

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of **TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL** held on **Tuesday 8th December 2009** in Telscombe Civic Centre at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mr R Maskell (**Mayor**)
Mr P Howson (**Deputy Mayor**)
Mr J Harris, Mr D Neighbour
Mr A Smith, Mr T Banning
Mr J Page

APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mrs B Sawyers, Ms L Hallett
Mr T Armour, Mr B Page,
Mr J Livings, Ms M Pepper

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30 pm to take questions from members of the public.

A questioner advised that a recent climate change march had highlighted the 10:10 campaign to reduce carbon emissions by 10% by 2010. The speaker advised that if the Council signed up to the campaign it would be an example to the community. A questioner asked for clarification of Cllr Howson's involvement in the setting up of the National Park Authority following his nomination as a possible local Council representative. Cllr Howson advised that the new authority would not be in place for approximately 18 months and if selected, he had plenty of time to assimilate information in respect of the new Authority. A query concerning the accuracy of the minutes of the Tye Commons Advisory Committee was countered by the Chairman.

A questioner raised concerns about obstructive parking and damage to the verges caused by inconsiderate parking and buses continually cutting corners and damaging the grass verges. Cllr Howson advised he had recently met the Chief Superintendent and been told that an additional nine Special Constables had recently been recruited and these would be used to help tackle parking problems. Cllr Howson emphasised that Police Community Support Officers had limited powers but Special Constables had virtually the same powers as paid police officers. Cllr Howson said the District and County Council were trying to prosecute offenders and needed photographic evidence to give to the police. Cllr Neighbour emphasised that the County Council needed to use their powers to prosecute offenders and ensure verges are repaired.

In response to a question on the proposed level of precept being set by the Council for 2010 – 2011 the Chairman advised that a 0% increase was anticipated.

475. **TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PREJUDICIAL AND PERSONAL INTEREST**

None.

476. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2009**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved and signed as correct by the Chairman.

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477. MATTERS ARISING

None.

478. NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2009

RESOLVED that payments of £22,120.92 for November 2009 be approved and receipts of £4,921.92 for November 2009 be noted.

479. TO SET THE TOWN COUNCIL'S PRECEPT FOR THE 2010 – 2011 FINANCIAL

The meeting considered detailed proposals for the Town Councils precept for 2010 – 2011. The Chairman emphasised that the proposals represented a 0% increase in the Town Council's element of the Council Tax. The meeting unanimously

RESOLVED that the proposals be accepted and the Council's precept remain at £262,875 for the 2010/11 year.

480. REPORTS FROM: -

(a) THE MAYOR

The Mayor advised he had attended opening of the new Community Lodge building at Telscombe School. He told the meeting that it had been a very enjoyable event and that the school hoped to make the new building available for community use.

(b) THE DEPUTY MAYOR

The Deputy Mayor reported the sad loss of Mr Graham Lower who had passed away the previous week. The Deputy Mayor advised that the Town Council would be represented at Mr Lower's funeral which was being held on 14th December. Cllr Neighbour paid tribute to Mr Lower and described him as a loyal servant of Age Concern who would be very much missed.

(c) COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Howson advised the County Council were concerned about the low level of usage in respect of the information kiosk situated in the Civic Centre. The County Council were trying to find a more suitable location for the facility. Cllr Howson suggested that the facility needed to be advertised as well as being in the right location.

Cllr Howson reported that crime figures from the Chief Inspector indicated a reduction on the same period last year. There were 279 fewer victims of crime, 85 fewer car crimes, 280 fewer damage reports 74 fewer victims of violent crime. Cllr Howson also reported that an additional nine special Constables had been recruited to the District.



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480. Contd. REPORTS FROM: -

(c) Contd. COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Howson reported that the County Council Youth Bank was now available for funding youth projects. Cllr Howson said grants of between £500 and £5,000 were available. A specific sum had been allocated to provide short breaks for disabled young people.

The County Council had devised a new five year plan to help support carers in the County. Councillor Howson said there were over 51,000 carers in East Sussex and the new plan was designed to help and support them.

Cllr Howson emphasised that the seasonal drink drive campaign had begun and it was a campaign covering the whole of Sussex.

Cllr Howson advised of a method of preventing unwanted automated marketing phone calls by pressing the hash key several times during the recorded message – this was supposed to disrupt the computer auto dialler. In addition Cllr Howson said it would help Royal Mail if all junk mail was returned in the pre paid envelopes provided.

Cllr Howson highlighted a new shock advertising campaign being launched as part of the County Councils East Sussex teenage pregnancy strategy. The campaign aimed to highlight the issues of teenage pregnancies with the slogan, “what is easier to carry a condom or a baby?”

Cllr Howson said that the County Council’s Health overview and Scrutiny Committee had identified five areas for investigation over the coming year and these are Life expectancy, premature mortality from cancer and strokes, supporting older lives, mental health and “care closer to home.”

The County Council “who cares” campaign on fire safety was emphasising the importance of reducing the risk of fire from Christmas decorations particularly in respect of injury to children and the elderly.

Cllr Neighbour asked if any progress had been named in respect of the 20mph speed limit near schools. Cllr Neighbour said West Sussex had flashing speed signs outside schools during term time. Cllr Howson said the matter would be raised at the next Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting with the County Council.

(d) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Howson advised that the District Council had signed up to the 10:10 campaign on reducing carbon emissions. The District Council was also lobbying for people on housing support to have their rent paid direct to their landlord.

(e) REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Howson concluded by saying the minutes of the Age Concern Kempton House Day Club management meeting of 23rd November were available at the Civic Centre service.

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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.49 pm.

Signed
Mayor, Cllr R Maskell

NB The next Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 19th January 2010** commencing at **7.30 pm.**