

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and General Purposes Committee** held on Monday 27th February 2017.

M. Jeffers (Chairman)
S. Ellis (Vice Chairman)
R. Clarke
J. Dwight
J. Hayden
J. Knight**
H. Muddin

Apologies ** Absent *

Also, present: Ms Fatima Mirza (Community Liaison Officer)
and Mr Murray Crump

48. **Apologies**
Cllr J. Knight – family emergency.
49. **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and General Purposes Committee held on 12th December 2016 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed.
50. **Substitutes**
Cllr A. McPherson for Cllr J. Knight.
51. **Declarations of Interest**
Item 10, Cllr Ellis declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee.
52. **Matters Arising**
None
53. **America Lane Allotment Site**
The Chairman welcomed Mr Crump to the meeting. Mr Crump outlined the concerns of the America Lane Plot Holders, which were contained in the report prepared by the Town Clerk. Members then unanimously agreed that they were 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(s) on the land behind the Allotment site, the Committee could not make comment at the time, so to ensure that the Town Council could not be accused of pre-determination in the future if any application is considered. The Town Clerk also pointed out the following factual pieces of information; Firstly, the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan made no provision for the sale of any allotment land and did not allocate the land behind the America Lane Allotment site for development. Furthermore, the Secretary of State would need to sign off the loss of any such land on the grounds that Town/Parish Councils have a statutory duty to provide allotment land. With this,

Members **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council, for ratification, the position of the Committee in line with the body of the minute above.


3rd APRIL 2017

54. Community Liaison Function of the Council (CLO)

The Community Liaison Officer took Members through her report welcoming questions and comments on any matters contained within. Members discussed and welcomed the sponsorship document created by the (CLO) and had no hesitation in adopting it. During debate, it was suggested that as well as inward investment for the Council maybe there was the opportunity for a synergy with charities and local businesses. It was felt this would be in terms of being the broker between the two and getting them matched up. It was agreed that this was a good idea and an opportunity can be given within the document for companies to identify any charities they may wish to support. The Clerk did point out that this could mean competition for the Council's financial needs, but was happy for the CLO to pursue the idea as long as it did not become too time consuming and detracting her from her CLO duties.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Adopt the Town Council's sponsorship document and note the report of the Community Liaison Officer.

55. Beech Hurst Gardens Bus Stop

Members were supportive of the request presented by the Assistant to the Clerk and were happy for an approach to be made to Mid Sussex District Council to secure the funding. Members were minded to agree to the placement of a new bus shelter.

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Request the use of £6,000 of s106 monies to cover the cost of a new bus shelter outside Beech Hurst Gardens.

56. Town Fund – Blue Plaque – Donald Campbell/Norris Brothers/Bluebird

Members considered an initiative, via the Town Team's Burrell Road Action Group, to place a blue plaque in Burrell Road. Taking into account that those being considered to be commemorated on the plaque, even though well deserving, did not qualify under the criteria laid down by English Heritage. Nevertheless, there was an opportunity to place a bespoke Haywards Heath Plaque, which had already been undertaken in Burgess Hill and Crawley. Members felt a bespoke Haywards Heath Plaque, may detract from the importance of established blue plaques placed, or that could be placed in the future. There was concern about where the plaque would be placed as there were suggestions on either the site formally known as Norris House, or the existing Flowserve building. Taking into account the above, Members felt a plaque was not out of the question. It was also noted that to place plaques they needed permission from land owners to place and research needed to be undertaken into the person(s) being commemorated, which was presumed to be being undertaken by the Burrell Road Action Group. Further to this, it was noted that the Heath Ward the Ward in which the plaque was suggested, was home to around 90% of the identified locations for plaques in the Town and there was concern about funding all requests. To this end, it was agreed that Town Fund was not a suitable fund of money to pay for an unquantifiable number of requests. It was felt business support was crucial and requests to Heath Ward budgets would be looked into. As a result of discussion,

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Not to award Town Fund monies towards a Blue Plaque to commemorate the Norris Brothers/Bluebird/Donald Campbell and agreed that any funding requests should be deferred to Heath Ward Members.


3rd April 2017

57. Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee

Cllr Ellis updated on the activities of the Haywards Heath in Bloom Committee. Matters brought to the Committee's attention included the successful application to Mid Sussex District Council for £300 towards the hanging baskets project at the Spring Festival. It was also noted that the Committee were working very hard on a number of projects, which included the Bouquet of Memories work that was being undertaken by the local nursing homes. Finally, Cllr Ellis asked Member to nominate as many front gardens as possible for judging in this year Allotment and Garden competition as nominations had been lacking in recent years.

Members **NOTED** the Update.

58. Muster Green Management Plan

Members welcomed the updated Management Plan as presented by the Town Clerk. Members also noted Cllr Ellis's comment on projects, such as a new flower bed to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Word War 1, and then without further comment;

Members **RESOLVED** to;

Adopt the revised Muster Green Management Plan for 2017.

59. Urgent Items

Two items were made know to the Chairman.

- 1) Cllr Ellis reminded the Committee of the success of last year's Silver Sunday event held at Clair Hall and, with the Chairman of the Committee's blessing, informed the Committee that she would be asking Full Council to release £250 of the Committee's Town Fund to support the 2017 event to be held in East Grinstead.
- 2) As per minute 44 of the Committee meeting held on the 12th December 2016 the Town Clerk was pleased to announce that the Secretary of State had agreed that the Haywards Heath War Memorial be added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural Interest or Historic Interest and become a Grade II listed structure.

Meeting Closed at 8.52pm


30 APRIL 2017