53 - 77**  
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 - **Mins 53 – 60**, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – **Mins 61 – 68** and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 - **Mins 69 – 77** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (ii) Environment & General Purposes Committee - **MINS. 24 - 34**  
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 **Mins 24 - 34** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council. During this item, Cllr Hillier raised two matters
  - 1) An update on the request of Sussex Mosaic Housing Association for a communal Allotment Plot under resolution 30. The Clerk responded by saying he had met with representatives who were asked to provide further information. To date no response had been made.
  - 2) An update on the withdrawal from South and South East in Bloom under resolution 31. The Clerk responded by saying he had informed the organisers who had offered support if the Town decided to re-enter in the future.
- (iii) Policy & Finance Committee - **MINS. 31 - 45**  
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 **Mins 31 - 45** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

**61. Update on Outside Bodies**

Cllr Hillier updated on the Haywards Heath and District Business Association. It was noted that the recent question and answers panel was poorly attended even though there was a high calibre panel and the recent strong membership numbers were not sustaining themselves. Furthermore, the current Chairman, after many years of hard work, was looking to hand the reins over, but there was no willing taker at the present time.

Cllr Ellis updated on the Haywards Heath in Bloom initiative and informed Council that she has taken Sir Nicholas Soames to one of the nursing homes involved in last year's project.

Cllr Jeffers updated on activities at the Woodside Pavilion, Bolnore Village and the recent carol concert. The Town Clerk advised that he with Cllr Clarke had updated the Northern Arc Advisory Group and District Plan, update both hosted by Mid Sussex District Council. It was noted that the inspection on the would start the next Tuesday and the District Council were working to deliver the Northern Arc and were lobbying at the highest level to secure much needed funding for infrastructure in advance of the development of the proposed land.

Members **NOTED** the updates.

**62. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Precept 2017/2018**

Members noted the consultation and were in general agreement that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) needed as much support as possible in a time where not all crime was visible to residents and there was an ongoing restructure within the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Specific comment was made to encouraging the areas of policing being supported in the PCC rationale for increasing the precept, which would target specific crime. Members felt it was refreshing to see a consultation that presented tangible outcomes from the money

being raised from a rise in the precept. Furthermore, it was felt that a huge role for the police would centre around early intervention with young people so to foster good relationships with the Police, whilst focusing on child sex trafficking and exploitation. With this;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

**Support the increase in the precept as suggested in the consultation on the Police and Crime Commissioner Precept 2017/2018**

**63. Emergency Works – Haywards Heath Town Hall**

Members were minded to agree that the works to the Town Hall had to be undertaken as soon as practically possible to minimise the damage to the Town Hall. It was noted that an insurance claim would be pursued in the first instance, but if unsuccessful then monies should be readily available to enable a procurement of the four quotes pursued. As an aside it was also suggested the Town Clerk should pursue the builder of the Town Hall to see if the company was still operating and if any course of action could be taken with them to remedy the issue to the damp course as outlined in the report tabled.

Members **RESOLVED** to

**Allocate £12,000 of unrestricted reserves to pay for emergency works to the Town Hall.**

**64. To consider any urgent items, the Mayor has received under S.O 11.**

There was one item brought to the Town Council's attention by the Town Clerk, which was notification that the Haywards Heath War Memorial located on Muster Green was under consideration to become an addition to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest ('The List'). This allocation if agreed by the Secretary of State along with numerous other Memorial will form part of Historic England's response to the centenary of the First World War. It was noted that a consultation would be issued, which would table at the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

**65. Exempt Business.**

None

Meeting Closed at 8.20pm