

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th March 2017

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

Apologies Absent***

Also present: Katarina Wilmore and Karen Walker (Sussex Autism Support), Tracey Bowdery (Chestnut Tree House), Eric Bassett, Ian Balls, Irene Balls, Richard Goddard, Reverend Ray Smith, Nadeeka Wickremaratchi, Roshana Wickremaratchi and Margaret Baker.

Before the meeting commenced two presentation were made.

Firstly, the Town Mayor presented a cheque for £1,030.50 to Katarina Wilmore from Sussex Autism Support, which were the funds raised at the Mayor's Civic Service and Carol service donations. Then the Deputy Mayor, along with Mrs Margaret Baker, presented a cheque for £852.00 to Tracey Bowdery from Chestnut Tree House, which were funds raised at his charity birthday celebration event. The representatives from both organisations expressed their thanks for the monies with representatives stating that the monies would help families with autistic children, and children and young adults from 0-19 years of age with progressive life-shortening conditions, respectively. Reverend Ray Smith was invited to speak at the end of the presentation and stated that in addition to thanking the community, the Civic Service commemorated the 65th anniversary of the reign of the Queen. He also welcomed the significant collection made from what was very busy church.

79. Council Prayer

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

80. Public Forum

Mrs Irene Balls thanked Cllr Wickremaratchi for all his support during his two years as Town Mayor, for the Haywards Heath Twinning Association. Furthermore, Mrs Balls paid tribute to the way Cllr Wickremaratchi effectively worked with the twinned Towns of Bondues and Traunstein and had strengthened ties between each Town.

Mr Richard Goddard noted that past Mayors on the Council Chamber wall and commented jovially that it was all downhill for Cllr Wickremaratchi from there onwards. Mr Goddard felt that Cllr Wickremaratchi always had time for resident, which was a very rare trait to find within everyone's very busy lifestyles. He commended Cllr Wickremaratchi for his time a Mayor.

Mr Eric Bassett echoed the views of both Mrs Balls and Mr Goddard and thanked the Mayor for his services to the Town on behalf of the Haywards Heath Society.

In addition to the three speakers the Deputy Mayor read out an email from Mr Tim and Mrs Sue French who also praised the work of Cllr Wickremaratchi during his tenure as Town Mayor.

81. Apologies

Anne Boutrup – Ill Health.

82. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hillier declared a personal interest in item 8 under the Policy and Finance minute 63 (a) as a Cabinet Member for West Sussex County Council.

83. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th January 2017 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

84. Matters Arising

None

85. Mayor's Engagements and Announcements.

Cllr Wickremaratchi stated, in his last meeting as Town Mayor, that it had been an enjoyable and eventful two years as Mayor, which had been sometimes very challenging, but serving the Town's residents had been his priority, so he thanked those who had supported him throughout. Cllr Wickremaratchi added that he was humbled and honoured to have been given the opportunity to be the Town Mayor, but would be stepping down on the 15th May 2017 and would be handing over to the new Mayor who he wished every success and pledged his full support to. Over the course of his Mayoral tenure Cllr Wickremaratchi had made many friends, helped and supported charitable organisations and fund raised for his chosen charities 4-Sight and Sussex Autism Support. This work had put Haywards Heath firmly on the map with new friendships extending from Kensington, London to Croydon, Crawley, Brighton, Horsham and Chichester. Cllr Wickremaratchi was particularly proud of the introduction of work experience for special needs young adults within the Town Hall and updated all that Jamie Flynn, as the Town Council's work experience person was doing a fantastic job. It was also noted that the Mayor's diary was extremely important and to have a Mayor's Secretary to look after the day to day diary of the Mayor and the Mayor's engagement forms was an important step forward to enable future duties to be carried out effectively. The diary is now being looked after Monday to Friday. Reference was made to Haywards Heath being twinned with Traunstein, Germany and Bondues in France. This support for the Haywards Heath Twinning Association was unwavering and it was deemed vital that it continued, in line with the twinning agreement that was signed 30 years ago. It was felt important to keep the friendship going and involve schools. Cllr Wickremaratchi then thanked Mrs Irene Balls (Chairman), Mike and Lesley Bright and the committee for the fantastic work they are doing.

As per the presentation made before the meeting opened the Mayor's Civic service held at St Wilfrid's Church was a great success with over 150 people in attendance, including residents, volunteer organisations, charities and special guests including the High Sheriff of West Sussex, the WSCC Chairman and the Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka. Cllr Wickremaratchi thanked the Town Council for providing the refreshments and general organisation. Thanks, went to all those who supported him namely Maria Horne, Helen Hewett, and the Town Clerk and his wife and his daughter, who helped on the day. Sincere thanks went to Reverend Ray Smith for his support and conducting the service. Thanks were also conveyed to Cllr Wickremaratchi's wife Nadeeka, daughter Roshana, son Ashen and family friends who at very short notice came to his aid in making sandwiches, canapies and cakes. The good news was that over £1000 was raised for Sussex Autism Support. In

closing, Cllr Wickremaratchi stated that he would of course continue in his County Councillor and Town Councillor role and continue to serve the Town's residents well with dedication and passion. Cllr Wickremaratchi thanked residents for supporting him as Mayor and of course his fellow Councillors, Town Council Staff, including the Town Clerk for having to put up with him for two years, and then thanked everyone for their friendship and support. After Cllr Wickremaratchi closed his address he was thanked by his fellow Councillors for his services to the Town as Mayor.

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

- (i) Planning Committee - **MINS. 107 - 126**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Planning Committees, dated 13th February 2017 - **Mins 107 – 115** and 6th March 2017 – **Mins 116 – 126** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.
- (ii) Environment & General Purposes Committee - **MINS. 48 - 59**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 27th February 2017 **Mins 48 - 59** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council
- (iii) Policy & Finance Committee - **MINS. 57 - 67**
The reception and adoption of the resolutions of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 13th March 2017 Mins **57 - 67** were moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

87. Update on Outside Bodies

Cllr Pulfer updated on his attendance, with the Town Clerk, at the Mid Sussex Association of Town Councils meeting and the Northern Arc Transport Meeting.

Cllr Ellis updated on the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee in terms of its Hanging Basket display at the Spring Festival, which included a grant from MSDC for £300 and sponsorship from Up Country Garden Centre. Cllr Ellis also made mention of the excellent work of the Haywards Youth CIC and the recent sustainable solar kit car project.

Cllr Jeffers updated on the works at the Woodside Pavilion to place AstroTurf in the Children's play area to ensure the area was useable all year round. The project included good will from local businesses and grant from the Town Council.

88. Haywards Heath Town Council Priorities 2017 Onwards 'The Art of the Possible'

The Town Clerk introduced the report and outlined the process undertaken to arrive at the recommendation of the Planning Working Group to adopt the document. The Town Clerk then passed the matter over to Cllr McPherson who led on the project and was responsible for the creation of the 'The Art of the Possible'. Cllr McPherson led Councillors through each of the priorities in turn, which were all agreed. Cllr McPherson then thanked the Councillors who had been on his unofficial working group, over the last eighteen months, including Mrs Ruth de-Meirre, the Planning Working Group and the Town Clerk for his support with advising him on the content of the document and the process to take the document through to its adoption. It was felt that the document should be reviewed bi-annually and the mission statement should be used whenever possible as it was very powerful. The Town Clerk was asked about next steps as the document was now a formally adopted public document. The Town Clerk referred Councillors to page 14 of the document and stated that he would work with Cllr McPherson to look at the best way to promote and use the document, whilst managing the expectations of residents.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Adopt the Haywards Heath Town Council Priorities 2017 Onwards 'The Art of the Possible' document.

89. America Lane Allotments

The Environment and General Purpose Committee were thanked for considering the matter and without amendment;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Ratify the position of the Environment and General Purposes Committee on the future of America Lane allotment site as follows;

Haywards Heath Town Council was categorically opposed to the use of America Lane Allotments to support the development behind the Allotment site and that the Town Council would not sell the land for such and indeed any other reason. Furthermore, with regards to any future planning applications on the land behind the Allotment site, the Committee could not make comment at the present time, so to ensure that the Town Council could not be accused of pre-determination in the future if any application is considered.

90. 'Heads Together Campaign'

Cllr Jed Dwight, who had put the recommendation to Council, informed Members that he was passionate about raising awareness of the issue of mental health and was asking the Town Council for support in getting the message about such out into the Community so discussion could be had. Members were all supportive of the campaign and the Town Clerk confirmed that once the new social media platforms were up and running that he would ensure the necessary information would be posted along with the campaign being promoted in the next Town Council Newsletter.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Endorse and support the 'Heads Together Campaign'.

91. Silver Sunday Event

Cllr Ellis presented the matter by firstly praising the event organised by Mid Sussex District Council at Clair Hall the previous October and informing Members that the event was to move onto East Grinstead this coming October. With the event being again open to all residents Cllr Ellis suggested that the Town once again pledge £250 towards the activities held on the day. Members were supportive of the award in recognition of the fact that such a simple concept could prove so successful thus giving those elderly people who face isolation much needed time to socialise and enjoy themselves. During debate Cllr Ellis and Cllr J. Ash-Edwards mentioned meeting Esther Rantzem and having a discussion with her about her Silverline Service, which provide the elderly with regular phones calls, which could be promoted through the Silver Sunday event. Then unanimously,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Allocate £250 from the Town Fund to support the 2017 Silver Sunday Event to be held in East Grinstead.

92. Town Council Insurance Policy

The Town Clerk introduced the item and recommended the course of action as outlined in the report and thanked Cllr Pulfer for assisting he and the RFO into looking at the options for insurance. Members made no comment and agreed to the recommendations as presented. At this time, Cllr Pulfer stated, and made it clear, that he could not and did not advise, by law,

on the preferred insurer, but made sure the Officers looked at the insurance options and acknowledged and considered the risks, so they could come to their own conclusions. With this,

Members **RESOLVED** that;

The Town Council commits to a binding three-year agreement, period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2020, for the provision of its insurances with insurers D and that the Town Council takes out stand-alone cyber and data risks insurance with insurer B, subject to the receipt of a quotation as the only provider of such insurance.

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

None.

94. Exempt Business.

None

Meeting Closed at 8.30pm